

THE ST. FRANCIS BULLETIN

FROM THE RECTOR

Fr. Len Giacalone

It must seem now that the season of Covid will never end. Just when we think we're through it, along comes another variant and we're back to square one. Along with the interminable number of variants comes an interminable number of guidelines, mandates, regulations, laws, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera! And, we're getting these things from any number of directions. Right now, the only one I care about is the latest directive of the bishop of our diocese. His latest memo is posted on the diocesan website <http://www.fwepsicopal.org> Essentially it says this: no large non-essential gatherings; masks, social distancing, and hand washing strongly recommended. As always, I will keep you posted on the latest from the diocese. I'm sure that most of you keep up with the news so that you know what's coming out of Washington. As I mentioned in church one Sunday, I do not intend to police you. Do what you think is best and safest for yourselves.

Summer is slowly winding down and things will start up again, although I think that the only thing we really pause during the summer is Sunday school and Vestry. Missy Bernard, Doug Cooper, and Sue Orr do a great job with our children and I can't thank them enough. Sunday school begins again on September 12 at 9:30.

With the reinstatement of the Usher Corps, it became necessary to appoint a new Head Usher. I have asked David Kristo-Reinking to take up that position. If anyone,

male or female, would like to usher at either the 9:30 or 11:00 am services on Sunday, please contact David. Thanks to David for accepting this responsibility for our church.

What a Mess!

You may have noticed that the entire planet is in turmoil. That's our politics, our culture, the church, and, most importantly, our spirituality. Nothing is working the way it should and that's because we have been slowly moving away from our spiritual foundations. Over many years in my State of the Union messages to the congregation I have insisted that we need to return to God if we are to be saved as a people. I called a friend the other night and he answered the phone, knowing it was I, with "We are under judgment." I have no doubt of that. I'm sure that most of us would respond with "those people over there sure need to get it together." But even taking stock of my own spiritual life, I can see that I don't pray enough, read Scripture enough, need more compassion for my fellow human beings, especially the ones who are indeed off the track, and so on. Revival may not seem much like something you hear in Anglican churches. But that's what's needed. And revival begins with repentance. There is no other formula. The church and society can only be reformed if we, individually, one at a time, turn to the Lord with all our heart and live in His will.

Fr. Len can be reached at Rector@stfrancisaustin.org

LIFE ISSUES BEYOND ABORTION

By Julie Grimstad

The author is the president of Healthcare Advocacy and Leadership Organization (HALO), whose mission is to promote, protect, and advocate for the rights of the medically vulnerable.

A large part of HALO's mission is to increase public awareness of life issues beyond abortion. This is a significant challenge because even people who are pro-life on abortion often are unaware of other crucial life issues. We educate people through our publications, 24/7 Helpline, and patient advocacy training.

I want to impress on you how real the problems we confront in the healthcare system are.

One of our most popular publications is Making a Difference: A Guide for Defending the Medically Vulnerable – 16 pages of information you need to help you protect yourself or a loved one in various healthcare situations.

For example, most people do not know they should carefully check out a hospice BEFORE admission. Making a Difference provides a list of questions to ask a hospice before admission. Unless hospice care is provided by people who truly respect life, it can be dangerous. Hospice is the ideal setting to disguise killing as “comfort care.” A typical report from grieving family members is that their loved one, who had been alert and was not complaining of pain, was administered increasingly frequent and larger doses of pain medications and sedatives to the point where they were sleeping all the time and could not eat or drink. Some reported that patients were also denied their usual medications to control blood pressure, diabetes, etc.

A large chunk of our work is dealing with denial of care. Do you know that your hospital likely has a “medical futility policy”? These policies permit doctors and

hospital-appointed ethics committees to decide to stop life-sustaining treatment against a patient's/family's wishes. In my experience, it is frequently the patient's life that is considered “useless,” not the treatment. Such medical futility decisions assault human dignity.

