



## The St. Francis Bulletin

### **FROM THE RECTOR:**

As summer begins, things around here will progress in a lower gear for the coming months. I want to thank all those whose ministry throughout the year blesses us immensely. Many of those ministries will take a short break for the summer months in order to retool and refuel. Who knows, I may even take some time off.

“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. May those who love you prosper” (Psalm 122:6). I realize that many if not most Americans are focused intently on the situation in our country with things like unemployment and the economy. But I would encourage you not to lose sight of the things that are going on in the Middle East. The media played up the fall of Mubarak in Egypt and some of the other dictators in North Africa. They supported, along with our government, the advance of democracy in these countries and now look forward to new and better governments for the people of these nations.

The problem is that we have no idea at the present time what these new governments might look like. In my opinion there is a better than average chance that radical Islam will make strong moves in these nations, and further complicate the Mid-East scene, for Israel, that is. Until recent years,

Israel was our only real ally in the Middle East and we were their strongest ally of all the nations on the earth. That has now changed and the so called Middle East peace process has taken precedence over the safety of Israel itself. Most “peace” plans call for the further carving up of Israel and Jerusalem itself. Previous Israeli governments have already given up land that is theirs. The current Prime Minister has said there will be no dividing of Jerusalem under any circumstances. He is right. There cannot be. Almost every Arab nation has called for the dismantling of Israel and the annihilation of all Jews. If Egypt and the rest of North Africa allow the radical fringe of Islam to take over their nations, Israel will be in an even more serious position than it is today. I believe that God will protect His people. But I also believe that all of God’s people need to stand with Israel during this time. Some will say that the modern state of Israel is not the same as the Hebrew nation of the Old Testament. That is true. But there is no question in my mind that God restored Israel as a nation sixty-three years ago and that He means for there to be a nation of Israel when Jesus comes again. Is Israel innocent in every respect? Of course not.

## **Continued from the Rector:**

God has punished them in the past and may do so again for their unfaithfulness to Him. But they are His people and He will not abandon them. Neither should we. Pray for the peace and protection of Israel. Things will get worse before they get better.

For the past several years Wanda Stults has been taking care of the parish hall and in particular, the kitchen. She will be handing that duty off to David and Kim Norris. Thanks to Wanda for her service and also for preparing some of our young ladies in the parish for Confirmation which I think will be sometime in the fall.

Thursday, June 2, is the feast of the Lord's Ascension, a Day of Obligation. I will celebrate the Holy Communion at 12:00 noon. In the past we have celebrated in the evening and it has been rather sparsely attended. Let's see if this time is better.

If you are going to be away this summer please remember to continue your weekly or monthly contributions to the parish. Even though things slow down, they don't stop. Thanks for your faithfulness in that regard as well.

## **Christian Education News**

The school year is drawing to a close and with it St. Francis closes out another year of Sunday school classes. Many thanks go to Mike Ready who worked with the youth class for just about the whole school year. Thanks go to Wanda Stults who worked three of our youth to get them ready for confirmation in the near future. This was a luxury for both the teacher and

students to have plenty of time to cover all the topics well before the confirmation -- which hasn't even been scheduled. Thanks to all the parents who ensured their children came to class and some of the students who were able to get themselves to class.

Other duties crept into my life and I haven't written an article in the past couple of newsletters. What may be of interest is during Lent, I emphasized the discipline of prayer, fasting, and alms giving. The children were encouraged to pray each day to be able to love the Lord with all their heart, all their soul, and all their mind. Before Lent, I had each identify something they could give up to grow closer to the Lord. The ones who chose food items found it the easiest to keep this "fast". Giving up certain video games was a little more challenging. For alms giving, Mite boxes were decorated and coins collected. At the beginning of Lent, the children decided to give the funds to homeless children. Once all the funds are in, there should be a bit more than \$30 to donate to homeless children. (I may convert all the pennies to larger bills.) The Bible stories around Easter are so rich -- I love reviewing these each year. Some of the older students remember these stories they hear year after year.

Sunday school will take a break beginning the Memorial weekend and start up again September 11, 2011. The younger class has run over to the playground after class is over ever since it started to warm up. The new pool at the park looks very inviting -- a cookout/swim party looks like a great idea for the beginning of June!

## **Christian Education News (cont.)**

This year my goal has been that the elementary students are exposed to part of our worship service each Sunday and then go to class to sing, read or hear a Bible story and discuss it a bit. As it ends up, the kids enjoy the activities I have planned that emphasize the story.

Amy Crandell

## **5th Sunday Retirement and Nursing Home Visit**

Do you have an hour to spare on the afternoon of a 5th Sunday? We sure could use your presence at the Retirement and Nursing Center at 6100 Burnet Lane on the 29th from 3:30 to 4:30. We spend an hour with the residents who can make it to the dining hall to sing, pray, sing, read the Bible, sing and sing again. Several know the tunes and sing along with us. See Claire Ducker or Amy Crandell for more information.

**Rector: The Rev. Canon Len Giacalone**

**Senior Warden: Mark Rambin**

**Junior Warden: Keith Harrell**



## **Birthdays**

- 5 Rev. Len Giacalone
- 9 Alek Denslow
- 10 Cassandra Watkins
- 15 Charlotte Ready
- 18 Nancy Jones  
RobinRuth Alexander  
Robert Motl  
Carleton Wilkes
- 27 Anna Burnette

## **Anniversary**

- 1 Jace and Cindy Phillips
- 9 Thomas and Lorraine Pangle  
Mike and Charlotte Ready
- 28 Thomas and Laura O'Conner  
Laurence and Mary Sanders



**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

### JUNE 2011

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|----|---|----|---|
| 1  | Transformation Prayer Group, 7pm  | 15 | Transformation Prayer Group, 7:00 pm.   |
| 2  | ASCENSION DAY,<br>Holy Communion, 12 pm<br>Acts 1:1-11<br>Psalm 47<br>Ephesians 1:15-23<br>Luke 24:49-53<br>Evening Prayer, 6 pm Church                             | 16 | Evening Prayer, 6pm Church  |
| 3  | Games Night, 6:30pm   | 19 | <u>Holy Communion, 9:30 am and 11:00 am,</u><br>Genesis 1:1-2:3<br>Psalm 150<br>2 Corinthians 13:5-14<br>Matthew 28:16-20 |
| 4  | Austin City Prayer Walk, 9am  | 20 | Mother's Prayer Group, 11:00 am.  |
| 5  | <u>Holy Communion, 9:30 am,</u><br><u>Morning Prayer and</u><br><u>Holy Communion, 11:00 am,</u><br>Acts 1:1-14<br>Psalm 68:1-20<br>1 Peter 4:12-19<br>John 17:1-11 | 21 | Anglican Rosary, 12 noon  |
| 7  | Anglican Rosary 12 noon   | 22 | Transformation Prayer Group, 7:00 pm.   |
| 8  | Transformation Prayer Group, 7pm  | 23 | Evening Prayer, 6pm Church  |
| 9  | Evening Prayer, 6pm Church  | 26 | <u>Holy Communion, 9:30 am and 11:00 am,</u><br>Isaiah 2:10-17<br>Psalm 89:1-18<br>Romans 6:3-11<br>Matthew 10:34-42      |
| 12 | <u>Holy Communion, 9:30 am and 11:00 am</u><br>Acts 2:1-11<br>Psalm 104:25-37<br>1 Corinthians 12:4-13<br>John 20:19-23   | 28 | Anglican Rosary, 12 noon  |
|    |   | 29 | Transformation Prayer Group, 7:00 pm.   |
|    |   | 30 | Evening Prayer, 6pm Church  |