



The St. Francis Bulletin

FROM THE RECTOR:

Annual Parish Meeting

On Sunday, February 1, we will have our annual parish meeting. At this meeting we will elect three members of the Vestry for the next three years.

The Vestry itself always provides a slate of candidates to the members of the parish for their consideration. This year that slate will be Nancy Critchfield-Jones who is already a Vestry member, Carole Martin, and Donald St. Martin. Nominations will be taken from the floor as is our custom. Retiring from the Vestry are Keith Harrell who has been our Junior Warden for the past several years and David Stephan who has been largely responsible for our sermon recording ministry. I am grateful for the service of these and all the members of the Vestry. While it may be true that Vestry members are just members of the parish, they are members who are willing to give up their time and energy to make sometimes difficult decisions for the parish as a whole. Each and every one of them deserves our thanks for their willingness to serve. We will also deal with the annual budget for 2009. There will also be an announcement regarding a new Pro-Life ministry in our parish. You know how I feel about that. This will have my full support, and should have yours.

I always encourage everyone to try to make this meeting. It is the place where you have a direct voice in the business of the parish as opposed to representation through the Vestry. It will be after the 11:00 am service.

Bible Study

On Tuesday, February 3, I will launch the long awaited and much anticipated study of St. Paul's Letter to the Romans. If we are to finish Romans by the end of May or early June we will have to

step lively. I anticipate using something called the reader response method for this study. I will spend some time during each session talking about the text and then we will have a discussion which should be geared toward how that particular portion of the text impacts your life personally. So often we intellectualize the Scripture. Unfortunately, Romans would be an excellent candidate for doing that. But unless we can make it relevant to our own personal lives it won't be of much use to any of us. Therefore, you won't have to do too much homework studying the text for content. What those of you who plan to take the course will have to do is spend time with the word itself and pray with it. I will explain this a little more when we start.

Bishop Millsaps' Visit

As you already know, our Presiding Bishop, William W. Millsaps, will be here at St. Francis on February 14 for the Ordination to the Diaconate of William Andrew Brummett and Timothy Scott Williams. This will be the first ordination in our parish since David Smith was ordained for another jurisdiction many years ago. The ordination will take place at 10:00 am. This is an important event in our parish and for the Episcopal Missionary Church. Of course you are invited. On Sunday February 15, Bishop Millsaps will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to Aleksander and Addison Denslow, James LaRoux, Sophia Pangle and Victoria Stults. This will take place at the regular 11:00 am Holy Communion service. We are grateful to Bishop Millsaps for his visit to our parish and to God for these sacramental gifts to these seven members of our parish community.

From the Rector (continued):

I'm running on a little long this month because there is so much going on in February. February 25 is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. There will be Holy Communion with the distribution of ashes at 12:00 noon and Stations of the Cross with the distribution of ashes at 7:00 pm. Each Wednesday thereafter during Lent we will have Stations of the Cross at 7:00 pm. This year the theme of my meditations after the Stations will be The Lord's Prayer. Finally, on Saturday, February 28, there will be a Lenten Day of Recollection from 10 to 3 led by Deacon Tim Williams and Gayle Horn. This would be a great way to start the Lenten season. I think there will be more information about it at another place in this newsletter. Enough from me.

Spring Meeting:

The annual spring meeting of the Daughters of St. Clare, the women's support of St. Francis Church, will be held on Saturday, March 7, at 10:30 am in the Parish Hall. All women of St. Francis are encouraged to attend.

The agenda will include reports from Committee Chairwomen and a short devotional message, followed by refreshments and fellowship.

Plan to join the Daughters of St. Clare to help support the projects and work of the church.

Lenten Retreat

On Saturday, February 28th from 10 am to 3 pm, a Lenten Retreat will be held at the Parish Hall. Led by Tim Williams and Gayle Horn, the topic is Lectio Divina which translates as divine reading. This will be a day of quiet discussion and contemplative prayer. A simple soup will be provided. If you wish, you may bring fruit or bread -- nothing elaborate, please. Also bring your Bible, a notebook or prayer journal and something to write with.

Children and Youth Sunday School

New Sunday school classes are continuing for the children and youth of St. Francis each Sunday from 9:30 – 10:30 in the parish house. We had fun with our rather impromptu pageant on the last Sunday in Advent. Nearly all the youth participated in helping make this happen.

We welcome Harriet Nelson to the elementary aged class and her sister Judy to the nursery. Harriet is excited to attend Sunday school. This class of younger St. Francis children is following the American Church Union series for the lessons. In January, we began with New Testament intermixed with lessons from the 1928 Prayer book. In February, we will discuss the seven Sacraments followed by the New Testament story on Jesus' first miracle at the Wedding at Cana, the healing of the Centurion's Servant and Jairus' Daughter and end with a discussion of Lent on the last Sunday of the month.