Texas, where I now live, has a terrible “medical futility” law. I attended an ethics committee meeting with the mother of a young woman, Jenna (name changed for privacy), who was severely disabled from a stroke. The doctor claimed Jenna was unresponsive. However, just that morning, an attorney had videotaped Jenna responding to her mother's and my questions and requests by nodding her head “yes” that she wanted to live and moving her feet and blinking her eyes on command. The hospital's attorney prevented us from showing this evidence to the committee because we did not have permission from the hospital administrator to take pictures of a patient! The doctor told the mother that she would be better off if her daughter died instead of having to care for her, possibly for many years! So, obviously, she was not near death. The hospital wanted to kill her. Fortunately, her mother, with help from patient advocates, was able to move her daughter to another facility and save her life.

Every time I've been involved in a “medical futility” case, I've been stunned by the callous disregard for human life displayed by doctors and hospitals.

HALO is necessary because vulnerable patients, like Jenna and Michael, and their families need someone to be a voice for them.

Excerpted from: <https://anglicansforlife.org/2021/01/04/life-issues-beyond-abortion/>

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY

- Pick up a printed copy on the table at the entrance to the church
- Have a copy mailed to your physical mailbox (cost to the church is the current cost of a stamp)
- View newsletters on our website.

To change how you receive the newsletter, contact Amy Crandell in person or via e-mail.

ADULT CATECHESIS CLASS

Anyone is welcome to join the ongoing Adult Catechesis Class. Held via Zoom on Wednesdays from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m., the class uses the book To Be a Christian An Anglican Catechism. You actually can participate fully without the book. The book's format is a series of questions and during each session 3-4 questions are covered. So far, about 9-11 people are participating with Doug Cooper facilitating the conversation.

AMAZON SMILE

Don't forget that St. Francis is registered as a charity with Amazon. A portion of your Amazon purchases can be donated to St. Francis. To set this up, click this link:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/74-2564742> and St. Francis will be set as your charity. Then, each time you go to Amazon, enter Smile.Amazon.com in the address line. This is an easy way for the church to get some extra funds. This is working!

ONGOING COLLECTIONS

St. Francis has ongoing drives to support our outreach projects with the Trotter House and Mobile Loaves and Fishes. Consider donating to one or more of these causes - bring something to church each time you come!

Trotter House

- Diapers of all sizes
- Baby clothing (even gently used)
- Children's toys (even gently used)

Mobile Loaves and Fishes Clothing Drive

- New or gently used socks are quite popular
- Gently used clothing
- New toiletries - as toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, lotion

Bring your items to the table in the entry hall.

SERVICES ARE LIVESTREAMED

The 9:30 service continues to livestream on Facebook as well as the 11:00 service (although no one is watching). We continue to have viewers who are not members and live a fair distance away tune in to the 9:30 service. The recording will continue to be uploaded to the website, as long as it is being viewed over the course of the next week. Anyone who has the link can watch the livestream - you don't need to be a member of Facebook to view the service during the livestream. The URL is facebook.com/stfrancisaustin/live

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you wish to make a remembrance, memorial or thank offering, consider donating for the altar flowers. Use an envelope from the table near the kitchen to enclose your donation. Fill the envelope front out as appropriate and place in the wooden box on the same table. You can also send in a check or make an electronic donation as you would a pledge and add a note that it is for flowers.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school begins September 12! All classes are held during the 9:30 service. Missy Bernard, with Sue Orr as the substitute, 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.

Everyone is looking forward to returning!

POSTPONEMENTS

Due to the Bishop's request that larger, non-essential group activities be suspended through the end of September, the Ice Cream Social typically held during this month will be rescheduled - perhaps in October if this current outbreak subsides a bit.

The same is true for the Potluck. Hope was we could start to hold the 5th Sunday Potluck in August, but this too wasn't held. We'll try again in October.

THANK YOU!

A very special **Thank You!** to Leanne Read who saw a need to clean the stone on the outside of the church building and had it done for us. The stone looks brand new. Thanks, Leanne!

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. 22 through October 31.

These grassroots efforts--like 40 Days for Life--change the abortion landscape, and you can help continue this change. The presence of vigil volunteers praying in front of a clinic drastically reduces the number of women who go through with an abortion.

Austin is one of 588 cities around the world participating in the vigil. Since 2009 we have witnessed hundreds of women (that we know of) choose life for babies scheduled to be aborted (at least four women were pregnant with twins)! Pregnancy centers report a significant increase in clientele when our efforts are more concentrated on the sidewalks. We have given information to thousands of men and women about healthcare alternatives. At least twelve abortion workers have had conversions and quit their jobs. Hundreds of women have been connected to post-abortion healing ministries, including several of our own volunteers. We are seeing abortion end before our very eyes and we are excited for what God has in store!

