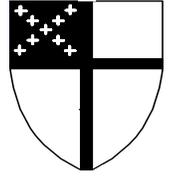




The Franciscan



Volume XXXVII, Issue II

St. Francis by the Lake Episcopal Church
Canyon Lake, Texas

February 2016



112th Diocesan Council

Feb. 18-20, 2016
at the McAllen
Convention Center

Lenten Quiet Day; come away and rest awhile

By [Lynda McNab](#), DOK President

Mark your calendars for Saturday, Mar. 5. The Daughters of the King, the Episcopal Church Women, and the Community of Hope invite you to join us for a time of guided prayer, contemplation, and personal inspiration. While we will have quiet moments during the day, we will not be silent. Following each of a series of guided meditations, we will have time for sharing and fellowship. Take a few moments from the demands of your daily life for renewal and refreshment.

The day begins with at 9:00 a.m. with a continental breakfast followed by Morning Prayer at 9:30 a.m. The first meditation will begin

at 10:00 a.m., and the second at 11:15 a.m. We will have Noon Day Prayers at 11:45 a.m. followed by lunch, and a time for sharing. The third meditation begins at 1:00 p.m. followed by a time of sharing. We will close with prayer at 2:00 p.m.

We encourage all men and women to attend and to invite a friend. You may join us at any time. Remember to bring an open and willing heart, your Bible, and a brown bag lunch. Breakfast and beverages will be provided.

For more information, contact Lynda McNab at (832) 876 8031 or lmcnab@gvtc.com.

Building for our future

By [Maury Meyer](#), Building Committee Chair

This article is for those of you who missed the Annual Parish meeting on

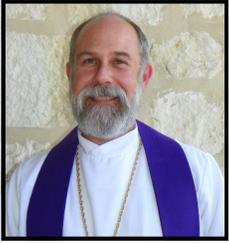
Sunday, Jan. 24. Fr. David presented the findings of Nancy Stinson and Ted Burkhart, representatives of the Capital Campaign Division of the Stewardship Department of the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas, who conducted interviews with St. Francis parishioners Nov. 14-15, 2015, to gauge support for our new Ministry and Outreach Center. I am very pleased to report that the report was very positive, although I am not surprised, based on responses to my question about support back in September at the meeting to update you on Building Committee activities.

Ted and Nancy conducted 41 personal interviews with families, and eight families submitted an online survey, for a total of 49 responses, a 77% response rate based on 64 pledging units. (That is an excellent response rate, based on my career experience as a survey manager and statistician.) The majority, (63%,) were members for five to 15 years, 16%

[\(Continued on page 7\)](#)



The 2016 Honduras scholarship recipients.



Dear friends,

When I came to St. Francis by the Lake 6 years ago, some names were added to the prayers of the people in the “Pray for the Church” section of our “prayers of the people.” Many new people have come since that time, and so I offer again a word of explanation. The fact that I write at Epiphany, when we celebrate the ministry of the Church, makes it all the more timely.

“For the first millennium (actually until 1054 AD), there was one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church (as it says in the Creed.)”

After Pentecost, the apostles dispersed to preach Christianity to the world. For the first millennium (actually until 1054 AD), there was **one**, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church (as it says in the Creed.) In other words: there was no such thing as “denomination.” If you were Christian, you belonged to The Church. *For a thousand years* the Church that had been established by the apostles was **one**. They squabbled and occasionally fought, but they knew themselves to belong to each other in one Body, under one head: Christ’s. Due to their historical significance, preeminence and authority was accorded to five of the most historically significant cities: Rome, Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch, and Jerusalem. The earliest Ecumenical Councils (TEC) recognized these five ancient patriarchates of the undivided Church as icons of Christ on earth; they (in fact, every bishop—but these five, especially, were *signs* to the world) were the symbols of the Church’s unity, guardians of the Church’s

faith, and teachers of the Church’s received truth.

These major centers of Christianity, founded by the apostles themselves, were looked to by their respective regions as leaders of the Church’s life. Their relationship with each other, despite various periods of rivalry and dispute, was generally in terms of fraternal equality and “conciliarity” (i.e., there was no such thing as a “pope,” claiming unilateral authority over all.)

“If we would be one with Christ, we must be one with each other.”

