

THE ST. FRANCIS BULLETIN

FROM THE RECTOR

Fr. Len Giacalone

As we approach the end of meteorological summer (summer doesn't really end here until about Thanksgiving), we need to start cranking up things that have been dormant over the summer months. Things like Sunday School and Vestry among others. I want to thank Fathers Bill Dickson and Tom Hightower for taking my place during my absence. I'm grateful to them both, especially Father Dickson who gave up his summer for mine.

It's a big month for the diocese, too. On Saturday, September 21, Father Ryan S. Reed will be consecrated Coadjutor Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth. The consecration will take place at Arborlawn United Methodist Church in Fort Worth beginning at 10:00 am. Everyone is invited to attend. I am assuming that the reason for not having the consecration at the cathedral in Bedford is space. The newly consecrated Bishop Reed will immediately take up the Sunday visitation schedule on the 22nd at St. Vincent's Cathedral, the church he has led for the past seventeen or so years. Bishop Reed will assume his duties as the diocesan bishop on January 4, 2020 following his installation, time and place to be determined, although I would think that would take place at St. Vincent's Cathedral. Please continue to pray for Bishop Iker, Bishop-elect Reed and the diocese in the coming months.

One of the matters that will be on the new bishop's plate will be the decision of the Texas Supreme Court on whether the property of the diocese belongs to Fort Worth or to the Episcopal Church. A decision on this matter is expected in the spring of 2020, although things like this can drag on seemingly indefinitely. It was somewhat heartening to hear all of the

candidates for bishop say that regardless of the decision by the court the mission of the diocese remains the same. While that is true, losing all the diocesan property will not be easy, if, in fact, that is the decision. We need to continue to pray about that as well.

Brigadier General, David O. Williams, Jr. (USAF, Ret.) has gone to be with the Lord. Dave was a faithful communicant at St. Francis for many years until his health issues caught up with him. Even after he wasn't allowed to drive any longer, his wife, Janie, would bring him to St. Francis when he was up to it. Dave served thirty-three years on active duty with the Air Force as a combat pilot and commander. His funeral will take place at Cook-Walden Chapel of the Hills Funeral Home on Friday, September 6 at 10:00 am followed by the burial at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery at 2:30. Dave wanted to be buried from St. Francis but his family believes that even our new church will not have sufficient room for attendees. Please pray for his family.

In the past month, we have received two notices from our alarm company for unauthorized entrances into the church after hours. We have not been able to determine that anyone has actually entered the church so we're having the system checked. I would remind you, however, to be careful when entering and exiting from any door of the church. Please make sure that the door is shut completely behind you. It may also be necessary to change the code on the keypad. I know that's a pain, but Father Atwood recommended that we do that occasionally for security purposes. Thanks for your cooperation.

OBEDIENCE: TRUTH TALK

Published August 26, 2019

What rises up in you when you hear the word obedience? Is it fear? Contempt? Refusal? Rebellion? Indifference? Trust? Perhaps you flash back to a childhood memory. Or maybe you begin to wrestle with an unhealed and unresolved trauma that resulted from something you know you shouldn't have been doing. Or maybe there's an immense sadness that peeks into your mind, about a time where you did the right thing, but ended up hurt, rejected, manipulated, or looked down upon for choosing Jesus's way over the world's way.

The reality is that in each cultural moment there are some aspects of God's law that fit comfortably with a given culture, but others that look to be flat wrong. Obedience is not something our culture values. Where does that leave us? Can we trust God, invisible and mysterious, over what is plain to see? Over what intuitively feels right? Over what seems senseless?

Why would we even want to?

This week, I was at dinner on Monday night at a friend's house. We were finishing up dinner, when their little, two-year-old girl (who had already had a cookie for dessert) grabbed a chair from the dinner table, drug it over to the kitchen counter, grabbed her second cookie for dessert (round two), and looked up as her dad called her name, telling her that she couldn't have that second cookie in her hand because she had already had one. Cue the meltdown.

As she was crying, begging her dad to let her have the cookie, he looked at her gently and said, "Jess, I'm just trying to protect you. One cookie is okay. Two cookies, though, that could make your tummy upset. I love you, and I'm trying to protect you from that hurt." And she stopped crying. Right then and there.

That's when the Lord gave me a beautiful picture of obedience.

When we strive toward obedience in our own strength and in our own will, trying to do everything the Bible says, we won't be able to do it. It seems overwhelming. We feel defeated when we inevitably fail. We don't get why we can't do what everyone else is doing – go to that party – drink that drink – go further than we know we should because we think physical lust will fully satisfy the longing in our hearts for acceptance – pull up that website on our phone because the temptation is just too much, it's 1 AM, and nobody will ever know – gossip about that guy on the football team because everyone else on your team is doing it, anyway – completely disregard

what our parent's say because they're "old" and "they just don't get it."