There are three abortion clinics in Austin with the prayer vigil:

- Whole Women's Clinic on Duval Road
- Planned Parenthood on Ben White
- Austin Women's Health on South IH-35.

Go to <https://centraltexascoalition.com/signup/> to sign-up for an hour between 7 am and 7 pm.

An information table will be setup on September 12

BIRTHDAYS

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

ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Mark and Susan Rambin
- 6 Steve & Angie McCown
- 10 Franklin and Donna Hunt

ST. FRANCIS HOME GROUPS

St. Francis has three active home groups involving more than two dozen St. Francis members and friends. Two of the three groups meet on the 2nd and 4th week of the month and the 3rd meets weekly. 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: Jim & Amy Crandell (Sunday group - located in Central Austin), Doug Cooper (Tuesday group – weekly, virtual group), or Steve & Angie McCown (Friday group - located in south Austin).

CHOIR REHEARSALS BEGIN

After a couple of months of vacation, the choir will begin rehearsing on September 5 at 10:00 am in the Choir Room upstairs to prepare music to present the glory of God during the 11:00 service. New members are always welcome.

READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER

9/5 14 after Trinity (link)

- Isaiah 35:4-7a
- Psalm 146:4-9
- James 1:17-27
- Mark 7:31-37

9/12 15 after Trinity (link)

- Isaiah 50:4-9
- Psalm 116:1-8
- James 2:1-5, 8-10, 14-18
- Mark 8:27-38

9/19 16 after Trinity (link)

- Wisdom 1:16-2:1, 12-22
- Psalm 54
- James 3:16-4:6
- Mark 9:30-37

9/26 17 after Trinity (link)

- Numbers 11:4-6,10-16,24-29
- Psalm 19:7-14
- James 4:7-5:6
- Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

Notes on the readings:

- St. Francis follows the 1979 BCP Lectionary for the lessons. We are in Year B.
- The text read at the service is from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible.
- Each of the listed Sunday readings is linked to the corresponding page on LectionaryPage.net.
- The Sunday collects and text of the psalms are generally from the 1928 Book of Common Prayer.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sundays

9:15 a.m. Nursery is provided.

9:30 a.m. Holy Communion in-person, live streamed and recorded. Healing prayers at the altar rail follow the service

10:00 a.m. Choir Practice

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion in-person, with healing prayers after the service.

Tuesdays

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Home Group. Meeting online via Zoom.

Wednesdays

7:00 - 7:30 p.m. Catechism class via Zoom

Thursdays

7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer in-person in the church and via Zoom

2nd and 4th Sunday

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Home Group. Meeting in-person at the Crandells' house.

2nd and 4th Friday

7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Home Group. Meeting in-person at the McCowns' house.

1st Saturday, September 4

10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Prayers for the Nation in-person in the fellowship hall

2nd Monday, September 13

6:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting via Zoom

3rd Friday, September 17

NOON to 1:00 p.m. Mother's Prayer Group in-person in the fellowship hall

3rd Monday, September 20

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Readers of First Things group online meeting. Contact Karl Stephan at kdstephan@txstate.edu to join the online meeting via Zoom or come in person to the fellowship hall.

4th Friday, September 24

4:30 p.m. Mobile Loaves & Fishes Make Ready Team in-person at St. Louis Catholic Church, Social Ministries Building

5:30 p.m. Food Truck Run, in-person, starts at St. Louis Catholic Church

Note on the calendar:

- To join any of the meetings or services held via Zoom, email info@stfrancisaustin.org.



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 Ryan Reed

Rector: The Rev. Canon Len Giacalone

Music Director: Betty Lin Gallardo

Parish Administrator: Mark Ramin

Treasurer: Grady Collins

Vestry Officers

Senior Warden **Junior Warden**

Doug Cooper Jim Britt

Secretary

Jim Crandell

Vestry Members

Jim Britt, Donna Hunt, David Kristo-Reinking

Doug Cooper, Jim Crandell, Michael Ready

Christina Hatley, Bill Palmer

Fr. Len Giacalone

St. Francis Anglican Church

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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.