



The St. Francis Bulletin

FROM THE RECTOR:

Many of you have gotten to meet and speak with Father Peter of Baraka since he and his family and other parishioners have started regularly attending St. Francis. Many of you have also heard him preach on a couple of occasions. This past year St. Francis started supporting Baraka financially and the Vestry asked me to investigate whether we could be of further assistance to Baraka and Father Peter in his work in Austin.

On November 30, Claire Ducker, Nancy Critchfield-Jones and I met with Father Peter and two members of his congregation to hear an explanation of his ministry and to see if we could become involved on some level. Each Tuesday morning at 7:30 am Father Peter meets with a group of people at All Saints Episcopal Church at 27th and Whittis. Most but not all of the folks would be considered homeless and naturally have a good many physical needs. All Saints has a program that attempts to meet some of these on a material level. Father Peter meets with them before the All Saints program begins at 9:00 am to attempt to address their spiritual needs. He prays with them, reads Scripture with them and sometimes preaches to them. Afterwards he will speak with some of them about personal matters. One of the things that he would like to do but cannot because of his work schedule is to follow up with some of them at another time during the week.

Also, Father Peter conducts a Holy Communion service at one of the nursing homes in town (in fact, the one where he works) on the first Sunday of the month. This particular facility specializes in the treatment of Alzheimer patients, and therefore this service can sometimes be a bit challenging. He would like to have some help with those

patients who attend this ceremony.

If any of you might be interested in helping Father Peter in either one of these projects please see me and I will get you in touch with him. I know he would be grateful and the Kingdom of God would be advanced.

Requiescat in Pace!

It is not unusual for a church to lose some members during the course of the year for any number of reasons including death. In 2007, Kevin McCommon, Bill Ducker and Elinor Doty left us for eternal life. Each of them in his or her own way touched us and left an imprint on us. Kevin's quick wit and giant intellect, Bill's warm heart and gentle spirit and Elinor's quiet and gracious presence come immediately to mind. We will all remember them in our own way and those closest to them will mourn their passing. But every member of a church community plays a role in it and these three did so in ours. We believe they are with God now and that should be of some comfort to the Christian. Their loved ones need our prayers for their grief as will the loved ones of those who will leave us this year. May they all rest in peace.

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

The second annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner is tentatively set for Saturday, January 26. If you have volunteered at St. Francis in 2007 for any reason you are welcome to attend. There will be a sign-up sheet and further information as it becomes available. I personally want to thank all those who contribute to the parish in so many ways. May God bless you all!



MOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP

All mothers and grandmothers of the church are invited to attend the mothers' prayer group, held in the Parish Hall. The group spends an hour on the second Monday of every month at 11 a.m. praying for their families.

Why join a home group?

Besides getting to know such dear people of all ages and different religious beginnings who are now at St. Francis, I think the most important thing is I've made new friends who have the same love for God as I do.

I feel safe and open to discuss my views and ideas with our "little group". Yes, we do have some brilliant scholars in our group, but they also listen to those of us who ask questions and speak from a bit less knowledgeable reference point. We feel secure in doing so. Respect and love is a valued gift we all receive each time we meet.

For those of you that don't know this....John, Tim and Jace need to take a field trip to Blue Bell! We do laugh, and when Wanda speaks we listen....especially her husband! Please buy stock in yellow highlighters, because Jace is adding to the market value. Seriously it sure beats a Junior League meeting.

I have never looked forward to a Friday night like the ones we have together. If you aren't in a group find one, seek one and grab it! It's the best journey I've had in a long time.

In His Name,
Cindy Tassos Phillips

PS: Let John Stults know if you want to join a home group in the new year.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Classes will start up again on January 6th.

If you are interested in working with any of the classes this coming year, please contact me at 452-7231 or amy_crandell@hotmail.com. There is a need for teachers in all the classes.

*May God Bless you with unspeakable joy,
not only in the world to come,
but in this world also.*

*May your path be bright and full of light
everywhere you go.*

*May God tell darkness that it must flee at
your command.*

*And, I pray your feet will never stumble out
of God's plan.*

May the desires of your heart come true.

*And may you experience Peace in everything
you do.*

*May Goodness, Kindness, and Mercy come
your way.*

*And, may you gain Wisdom and grow in the
Lord every day.*

Amen

Lord, prop us up...

(obtained from Rev. Mike Keppler, Sr.)

Every time I am asked to pray, I think of the old deacon who always prayed, 'Lord, prop us up on our leanin' side.'

After hearing him pray that prayer many times, someone asked him why he prayed that prayer so fervently.