What’s this got to do with us and the Anglican Communion? Glad you asked! Reconciliation and healing are the business of the Church. If we would be one with Christ, we must be one with each other. If we would be one, as Jesus and the Father are one, we must **pray for unity** (please see the Gospel of John, chapter 17.) If we would be the witness to the world that Jesus said our unity would result in (John 17.21,) then we must **work for unity**. If we would overcome the divisions that exist within the Church, then we must recognize ourselves as **being part of the unity** which God has given the world.

When it is being most faithful, the Anglican Communion always sees itself as the expression of orthodoxy and catholicity in the Western world. However the Anglican Church has never seen itself as *the only* Church. We see ourselves as part of that lineage begun by the earliest apostles, but which, in the West, is most faithful to the original. So when we “pray for the Church” but only begin that petition with the Presiding Bishop of TEC, or even the Archbishop of Canterbury, it isn’t honest and doesn’t keep our focus on this most

critical missions to which we are committed.

As we hear the strange names of the leaders of the Church, we remember that Sunday morning is the most segregated and isolating time of the week for us. As we hear these strange names, let’s pray for the restoration of Christ’s Body and the witness of the Church to the world. As we hear these ancient names, let’s remember that Christ is calling us to much, much higher things than we usually are mindful of.

Pax et Bonum,
Fr. David



Shrove Tuesday

Pancake Supper

Tuesday, Feb. 9, at 6:00 p.m.

Come join us - all are welcome!

Ash Wednesday Services

on Feb. 10

at 6:00 a.m.,

11:30 a.m.,

and 7:00 p.m.



Treasurer's report

By [Lynda Leadford](#)

Email:

treasure@gvtc.com

December 2015 Report

Numbers can sometimes be dull, uninteresting, and monotonous, especially for those who are not passionately inspired, or intrigued by figures, mathematics, and financial equations. I hope to convert a few by this statement: "Another one bites the dust," a phrase made popular in the late 20th century by the rock group Queen. In our case this is very true, as another "deficit budget" bites the dust. The December 2015 results are now on the books for St. Francis.

The 2015 Budget was on the books by Dec. 31, 2014. As St. Francis opened 2015, we knew we had to overcome a projected shortfall of \$22,272. We not only overcame the shortage, we finished the year with \$19,269.57 - income over expenses. This is a difference of \$41,541.57. In December 2015, giving increased by \$18,722.28 over what was pledged, so we finished the year with revenues over by \$29,195.89. This was the best December we have had in a long, long time.

Last month I stated in my article "how important it is to have a committed relationship with the Lord which does affect the allocation of our treasures." As we finished 2015 with a bang, it was obvious the Lord had spoken to many of you. He is so gracious and continues to bless us abundantly when we are doing His work in our parish, the community, and in the world.

As we move forward to 2016, we have another budget before us. It too has a projected shortfall. Some of this may be due to caution as the possibility of a Capital Cam-

paign for the new ministry facility may come to fruition later this year.

To help manage our expenses, while also enhancing the management of our cash assets, requests for checks will be processed by close of business on Tuesdays and Fridays of each week.

Please remember, God has blessed us. We are responsible to cover our present costs first and He will supply what we need for the future. The Lord is AWESOME!

The 2015 Year End Statements were sent January 19 by email and mail. Please look over your statement. If you have questions or changes, please call or email as soon as possible.

Pledges for 2016:

General Operating Pledges -

70 Pledges - \$219,415

Debt Retirement Pledges -

20 Pledges - \$17,120

Building Pledges (New Bldg.)

2 Pledges - \$ 3,600

Our available **Funds** as of December 31, 2015:

General Operating: \$76,784.97

Debt Retirement: \$12,021.00

Building (New Bldg.): \$34,468.59

Our **Debts** as of December 31, 2015:

Crump Note: \$50,000.00

Rectory Note: \$13,938.85



Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

By [Valeska McHugh](#),

ECW President

The ECW met on Thursday, Jan. 14, at Lynda McNab's home at 1:00 p.m. The program was about Community of Hope International (COH,) and the new center at St. Francis. Lin

Boudreaux and Tricia Jones were our speakers. Lin serves on the COH board as the regional representative for the Diocese of West Texas. Tricia Jones is a member of COH and a co-facilitator for the COH center at St. Francis.

We learned about the beginnings of COH as a training program to assist chaplains in a hospital setting in Texas and how it quickly grew to become a national and then international organization. Centers are the local hub where lay pastoral caregivers, or lay chaplains, are trained using COH curriculum and then receive continuous support and education through monthly meetings in what is known as Circle of Care.

