



The St. Francis Bulletin

FROM THE RECTOR:

Advent and Christmas

We are now already in another season of Advent. During Advent we hear about the Lord's coming. The Scriptures are filled with prophecies about the Messiah and how that will make such a difference in the lives of the people, not only the people of Israel but all the people of the world. But the Messiah has already come and even though He has made a remarkable difference in the lives of all who believe in Him, there is still expectation and wonder about how it will be when He comes in glory. While we are waiting it is important that we "wait in joyful hope" for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The use of Advent wreaths during Advent provide us with the opportunity to remember not only that He has come but that He will come again, and to adjust our lives accordingly.

Our Christmas Eve service of Lessons and Carols followed by Holy Communion will begin at 8:00 p.m. There will also be a Holy Communion service at 10:00 am on Christmas morning for those who are unable to attend the night before. Christmas should always be celebrated liturgically. Since Christmas is on a Saturday this year there may be a temptation to do a two for one. Try to resist the temptation and

celebrate Christmas and the Sunday after Christmas, which is the feast of St. Stephen.

Our annual Christmas decorating party will be on Tuesday evening, December 21 at 7:00 p.m. The decorating part of this doesn't take very long and there is usually a lot of fun and some singing of carols as well. So please try to join us.

The Advent and Christmas season are usually quite busy and often times any number of things may happen to take us out of our festive mood. The following are some words of wisdom from a modern day saint to remind us of where our priorities really lie.

People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered; forgive them anyway. If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives; be kind anyway. If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies; succeed anyway. If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you; be honest and frank anyway. What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight; build anyway. If you find serenity and happiness, there may be jealousy; be happy anyway. The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow; do good anyway. Give the world the best you have, and it

may never be enough; give the world the best you've got anyway. You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God; it was never between you and them anyway.

Mother Theresa

Pro-Life Series

Beginning Tuesday, January 18, the Anglicans for Life group in the parish will sponsor an eight week course on several different aspects of life issues confronting the modern day Christian. Please try to make yourself available for this very important series. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the meeting room. More information will be provided to you in the pew sheet and the January newsletter.

Although the annual Pledge Drive is officially over, we will cheerfully accept your pledge card at any time. However, the Vestry will attempt to do the 2011 budget at its December meeting and I would appreciate it if you could have your pledge in before then.

A blessed Christmas to you all!

If anyone would care to send our marine a card or package, here's his address:

LCpl Looke, Micah J.
FAST PAC B4
PAC 473 Box 124
FPO AP 96349-0124

Sunday School News

Advent: Getting ready for Christmas. The month of December includes three Sundays of Advent and **Christmas**. The children will spend the first two weeks reviewing the **Bible stories** related to the **birth of Jesus**. On December 19, the annual Christmas Pageant will be presented at 10:15 in the parish house. This year, the pageant includes references to Advent through **Epiphany**. There is much that happens in the church calendar between December and January, and this play covers it all.

The youth class will continue their study of **Colossians** under Ed Sandlin for the first two weeks of December. For the Christmas pageant, those teens who are willing will take a narrator role, as the younger class tends to be reluctant to have a speaking part.

Both classes will have a vacation that coincides with the school vacation. No classes will be held **Dec. 26** and **January 2**. Classes will resume on **January 9**.

Operation Christmas Child

The children and youth of **St. Francis Sunday School** gathered on Nov. 14 and looked at amazement at the items laid out on the table, ready to be put into shoeboxes. They love to walk around looking at the toys, clothes, crayons that will go to other children around the world. Each year, they need to be reminded that all the items are to be given away - they cannot keep even a sample of what is on the table. After watching a video provided by **Samaritan's Purse**, they grabbed a box and started filling with the variety of items.

In the end, 29 boxes were filled and delivered to one of the Shoe Drop off points in the area. Thanks to everyone who contributed either the items or the donations to process the boxes. I promise that next year, I will ask for the items earlier.



Altar Guild News

For the 12 days of Christmas, the church will be beautifully decorated with poinsettias. If you wish to make a remembrance or memorial donation at this time of year please give your donation with the names of the people or occasion you wish to honor to Angie McCown or Nancy Critchfield-Jones. Envelopes for this purpose are located on the table in the back of the church and may be put in the collection plate.

Shirley Ellis
Altar Guild Director

Anglicans For Life

There will not be a meeting of Anglicans for Life in December. After the Holidays we will meet on Sunday, January 16th, after the 11:00 service in the Parish Hall.

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

Birthdays

- 4 Michael Faught
Elizabeth Douglas
- 5 Wanda Stults
James Rambin
- 7 David Malish
- 9 Cassandra Jensen
- 10 Cindy Phillips
- 11 Rebecca Hoard
- 14 Mildred Farris
- 18 Karl David Stephan
Angie McCown
- 21 Tricia Denslow
- 28 Rev. John Stults
- 30 Suzanne Faught

Anniversary

- 21 Kyle and Leanne Read
- 22 Byron and Melissa Elliott
Jerry and Lisa Bordelon
- 30 Arthur and Audrey Woodgate
- 31 Gary and Gayle Horn

Associate Rector: The Reverend John Stults
Organist: Paula Blaha
Server: Ray Merrill and Arthur Woodgate

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 Anglican Church

1408 West 9th Street
Austin, Texas 78703

December 2010

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|--|
| 1 | Transformation Prayer Group, 7:00 pm | 16 | Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm Church |
| 2 | Evening Prayer, 6 pm Church | 19 | <u>Holy Communion</u> , 9:30 am and 11:00 am,
Isaiah 7:10-17 Psalm 24
Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25
<i>Christmas Pageant, 9:30 am</i> |
| 3 | Games Night, 6:30pm | 20 | <i>Mothers and grandmothers prayer group</i> |
| 4 | Austin Prayer Walk, 9am | 21 | Anglican Rosary 12 noon |
| 5 | <u>Holy Communion</u> , 9:30 am,
<u>Morning Prayer and</u>
<u>Holy Communion</u> , 11:00 am,
Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-8
Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12
Sunday School for Children, 9:30 am | 21 | Christmas Decorating Party, 7:00 pm |
| 7 | Anglican Rosary 12 noon | 22 | Transformational Prayer, 7pm |
| 8 | Transformation Prayer Group, 7:00 pm | 23 | Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm Church |
| 9 | Evening Prayer, 6pm Church | 25 | CHRISTMAS DAY
<u>Holy Communion</u> , 9:30 am and 11:00 am,
Isaiah 9: 2-7 Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-20 |
| 12 | <u>Holy Communion</u> , 9:30 am and 11:00 am,
Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146
James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11
Sunday School for Children, 9:30 am | 26 | <u>Holy Communion</u> , 9:30 am and 11:00 am,
Jeremiah 26:1-9, 12-15 Psalm 31:1-5
Acts 6:8-7:2a, 51c-60 Matthew 23:34-39 |
| 13 | Vestry meeting | 28 | Anglican Rosary 12 noon |
| 14 | Anglican Rosemary, noon | | |
| 15 | Transformation Prayer, 7pm | | |