



The St. Francis Bulletin

FROM THE RECTOR:

Whenever we are nearing an election I try to remind you that there are important matters to consider. You probably don't need to be reminded of such things but I feel better about doing it. While it may seem early, early voting starts this month.

With all the bad news lately about the economy, it is possible that many will think that the economy is the most important issue. It is important, of course, and who can afford to lose any money that they have? You may feel that one candidate or another has your own best interests at heart or one represents how you believe more than the other. All of that can and should be taken into account. But have you ever asked God how you should vote? I'm serious. We ask God for things all the time. Do we ever ask Him for advice on the really important questions in our lives and even the really important questions of our times? Ask God to show you what the important issues are in this election and who would provide the best leadership in the face of those issues. I believe Christians have that responsibility—to seek God's direction not just for their own lives but for their country.

Too many Christians have fallen into the separation of church and state lie. We have become accustomed to thinking that God has no business in our national or local

political affairs. After all, we have been told that for decades. Everyone is free to worship as he or she sees fit as long as God doesn't leave the church building. That is the attitude that has brought us to this place in our history, this undesirable place.

I have in the past reminded you that God has a history with us and we with Him. It is not hard to understand how God operates. He has shown us time and again. When we invite God out of our personal lives or the life of the nation God will do one of two things. According to biblical history, He will either punish directly or withdraw his hand of protection from us. I believe that this is already begun in our nation. The increase in the number and the severity of so-called natural disasters over the past decade or so has been blamed on global warming. While the myth of global warming is subject for another debate, I don't believe that this is the cause at all. God has permitted more of the floods, storms, droughts, fires and earthquakes to call us to repentance. I recently saw a sign on a church which read "What does God have to do to get our attention?" What, indeed?

Our country finds itself wrapped in a conflict of religion and culture with radical Islamists and although I disagree with

From the Rector (continued):

most of what they think about everything, part of their grievance against the West is what they consider to be the moral depravity into which we have fallen. They have no claim on moral purity themselves but it is hard to argue that our current moral culture isn't more depraved than it used to be. Abortion, homosexuality, pedophilia, pornography, greed and lust of all types. The list goes on and on. I believe God is saying to us, "You may live that way if you choose but I will have no part in it."

Anne Graham Lotz in her book I Saw The Lord has this to say, "...I would say that for several years now, Americans, in a sense, have shaken their fists at God and said, 'God, we want You out of the schools, we want You out of our government, we want You out of our business, we want You out of our marketplace.' And God, who is a gentleman, has quietly backed out of our national and political life, our public life, removing His hand of blessing and protection."

This election is far from the most important question facing us as a nation. Who we elect to be the leader of our nation is important but not as important as whom we acknowledge to be the leader of our nation. We can start by seeking His face and asking His direction before we vote.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Congratulations!!!

Finally, congratulations to Andrew and Jessica Brummett who are the proud parents of twin girls, Anna and Erin, born Friday, September 19. May God be with them all.

Christian Education News

Sunday school for teens and children started Sept 7. Students in grades 6-12 meet with Tim Williams to discuss the lessons that will be read during the upcoming church service. The younger children meet with Susan Rambin or Amy Crandell (they alternate teaching or staffing the nursery). This class will be discussing Old Testament stories up until Advent (with a discussion of saints in general and St. Francis is particular at the end of October). Songs, games, discussion and other activities that go along with the story are on the agenda. The youngest of the children will be in the nursery for a Bible story and a song or two.

Upcoming plans include packing shoe boxes for operation Christmas Child on November 16. Expect a letter in the mail appealing for donations of shoe box contents and funds to help support this endeavor. We will have the Christmas Pageant during the Sunday school hour on Dec. 21st.

Classes are held each Sunday from 9:30 to 10:30 am beginning the Sunday after Labor Day until the Sunday before Memorial Day. We take two weeks off for the Christmas holidays (Dec. 28- Jan. 4), returning on January 11th. Classes are held continuously until Easter Sunday (April 12th this year) and pick up the next Sunday until the end of the Sunday school year on May 17th.