St. Francis has 15 newly commissioned COH members and three re-affirmed members. Many will be actively supporting and assisting Fr. David with visits to parishioners in the hospital, nursing homes, and in homes. Depending on each members' spiritual gifts, they will serve in a wide array of settings and will provide: music to Alzheimer's patients; visits to nursing homes, retirement communities, cancer care centers; family and children's support groups and homes; lay Eucharistic visits; meals; telephone calls and note cards; prayers; spiritual retreats; mission trips; and service to family, friends, and neighbors. Please keep COH care givers and their care receivers in your prayers.

The ECW business meeting was short. There were no minutes from December because we had a wonderful party. The Treasurer's report was sent out by *E-news* and paper copies were available at the meeting. There were no changes to the report. Thanks to Lynda McNab for having us in her home and to Brenda Klaftenegger and Becki Nichols for the beautiful and delicious January birthday cake.

[\(Continued on page 4\)](#)

Episcopal ... (Cont'd from page 3)

As for old and new business... **We listened to our members.** The *Have a Heart for a Child Luncheon and Market* fundraiser was more than our parish could successfully execute this year; however, we all still have a heart for providing vital financial support to the community, especially Communities in Schools and the Good Samaritan Camp. So the ECW leadership put their heads together and we are delighted to invite you to the easiest fundraiser ever!



Have a Heart Donate for a Child is a donation ONLY fundraiser. Special boxes will be decorated and available at the February, March, and April monthly ECW meetings.

EVERYONE can participate! From Feb. 12 through Apr. 13, a donation box will be at the office or you can put a check in the Sunday collection plate - just put ECW in the memo line. Please give generously to ECW in support of our local children.

Another rewarding event EVERYONE is invited to participate in is the Lenten Quiet Day at St. Francis, Saturday, Mar. 5. (See article on page 1.)

ECW *Soul Sistas* are a fun way to get to know each other on a deeper level. Every four months we put our names in a hat and draw a new Soul Sista. Some spend time together at meals, coffee, movies, and fun events in addition to supporting each other in prayer and inspirational messages. New *Soul Sistas* were drawn at the meeting, so let the fun begin!

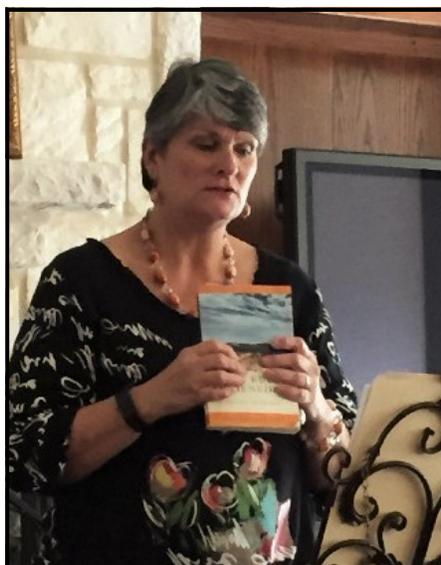
The February ECW meeting will be at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 11, at St. Francis in the parish

hall. Ronnie Harper-Schwakhofer will be presenting "5 Wishes," a living will written in everyday language which helps people express their wishes in areas that matter most - the personal and spiritual as well as medical and legal. Lynda Leadford and Betty Morris will be the hostesses.

Live Simply! Love Generously!
Care Deeply! Speak Kindly!

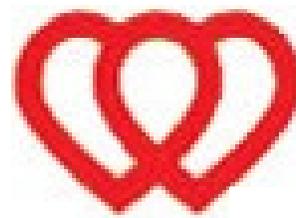


Lin Boudreaux



Tricia Jones

Lin and Tricia were the speakers for the **Community of Hope** at the ECW meeting on Thursday, Jan. 14. (See article on page 3.)



Canyon Lake blood drive

Saturday, Feb. 6

8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Locations are Lowe's in Startzville and Ace Hardware in Sattler.



Needs for CRRC food pantry

Our local food pantry continues to be in need of the following items:

- plastic grocery bags,
- evaporated milk,
- bar soap,
- shampoo,
- dish soap,
- hand soap, and
- toilet paper.

All contributions are appreciated.

What's happening

Daughters of the King (DOK)

meet on Feb. 24 at 12:30 p.m. in the parish hall. Don't forget to bring your sack lunch.

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

meet on Feb. 11 in the parish hall at 1:00 p.m.