He answered, 'Well sir, you see, it's like this....I got an old barn out back. It's been there a long time, it's withstood a lot of weather, it's gone through a lot of storms, and it's stood for many years. It's still standing, but one day I noticed it was leaning to one side a bit. So I went and got some pine poles and propped it up on its leaning side so it wouldn't fall.

Then I got to thinking 'bout that and how much I was like that old barn. I've been around a long time, I've withstood a lot of life's storms, I've withstood a lot of bad weather in life, I've withstood a lot of hard times, and I'm still standing too. But I find myself leaning to one side from time to time, so I like to ask the Lord to prop us up on our leaning side, 'cause I figure a lot of us get to leaning, at times.'

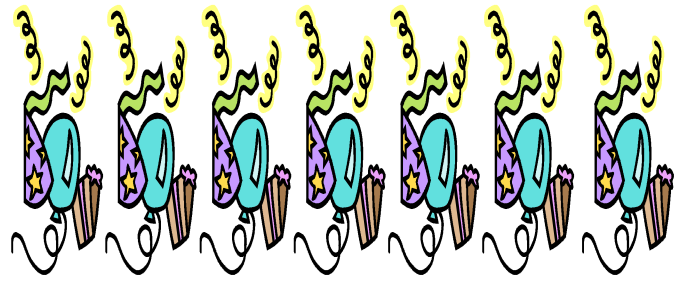
Sometime we get to leaning toward anger, leaning toward bitterness, leaning toward hatred, leaning toward cussing, leaning toward a lot of things that we shouldn't, so we need to pray, 'Lord, prop us up on our leaning side,' so we will stand straight and tall again, to glorify Him.

author unknown

Rector: The Reverend Len Giacolone

Senior Warden: Mark Rambin

Junior Warden: Keith Harrell



Birthdays

- 1 Audrey Woodgate
- 5 Philip Crandell
- 6 Henrietta Clement
Jerry Bordelon
- 17 Tom Matthews
- 18 Elizabeth Kinahan
Gayle Horn
- 19 Arthur Woodgate
Gary Horn
- 21 Katherine Kirk
- 24 Erika Denslow
- 27 Ruth Doane
- 29 Margaret Sikes
- 31 Ben Ellis

Anniversaries

- 23 Graham & Kimberly Kinahan



Associate Rector: The Reverend John Stults

Organist: Sylvia Kelley

Server: Ray Merrill

Newsletter Submissions

Any parishioner that has news of any kind they would like to share with everyone is welcome to send it in writing to Tricia Denslow at 640 B Lakeside Dr., Wimberley, TX 78676 or to her e-mail address (triciadenslow@yahoo.com). If received **by the 20th**, it will appear in next month's newsletter.

St. Francis Episcopal Church

1408 West 9th Street
Austin, Texas 78703

JANUARY

2008

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| 4 | <i>Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm Church
Game Night, 6:30 pm</i> | 18 | <i>Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm Church</i> |
| 6 | <i><u>Holy Communion, 9:30 am, Morning
Prayer and Holy Communion, 11:00 am,</u></i>
Isaiah 60:1-6, 9
Psalm 72
(Ephesians 3:1-12)
Matthew 2:1-12
<i>Children's Sunday School, 9:30 am Parish
Hall</i> | 20 | <i><u>Holy Communion, 9:30 am and 11:00 am,</u></i>
Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-10
1 Cor. 1:1-9
John 1:29-41
<i>Children's Sunday School, 9:30 am Parish
Hall</i> |
| 8 | <i>Adult Education, 7:00 pm Parish Hall</i> | 22 | <i>Adult Education, 7:00 pm Parish Hall</i> |
| 11 | <i>Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm Church</i> | 25 | <i>Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm Church</i> |
| 13 | <i><u>Holy Communion, 9:30 am and 11:00 am,</u></i>
Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 89:20-29
Acts 10:34-38
Matthew 3:13-17
<i>Children's Sunday School, 9:30 am Parish
Hall</i> | 26 | <i>Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, 6:30 pm</i> |
| 14 | <i>Mothers' and Grandmothers' Prayer Group,
11:00 am
Vestry Meeting, 5:30 pm</i> | 27 | <i><u>Holy Communion, 9:30 am and 11:00 am,</u></i>
Amos 3:1-8
Psalm 139:1-11
1 Cor. 1:10-17
Matthew 4:12-23
<i>Children's Sunday School, 9:30 am Parish
Hall</i> |
| 15 | <i>Adult Education, 7:00 pm Parish Hall</i> | 29 | <i>Adult Education, 7:00 pm Parish Hall</i> |