



The Franciscan



Volume XXXIX, Issue I

St. Francis by the Lake
Canyon Lake, Texas

January 2018

Ministry and Out-reach Center, and campaign status

By [Robert Amos](#), Treasurer
Email: treasure@gvtc.com

Let me give you a status update on the Ministry and Outreach Center and Capital Campaign. We will communicate more often to keep you up to date.

The Capital Campaign is doing well. As you know we have pledges of approximately \$500,000. We have contributions of \$215,716.91 as of November 30. I expect this to be approximately \$250,000 by January, which represents about 25% of the full cost of the building and a great start. Thank you for your contributions and faithfulness.

Many of you have been asking about when we will start construction. The short answer is that we must address the full financing of the building before we can start.

Episcopal Diocese of West Texas must approve our plans. The diocese holds all church property in trust. So we must provide a financial plan to the Trustees, which will demonstrate our ability to fund the full cost of our planned center. The Trustees are lay members of the diocese, who are elected at Diocese Council, and our two bishops. The Trustees are rightfully conservative with their financial criteria. Many churches over-extended themselves

The Annual Parish Meeting

**Sunday, Jan. 21, 2018
between the services**

Please send in your reports as soon as you can. The deadline is Jan. 10.



Fr. David baptized Lisa and Sergio Ojeda's daughter, Mikayla, at the Wednesday service on Dec. 27. Lisa and Sergio are daughter and son-in-law to Mike and Carlie Maciejewski.

(Continued on page 2)



Dear Friends,

I've spoken before about how chastening it is to read back through the

Scriptures and see how inadequate and unworthy the "heroes" of the faith are. Reading the New Testament is not an improvement over the Old! Our friend Peter, with "the shoe-sized mouth;" Matthew, the traitor/collaborator; Judas had the best teacher and example—and look how he turned out...; Paul, the murdering Pharisee, and many others; these are the ones Jesus entrusted to pass on the peace, hope, joy, and love of God and our neighbor! These are the forebears of the faith. What happened to them, that they could accomplish what they did? Couldn't God have chosen "better people?" In this era of finding clay feet and dirt wherever we look, may we remember that God loves us so much that He didn't wait for us to "get our act together" before coming to our aid. And, in the same breath, may we remember that while God surely loves us as we are, He loves us too much to let us remain as we are.

"In this era of finding clay feet and dirt wherever we look, may we remember that God loves us so much that He didn't wait for us to 'get our act together' before coming to our aid."

As a result of inviting the *G.R.A.C.E.* of God into their lives, the saints of old and the saints of today accepted God's forgiveness and love, and became forgiving and loving of themselves and others: in short they became conduits and vehicles of God's grace themselves.

Christ Jesus' coming (then, now, and always) is a gift: it is The Christmas Present *par excellence*. But it isn't something that we passively accept, put up on the shelf, and forget about. Jesus must not merely pass, sentimentally, through our lives: we must intentionally make Him our Lord and Savior. The Baby in the manger was born to die for us, so that we could become conduits of grace for others.

“...may we remember that while God surely loves us as we are, He loves us too much to let us remain as we are.”

Forgiven, redeemed, and restored to our proper place in God's creation, this New Year before us is full of opportunity and purpose. May we rise to the challenge! Even so: Come, Lord Jesus!

Much love, myriad blessings, and Merry Christmas,

Fr. David

God's Riches At Christ's Expense.

Ministries and ... (Cont'd from page 1)

and were impacted by the recession. Trustee review will help us assure we have a sound financial plan and resources.

I have had discussions with Cannon Mason to develop a direction to gain Trustee approval. He has met with Bishop Reed on this, and while they cannot speak for the Trustees, they do believe this plan will be approved. The plan includes a construction loan, cash contributions available at closing, and indications from long term lenders for funding the balance.

As you might expect, pulling all of this together will take some time. Any of you who have financed

homes or other construction know that it takes months to get the financing arranged and approved. I expect it will take until June 2018 to complete. This includes approval by the Trustees, arranging for construction loans, and arranging for long term financing. Once all of this is completed we should be able to break ground. Once construction starts, we expect it will take about nine months to complete, approximately March 2019. Closing on the long term loan will be after completion of construction. Funds for payment of the long term loan will need to come from debt reduction pledges as we have been doing for the church building loan. We will pay off the current loan on the church building before closing on the Ministry and Outreach Center loan.

Thank you for your patience and questions. We will update you regularly as we move through this process. If you have any questions, please contact me at treasurer@gvtc.com.