Scripture Study Group

is an informal study that meets at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesdays in the parish hall, followed by Eucharist.

Vestry Meeting - 2nd Sunday (Feb. 14,) at 12:30 p.m. in the parish hall.

Adult Sunday School

meets Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the parish hall.

Youth Sunday School

meets Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the youth room (last room in the portables.) Topics explored are related to the Gospel reading and how they relate to each of our lives.

Prayer Shawl Ministry meets at 10:00 a.m. on the third Saturday (Feb. 20) of each month. The group will meet Mary K. Chittenden's home.

Evening Study Class meets at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays in the parish hall.

Scrapbook and Craft Night meet Friday, Feb. 26, at Linda Hillin's home at 6:00 p.m.

St. Jude's Ranch - We celebrate the Eucharist with the children on first Sundays of the month at 6:00 p.m. in Bulverde. *We're off this month with the children having a Super Bowl party.*

Al-Anon meets every Saturday at 10:00 a.m. in Jones Hall. (See flyer attached to the kiosk in the Narthex.)

Circle of Care meets every third Sunday of the month at 12:30 p.m. (Talk to Velda Vukoder for more information.)

Holy Week Schedule

Mar. 20 - 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. - **Palm Sunday**

Mar. 21 - 7:00 p.m. - Holy Eucharist Service

Mar. 22 - 7:00 p.m. - Holy Eucharist Service

Mar. 23 - 7:00 p.m. - Holy Eucharist Service

Mar. 24 - 7:00 p.m. - **Maundy Thursday** Holy Eucharist

Mar. 25 - 12 noon - **Stations of the Cross**
7:00 p.m. - **Good Friday**
Holy Eucharist

Mar. 26 - 7:00 p.m. - **Holy Saturday** Holy Eucharist

Mar. 27 - 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. - **Pascha (Easter Day)**

Mark your calendars

Feb. 8, 15, 22, & 29 - 6:30 p.m. - Confirmation Classes

Feb. 10 - 6:00 a.m.; 11:30 a.m.; and 7:00 p.m. - Holy Eucharist on **Ash Wednesday**

Feb. 18-20 - 112th Annual Diocesan Council

Mar. 4-6 - India Mission Trip (Fr. David, Valerie Kirk, and Patricia Perea are going on this mission.)

Mar. 5 - 9:00 a.m. - DOK/ECW Quiet Day

Mar. 12 - Crop Walk

Mar. 26 - 7:00 p.m. - **Holy Saturday** Holy Eucharist

Apr. 3 - St. Francis visitation with Bishop Gary Lillibridge

February anniversaries

Paul and Judy McClendon 2/21
Dale and Libby Templeton 2/23
Brian and Stacey Benham 2/26

February birthdays

Sandra Goad 2/1
Robbie White 2/2
Brenda Smith 2/4
Nancy Braunig 2/11
Valerie Kirk 2/12
Marcel Klaftenegger 2/14
Robert McNab 2/18
Jay Hillin 2/20
Jo Conchado 2/21
Connor Brian 2/24

The Franciscan

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St. Francis by the Lake
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The Rev. David Chalk, Rector

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Confirmation classes coming soon

Confirmation fits so closely with our Lord's teaching and was so clearly the practice of the Apostolic Church that it is widely held to have been one of the things pertaining to the Kingdom which He discussed with the Apostles before the Ascension. "To them He presented Himself alive after His passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the Kingdom of God." (Acts 1:3) Soon after the Church began its work, St. Philip the Deacon went to preach the gospel in Samaria. He made converts and baptized them. But that was not enough. The *Laying on of Hands* followed Baptism; but Philip as a Deacon was not able to do this. So he sent to Jerusalem for Peter and John who were Apostles and Bishops. "Then *they* laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit." (Acts 8:17) Later, St. Paul was preaching in Ephesus. He baptized a number of people and then, "When Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them." (Acts 19:6) In the Epistle to the Hebrews, the writer reminds his readers of certain fundamental points of the faith. "Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, with instruction about ablutions, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment." (Hebrews 6:1-2) So the *laying on of hands* (aka Confirmation) is linked to our baptism, a maturing of our faith, and a sign of our commitment to Christ's Body (the Church) as one of the unquestioned steps in the Christian life.