The youth class has been divided into two parts. Wanda Stults is preparing three of our youth for Confirmation while ever-popular Mike Ready continues to work with the older youth. He should be wrapping up his term soon and Steve McCown will step in to lead the discussion. Thanks is extended to both of these fine gentlemen.

Thanks to Susan Rambin for assisting with the elementary aged class. She has decided to move onto other areas of interest beginning next fall. If you have an interest in working with the elementary aged class, please let Amy Crandell know. She will fill you in on what we are trying to accomplish during Sunday school.

Thanks to all the parents who bring their children to Sunday school classes. New and returning students are always welcome. As always, please include our Sunday school in your prayers.

Announcements:

Ordination Reception

Our Saint Polycarp's Guild will be providing a Bar-B-Q lunch reception directly after the ordination service on **Saturday, February 14th**. No doubt, this august group will be serving up more meat than we will finish in one sitting. However, the women folk are providing the vegetables and bread. We are wondering if we need to cook for 30 or 100; so if you plan on attending the reception, please leave me a message by *Feb.*

7th. Thank you, Wanda (stults7@vownet.net): 830-833-5632.



New HOMEGROUPS Forming:

Going strong for over two years now, our three current home groups are ready to welcome anyone who wants to join them. Please contact **Claire Ducker, Joe McIlhaney, or Tim Williams** and inquire to what their group is doing this spring. A *brand new* home group is forming in the Hwy 290 West area; contact **Thomas and Laura O'Connor** if you are interested in joining them. If you want to host or facilitate a home group, or if you have questions about home groups, please contact **Father John Stults**.

Confirmation Celebration!

The families of our confirmands invite you to celebrate with us in the Parish Hall after the service: *Sunday, February 15, 2009 @ 11 am*.

Rector: The Reverend Len Giacolone
Senior Warden: Mark Rambin
Junior Warden: Keith Harrell



Birthdays

2	Erin Darling
4	John Gaitan Jim Britt
5	Patricia Burnette
7	Burt Pigg
8	Tristan Jensen
9	Kyle Read
11	Elizabeth Elliott
12	Mike Ready
18	Liz Stewart
24	Callie Burnette
27	Fred Savage Gary Francis

Anniversaries

14	John and Wanda Stults
19	Tim and Elaine Williams
20	Warren and Liz Stewart



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

February

2009

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- 1 **Holy Communion**, 9:30 am, **Morning Prayer and Holy Communion**, 11:00 am,
Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 111
1 Cor. 8:1b-13 Mark 1:21-28
Children's Sunday School, 9:30 am Parish Hall
Annual Parish Meeting
- 3 *Anglican Rosary*, 12:00 noon
- 3 Bible Study 7:00 pm
- 6 ***Evening Prayer***, 6:00 pm Church
Games night, 6:30pm
- 8 **Holy Communion**, 9:30 am and 11:00 am
2 Kings 4:18-21, 32-37 Psalm 142
1 Cor. 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39
Children's Sunday School, 9:30 am Parish Hall
- 10 *Anglican Rosary*, 12:00 noon
- 10 Bible Study 7:00 pm
- 13 ***Evening Prayer***, 6:00 pm Church
- 14 Diaconate Ordinations, 10:00 am
- 15 **Holy Communion**, 9:30 am and 11:00 am
2 Kings 5:1-15ab Psalm 42
1 Cor. 9:24-27 Mark 1:40-45
Children's Sunday School, 9:30 am Parish Hall
Confirmation 11:00 am
- 16 *Mother's and Grandmother's Prayer Group*, 11:00am
- 17 *Anglican Rosary*, 12:00 noon
- 17 Bible Study 7:00 pm
- 20 ***Evening Prayer***, 6:00 pm Church
- 22 **Holy Communion**, 9:30 am and 11:00 am
1 Kings 19:9-18 Psalm 27
2 Peter 1:16-21 Mark 9:2-9
Children's Sunday School, 9:30 am Parish Hall
- 24 *Anglican Rosary*, 12:00 noon
- 24 Bible Study 7:00 pm
- 25 ASH WEDNESDAY,
12:00 pm Holy Communion/ashes;
7:00 pm Stations/ashes
Joel 2:1-2; 12-17 Psalm 103:9-14
2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10 Matthew 6:1-6; 16-21
- 27 *Evening Prayer*, 6:00 pm.
- 28 Lenten Day of Recollection, 10 am to 3:00 pm