The beautiful thing is, though, that looking at Jesus changes everything.

How do we do it? How can we show obedience to God's word even when it often makes no sense considering the current cultural moment?

Jesus changes everything. There are many possible answers; the most compelling for me is the goodness and trustworthiness of God in Jesus Christ. God is under no compulsion to save me. Absolutely none. I have acted treacherously in my own life, and I think God would be right to punish my arrogance, hatred, pride, and lying. But instead of choosing the morally good option of justly condemning me, God chose to send his Son to die in my place. And Jesus himself chose to come.

We can never know what a shock leaving perfect joy and fellowship must have been for God's eternal Son. He willingly chose a life of poverty, in a politically occupied country, with an earthly father who probably died young. Jesus's friends constantly misunderstood him, and those who should've recognized him schemed against him. He was a homeless wanderer. Then, He submitted to the humiliation and raw pain of a false trial and crucifixion. He never had to do any of it, but He chose it for our sake. Jesus became poor to make us rich. He suffered and died for us, in our place. If the good news of the Gospel has become just another story to you, I beg you to look at it again.

Jesus was under no compulsion to save YOU. Absolutely none. Yet, He did.

Now, let me be clear – I believe with all my heart that we can do nothing to merit an eternity with Jesus. We are justified by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. God accepts and declares us righteous not because of our good deeds, but because of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We cannot earn God's favor. We depend entirely on his gospel grace. That's the Good News.

Full stop. Period. New paragraph.

But... we can also be obedient. Not flawlessly. Not without continuing repentance. Not without facing temptation. Not without needing forgiveness. But we can be obedient.

Obedience is not about control; it's about protection. I've really come to believe that I can be obedient because I can trust the person of Jesus. He's proven

forever that he has my good at heart, that he loves me—so much so that he paid a scandalous personal cost. Outside of a relationship with this person, I can't take the risk of trusting what goes against my cultural instincts. But as I know him more and more—his power, his intelligence, his goodness, his love—I can trust. I can obey. Even before I understand; even if I never quite do.

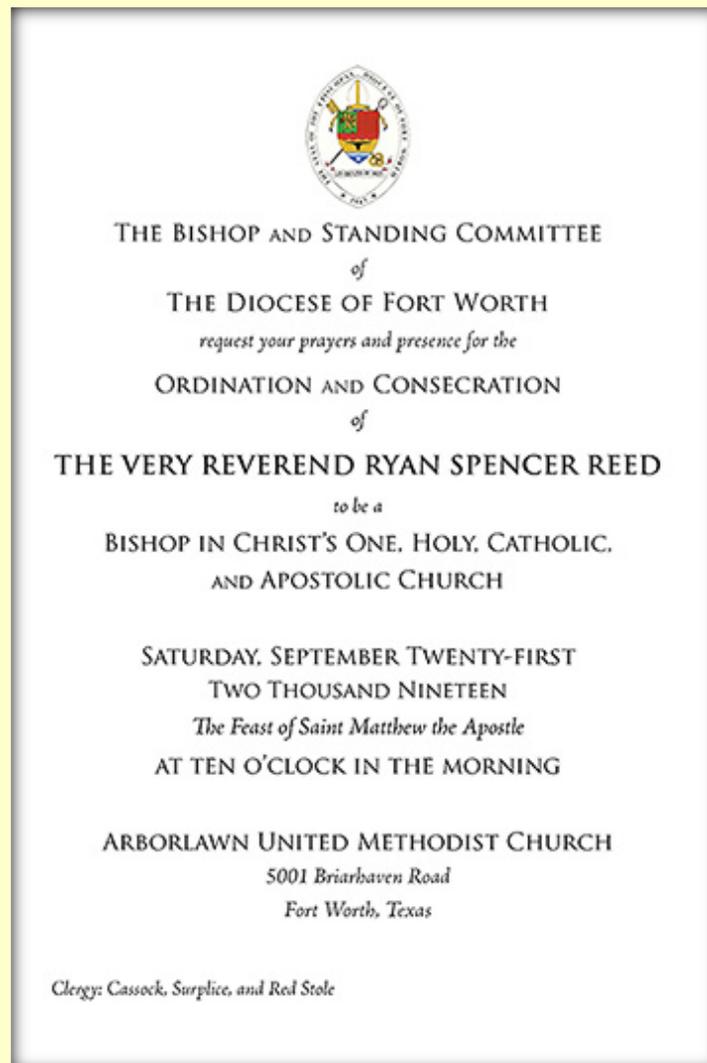
You and I have no natural ability to rise and do what God calls us to do, but He refused to leave us to our own resources. He is not so unwise, unkind, or unfaithful as to ever call us to a task without enabling us to do it. Think about it. I am not able to love my husband and respond to him like the Church is called to respond to Christ, because I am quicker to speak than I am listen, and I'm inherently selfish in the little, mundane things. But thankfully I