Each year our bishop comes to our parish for his Episcopal visit. Besides visiting with the leaders of the parish, this is the time when confirmations, receptions (people from other branches of the catholic Church,) and reaffirmation of baptismal vows happen. If you are interested in learning more about our Anglican Faith and our Episcopal Tradition, you're invited to attend inquirer/confirmation class.

The classes will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Mondays: Feb. 8, 15, 22, and 29.

Meals on Wheels drivers needed

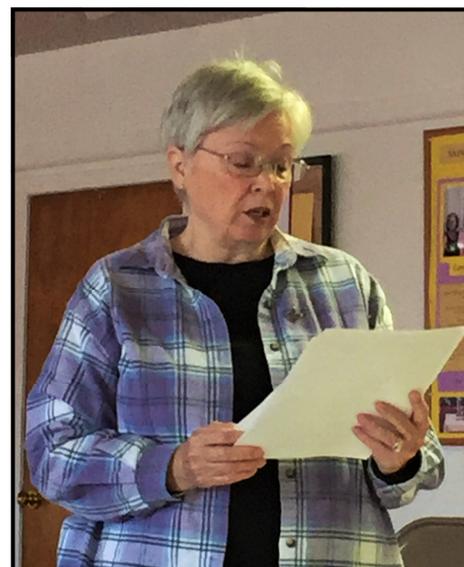
By [Bernie Frey](#), Outreach Chair

Do you have an inclination to help others? To serve some folks that could use your smile? We've got a perfect opportunity for you!

We need people who are willing to give some of their time, and some of their heart to provide meals

to shut-ins in the Canyon Lake community. If you would be able and willing, please contact Maureen Schein, Community Resource & Recreation Center of Canyon Lake, at (830) 964-2324. Or, just send her an email at mdschein@gmail.com

Thank you!



Brenda Amos talked about G. K. Chesterton, one of history's most prolific and thoughtful writers, at the Daughters of the King (DOK) meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 27.



Lynda McNab, the DOK President, (sitting at table) led the DOK meeting in the parish hall.



Choir notes

By [Ricky Therneau](#),
Parish Musician

rickyhyden@aol.com

With Easter coming very early this year, it seems the choir has no time to rest. That is why there will be a few changes to the Lenten music.

First, beginning on Ash Wednesday until Palm Sunday, the organ will not be used. Instead the piano will be the only instrument - no chimes, drums, etc. This is to draw attention to the solemnity of Lent and set it apart from other seasons of the Church. At the beginning of the Palm Sunday service the organ will be used as the palm branches are waved.

Another change will be the choir singing (chanting) prior to the start of each service. Normally it will be a gospel acclamation. The choir will also use a communion chant occasionally.

The poetry of Lenten music is quite different - somber, quiet, etc. Therefore we will try to include the words in the bulletin. Another change will be in the service music. It will all be familiar but only the once a year or every other year type of familiarity; however, it will all be easy to sing.

[Building for ...](#) (Cont'd from page 1)

were members from one to fewer than five years, and 14% were members for more than 15 years. None had joined St. Francis in the last year. According to the Diocese representatives, this indicates an extremely stable parish; i.e., one that is not currently in a growth mode.

Besides these basic statistics, you should be interested and encouraged (but again not surprised) by what Ted and Nancy surmised about our community. The interviewed families represented virtually all the ministries and activities at St. Francis, with over 92%

active in one or more areas, and with two-thirds of those participating in four or more areas at St. Francis. This indicates an unusually high involvement in all facets of the church including the top nine: Episcopal Church Women, Vestry, FEAST, Daughters of the King, Greeters/Ushers, Highway Cleanup, Lay Eucharistic Minister, Lector and Eucharistic Visitor, Altar Guild, and Community of Hope. Ted and Nancy wrote "Leadership has definitely created an environment in which everyone can build relationships and find a home." The respondents all portrayed the congregation as welcoming, loving, generous, sincere, and friendly and there is a "sense of family and community." They also honestly admit that St. Francis exists in "a retirement community" and they see the congregation as older, "mostly retired but well educated with a lot of time and energy." The majority agreed that St. Francis has a strong ecumenical presence, participating in the joint Thanksgiving Service, providing first Sunday services at St. Jude's Ranch for Children, joining with St. Andrew Lutheran Church for *Family Promise* and Vacation Bible School, supporting First Baptist Church with their backpack program (part of the Student Nutrition Program,) and providing space for AA meetings. Respondents boast that parishioners serve as community leaders "at almost all" the organizations active in the Canyon Lake community including the Chamber of Commerce, Community Resource and Recreation Center, the Tye Preston Memorial Library, and Community in Schools. Visitors find the parish caring, loving, approachable, supportive, and uplifting, with a strong faith, a missionary focus, and tremendous energy.