Please keep the Sunday school program -- teachers, students and parents -- in your prayers.

MOMS' PRAYER GROUP

Schedule change : Please join our Moms' (and grandmothers') prayer time. We meet once a month on every **THIRD MONDAY** at **11 am** in the Fellowship Hall. A Scripture is read and then prayers are offered up on behalf of our families for a solid hour. It continues to be a privilege to work for our loved ones in this way. Our next meeting will be held on Monday, October 20. For further information, contact Wanda Stults: 830-833-5632

The Anglican Rosary

The Anglican Rosary will be said or chanted on Tuesday evenings at 6 PM in the church.

If you are interested and want more information please contact Evie Lewis at 512-852-8766 or email texasevie@gmail.com

St. Francis Choir

The choir has reformed. We typically rehearse for a half hour after the refreshment time. We currently have seven members with a couple more people expressing an interest in joining us. Please consider singing with us! Our organist, Paula Blaha is in charge of the choir with assistance from Amy Crandell.

Rector: The Reverend Len Giacolone

Senior Warden: Mark Ramin

Junior Warden: Keith Harrell



Birthdays

- 3 Byron Elliott
- 5 Kevin Burnette
- 10 Kay Francis
- 12 Evelyn Lewis
- 13 Gayle Harrell
- 15 Andrew Brummett
- 18 Merry Nell Drummond
- 19 Harriette Scharff
- 23 Nita Reading
- 25 Carole Martin
Ed Sandlin
- 27 Suzan Stratton

Anniversaries

- 3 Len and Nancy Giacolone
Chris & Tricia Denslow
- 6 Bill and Nita Reading
- 13 Ed and Katie Sandlin



Associate Rector: The Reverend John Stults

Organist: Paula Blaha

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

OCTOBER

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| 1 | <u>Experiencing God</u> , 7:00 pm | 13 | Vestry Meeting, 5:30 pm |
| 3 | Evening Prayer , 6:00 pm Church
Game Night , 6:30 pm | 14 | <i>Anglican Rosary</i> , 6:00 pm |
| 4 | <i>Prayer Shawl Ministry Group</i> will meet at
Seattle's Best Coffee House, 11am | 15 | <u>Experiencing God</u> , 7:00 pm |
| 5 | <u>Holy Communion</u> , 9:30 am, <u>Morning Prayer
and Holy Communion</u> ,
11:00 am,
(Isaiah 5:1-7), Psalm 80
Philippians 3:14-21, Matthew 21:33-43
<i>Children's Sunday School</i> , 9:30 am Parish
Hall | 19 | <u>Holy Communion</u> , 9:30 am and 11:00 am
Isaiah 45:1-7, Psalm 96
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10, Matthew 22:15-22
<i>Children's Sunday School</i> , 9:30 am Parish Hall |
| 7 | <i>Anglican Rosary</i> , 6:00 pm | 20 | <i>Mother's and Grandmother's Prayer Group</i> , 11:00
am. |
| 8 | <u>Experiencing God</u> , 7:00 pm | 21 | <i>Anglican Rosary</i> , 6:00 pm |
| 10 | Evening Prayer , 6:00 pm Church | 22 | <u>Experiencing God</u> , 7:00 pm |
| 12 | <u>Holy Communion</u> , 9:30 am, <u>Morning Prayer
and Holy Communion</u> ,
11:00 am,
Isaiah 25:1-9, Psalm 23
Philippians 4:4-13, Matthew 22:1-14
<i>Children's Sunday School</i> , 9:30 am Parish
Hall | 24 | Evening Prayer , 6:00 pm Church |
| | | 26 | <u>Holy Communion</u> , 9:30 am and 11:00 am
Exodus 22:21-27, Psalm 1
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8, Matthew 22:34-46
<i>Children's Sunday School</i> , 9:30 am Parish Hall |
| | | 28 | <i>Anglican Rosary</i> , 6:00 pm |
| | | 29 | <u>Experiencing God</u> , 7:00 pm |
| | | 31 | Evening Prayer , 6:00 pm |