am not left by God to my own character and strength. I am not able to keep my heart pure, so God fills me with His empowering Spirit. You see, what 2 Peter 1:3 says is really true: we have been given everything we need for life and godliness. The God who calls us to a radical new way of living meets us with radical empowering grace. Have courage. Be active. He is your strength and He's given you everything you need.

Written by Anglicans for Life (AFL) Ministry Coordinator and Abundant Life: You Were Made for More author Sammie Gallo. This article is part of a monthly series, Truth Talk, focusing on digging into Scriptural concepts and putting them into practical action. You can read all the articles in this series on the [Abundant Life blog](#).

DIOCESAN NEWS

The Diocesan web page can be found at <http://www.fwepiscopal.org/>



The service will be broadcast on the [Diocese's YouTube channel](#) for those who can't attend.

ST. FRANCIS HOME GROUPS

St. Francis has three active home groups involving more than two dozen St. Francis members and friends. Each of the three groups meets at the host's home on the 2nd and 4th week of the month. If you are interested in attending one of these groups to see what they do or if you have any questions, please speak to hosts of the groups: Amy Crandell (Monday group - located in Central Austin), Doug Cooper (Tuesday group - located in Central Austin), or Steve & Angie McCown (Friday group - located in south Austin).

ELECTRONIC DONATIONS

Donations to St. Francis are accepted online. This includes your pledge to the operating fund. Go to <http://stfrancisaustin.org/> and click **Donate** at the top of page. This link takes you to another page with an explanation of the service charges we incur and where you can donate using PayPal, a Debit or Credit Card.

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you wish make a remembrance, memorial or thank offering, consider donating for the altar flowers. Use an envelope from the back table to enclose your donation. Fill the envelope front out as appropriate and place in the wooden box on the same table.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The annual Ice Cream Social is planned for September 8 after the 11:00 service. Even though the heat will continue for several more weeks, we like to think the end is in sight after the Labor Day holiday. The members of the St. Polycarp's Men's Guild will make delicious, creamy ice cream and supply the fixings for all to enjoy.

5TH SUNDAY POTLUCK

September has 5 Sundays, so plan on attending the 5th Sunday Potluck on September 29. Bring something to eat to share with the other St. Francis members.

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY OPTIONS

- Receive the newsletter via e-mail with a printable version attached

- Pick up a printed copy on the table at the entrance to the church
- Have a copy mailed to your physical mail box (cost to the church is 50 cents)
- View newsletters on our website.

To change how you receive the newsletter, contact Amy Crandell in person or via [e-mail](mailto:amy@stfrancisaustin.org).

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ralph Webb has left his position as Music Director of St. Francis. He announced last April that he intended to retire from his day job as a trainer with the State of Texas, as well as his Sunday job at St. Francis to move to Palm Springs, CA, but left the actual date as tentative. Ralph decided that August 25 would be his last day and requested that no public announcement be made. Jim Crandell will play the organ during the 11:00 service until a decision about a new Music Director can be made.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday school begins September 8th! All classes are held during the 9:30 service. Sue Orr and Missy Bernard will be teaching the younger class (kindergarten through 5th grade) and Doug Cooper will be teaching the older class (sixth grade and up). Sunday school students attend the beginning of the service for the readings, and move upstairs to the classrooms during the announcements. If your children are new to Sunday school at St. Francis, or if you have any questions at all, please feel free to contact Missy Bernard at nelson440@gmail.com.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

40 Days for Life is a volunteer-based prayer campaign that draws attention to the injustice of abortion through three simple avenues:

- Prayer and fasting
- Community outreach & Education
- Constant peaceful vigil

The fall 40 Days for Life campaign runs from Sept. 25 through Nov.3

Members of St. Francis have participated in each prayer campaign for the past 10 years. However, in recent campaigns, only 3-4 members participated. Jim and Amy Crandell are in charge of the St. Francis participation and will attempt to encourage more people to pray in front of one of the three abortion clinics here in Austin.