The report stated that "The strengths of the congregation are many and varied, but most respondents concurred that the people are the true strength, with St. Francis providing many opportunities to develop lasting relationships. One interviewee said, "...members of the parish have such

diverse gifts creating a wonderful mix of talent, education, and a variety of resources.' A second respondent described the congregation as a 'wonderful core of Christian people, willing to be involved in outreach projects, wanting to help the community not just the church.' This focus on reaching outside the walls of the church is a thread running through every interview we conducted. But it is not at the exclusion of the church family. A *family* who takes care of its own in illness and crisis, rebuilding after floods, offering Eucharist to shut-ins, needing only a phone call to bring volunteers to help restore all to a wholeness in Jesus Christ. This was summarized by one interviewee as 'We worship together, we pray together, and we play together.'"

Besides summarizing strengths, the report also described weaknesses. More than half of the respondents focused on the lack of children, youth, and young families, followed closely by the maturing age of the congregation. Some wondered if the parish is in a "Catch 22" in which we cannot attract youth and young families because we don't have them yet. Respondents asked, "Why are we not able to get more youth - because we have nothing to offer them? Schools are growing, why not our youth?" It was obvious to the consultants that the 75+ year-old parish hall is perceived as the second major weakness. Some respondents answered that they see the parish hall as a deterrent and thought if there were a new ministry and outreach building, it could serve as a safe haven for teenagers providing a movie night, etc., and provide needed classrooms for children's Sunday school. The report surmised that the focus outside our walls is partially due to the fact the building will not allow outreach events to come to St. Francis by the Lake. One respondent said, "We want to increase ministries, but we are restrained by the facilities." An almost forlorn note was heard, that parishioners must always go to other churches to serve, and

[\(Continued on page 8\)](#)

Building for ... (Cont'd from page 7)

they cannot invite those churches to their "home" to participate in outreach or host a family meal, because the building is unsafe and falling apart. One said, "We don't have a facility where people in need can turn, no homeless meals, or other events recognized by the broader community." Unlike most church feasibility studies, Ted and Nancy heard little complaining about cliquish members, overworked leadership, poor communication, or need to improve the music program.

The report went on to address parish leadership. It said "The congregation is blessed with a rector who is described as dedicated, knowledgeable, and a gifted spiritual leader who cares deeply for his congregation.

The Rev. David Chalk is a visionary working for growth, and concerned with the health and spiritual well-being of parishioners, always pushing people to get out of their comfort zone and inviting them to talk with him about anything. He is perceived as a good administrator and a highly intelligent and motivating speaker. One respondent said, 'His sermons can be thought provoking and energizing, as well,' but we found his excellent Bible Studies were mentioned the most often. One non-member Bible Study attendee stated Fr. Chalk is, 'Intelligent, resourceful, articulate, motivated, well-educated, people-oriented, faithful, and loyal to the Episcopal Church - a person I could confide in for spiritual guidance.'

And that was from a non-member! A member concluded he is, 'Caring, dedicated, reachable, knowledgeable, and compassionate - there are not enough positive adjectives to describe him fully!' The equally talented and positive lay leaders are described as diverse, committed, loyal, caring about community and parish - 'always throwing their hearts into what they are doing.' Most comments were focused on the Vestry, describing it as doing a great job, moving forward together without friction, 'taking on



Fr. David commissioned the Honduras Mission Team on Sunday, Jan. 10, at the 10:30 a.m. service.

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Our Mission Statement

As Children of God, we at St. Francis by the Lake are committed to living, learning, and sharing the love of Christ, the word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit with our parish family, our communities and the world.

new challenges and succeeding wonderfully.' The new parking lot was used as an example of the sense of moving forward. A recent vestry member witnessed they now work toward a goal, looking at problems and finding solutions, with responsibility divided among all members. Another respondent described the members as having spiritual awareness and a recognition of everyone's needs as a family. They are tender,

compassionate, and here to serve."

So what is next? The report made recommendations which the Vestry and Building Committee need to discuss and then act upon. Once they have had the time to deliberate thoughtfully and thoroughly, I will once again be pleased to provide an update. I feel there is a sense of excitement and purpose, and I don't think you will be waiting very long to hear "what's next?"