SEPTEMBER SUNDAY READINGS

9/1 11 after Trinity ([link](#))

- Ecclesiasticus 10:7-18
- Psalm 112
- Hebrews 13:1-8
- Luke 14:1, 7-14

9/8 12 after Trinity ([link](#))

- Deuteronomy 30:15-20
- Psalm 1
- Philemon 1-20
- Luke 14:25-33

9/15 13 after Trinity ([link](#))

- Exodus 32:1, 7-14
- Psalm 51
- 1 Timothy 1:12-17
- Luke 15:1-10

9/22 14 after Trinity ([link](#))

- Amos 8:4-12
- Psalm 138
- 1 Timothy 2:1-8
- Luke 16:1-13

9/29 15 after Trinity ([link](#))

- Amos 6:1-7
- Psalm 146
- 1 Timothy 6:11-19
- Luke 16:19-31

Notes on the readings:

- St. Francis follows the [1979 BCP Lectionary for the lessons](#) (We are in Year C) with the text read from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible.
- Each of the listed Sunday's readings is linked to the corresponding page on [LectionaryPage.net](#).
- The Sunday collects and text of the psalms are from the 1928 Book of Common Prayer.
- On the second and fourth Sundays, the psalm is chanted at the 11:00 service. The psalm pointing is based on the Cathedral Psalter and is a part of the [St. Francis Psalter](#) posted on our web site.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sundays

[9:30 a.m.](#) Said Holy Communion

[9:30 a.m.](#) Sunday School for Youth (beginning the 8th)

[10:00 a.m.](#) Choir Rehearsal (beginning the 8th)

[11:00 a.m.](#) Holy Communion with music - on the first Sunday of each month, Morning Prayer is held, followed by Holy Communion.

Thursdays

[7:00 p.m.](#) Evening Prayer

Friday, September 6

[7:00 - 9:00 p.m.](#) Games Night

Saturday, September 7

[9:00 a.m.](#) Prayer Service for our Nation

Sunday, September 8

[12:15 p.m.](#) Ice Cream Social

[12:30 p.m.](#) Anglicans for Life Steering Committee Meeting

[3:30 - 4:30 p.m.](#) Hymn Sing at the Retirement and Nursing Center, 6909 Burnet Lane

Monday, September 9

[6:00 p.m.](#) Vestry Meeting

Monday, September 16

[7:00 - 8:30 p.m.](#) Readers of First Things group meeting

Friday, September 20

[Noon](#) Mothers' Prayer Group

Sunday, September 29

[~12:15 p.m.](#) Fifth Sunday Potluck Luncheon

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 Tara Montalvo, Ruth Ann Stillman	18 Curran Peter Hatley
4 Judy Bernard	20 Kimberly Norris, Adriane Kristo-Reinking
7 Eileen Cole	21 David Kristo-Reinking, John Armstrong
9 Margery Lindsey	23 Eileen Goodrich
10 Hally Glenn	24 Stephen Jon Moss
15 Michelle Collins	25 Cesiah Molina

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

5 Mark & Susan Rambin	10 Frank & Donna Hunt
6 Steve & Angie McCown	16 Brian & Kerry Glenn



ANGLICAN CHURCH
IN NORTH AMERICA

ST. FRANCIS ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTIN

A parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth
Diocese Office: 2900 Alameda St.

Fort Worth, TX 76108

<http://www.fwepiscopal.org/>

Bishop: The Rt. Rev'd Jack L. Iker, D.D

Rector: The Rev. Canon Len Giacolone

Interim Music Director: Jim Crandell

Parish Administrator: Mark Rambin

Vestry Officers

Senior Warden **Junior Warden**

Donna Hunt

Jim Britt

Secretary

Dinah Arce

Treasurer

Grady Collins

Vestry Members

Missy Bernard, Dinah Arce

Jim Britt, Donna Hunt, David Kristo-Reinking

Doug Cooper, Jim Crandell, Michael Ready

Fr. Len Giacolone

St. Francis Anglican Church

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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

StFrancisAustin.com

Follow us on social media!

Facebook

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Instagram

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ST. FRANCIS' MISSION STATEMENT

- We are a community of believers in the Gospel of Jesus Christ whose mission it is to spread that Gospel in what we preach and in the way we live.
- We are called to know the Word of God, to act on it in our lives and to share it with our brothers and sisters in the world.
- We are determined to uphold the ancient faith of our ancestors in the Anglican tradition, to offer traditional Christian values based on the Holy Word of God and to be faithful witnesses to the person of Jesus in the Austin Community.
- St. Francis parish is dedicated to the presence of Christ in the lives of the poor, the needy, the sick, to each other and to all those to whom Jesus comes to minister in his life on earth.
- As a community of believers, we intend to entrust our growth in love, in faith and in resources to the generosity of God.