Mar. 15-18: Cursillo weekend #278 at Camp Capers. Lay Rector is Rosine Carter, and Spiritual Director is the Rev. Lisa Mason.

May 3 - 6: Cursillo weekend #279 at Mustang Island Conference Center.

Sept. 27 - 30: Cursillo weekend #280 at Mustang Island Conference Center.

Nov. 8-11: Cursillo weekend #281 at Camp Capers.



Treasurer's report

By [Robert Amos](#)

Email:

treasure@gvtc.com

We have completed our annual pledge campaign for 2018. We received the following pledges:

Operations - \$223,697.40, which is about \$2,600 more than 2017.

Debt Reduction - \$19,550, which is \$13,740 more than 2017.

Additional Capital Campaign - \$6,160.

Thank you so much for your faithful response.

Here is our financial summary as of November 30, 2017.

Operations:

Revenues: Year-to-Date revenues in the General Fund are \$221,933.07 and continue to exceed budget projections, now by \$6,616.07 (3%) and are 3% higher than the same period last year.

Year to date pledge contributions are the largest part of our revenue and are \$187,308.22 year to date. This is \$14,093.78 less than budget.

Regular giving (those who give regularly but have not pledged) is \$27,779.59 year to date, and continues well ahead of budget.

Expenditures: Year-to-Date expenditures from the General Fund are \$243,748.05, which are less than the budget projection by \$8,210.95 and are 3.2% less than the same period in 2016.

Balance (Revenue minus Expenditures): We have a current year-to-date deficit of \$21,814.98. This remains a challenge, but is still much less than the year-to-date budget deficit estimate of \$36,642.00 and the annual outlook, from last January, of \$39,159.

Capital:

Capital Campaign: contributions continue to increase, with contributions totaling \$215,716.91. This is an increase of \$8,356.25 from last month.

Debt Retirement: Year to date contributions to debt retirement total \$10,629.62.

Endowment Fund:

The endowment fund balance is \$50,409.67. The principle of this fund is protected. Interest earned can be used for special purposes approved by the vestry. It is a place for contributions from wills and testaments. As you consider your own will, please remember St. Francis by the Lake and this fund.

Our **funds** as of November 30, 2017:

General Operating:	\$	23,852
Debt Retirement:	\$	10,629
Building (New Bldg.):	\$	33,221
Capital Campaign Funds:	\$	215,716
Endowment Fund:	\$	50,409

Our **debts** as of November 30, 2017:

Church mortgage balance: \$ 30,000

Here is wishing each of you a Merry Christmas filled with the blessings of Christ.

If you have comments or questions, or if you would like to discuss a pledge or contribution, please feel free to contact me, Bob Amos, at treasure@gvtc.com.



Episcopal Church Women update

By [Tricia Jones](#) ECW President

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) started the Advent and Christmas seasons with a spectacular party early in December celebrating with new and old friends in our St. Francis community. Susan and Jim Kelch opened their beautiful home with warm hospitality; the ECW Board members provided food and drinks; many brought goodies to share and all had a wonderful time. Thanks to everyone for the spirit of giving and friendship that was present!

We are continuing our wonderful line-up of monthly ECW programs starting Jan. 11, 2018, when Valeska McHugh, ECW Chaplain, will lead us in a time of deeper understanding. Join us at Beverley Matthewson's home, 212 Peppergrass Dr., Spring Branch. Hostesses will provide a light lunch beginning at 11:00 a.m. The program and business meetings start at 11:30 a.m. Invite someone to come with you.

If you would like to be a hostess for a future meeting, please contact Brenda Klaftenegger at (210) 240-7031.

ECW is planning a FUN fundraiser on Sunday, Feb. 18, 12:15 a.m.-2:30 pm. We'll host a Baked Potato Lunch and White Elephant Auction. Hear more about it at the January ECW meeting and in future Good News posts.

"With all humility and gentleness, and with patience, support each other in love." *Ephesians 4:2*



Pink Elephant 2

By [Tricia Jones](#)

The ECW has an account at the Pink Elephant 2 Consignment Resale Store in Sattler. This means clean, gently worn clothes, shoes, and accessories that you would like to clear out of your house now, can be taken to the Pink Elephant 2, 1754 FM 2673, Sattler. Just tell the shopkeeper to put the donated items under the St. Francis ECW account. Periodically, EWC will receive a check from the sale of the donated items.

We would appreciate you saving furniture, home décor, tools, etc., for our annual Twice-Blessed Rummage Sale.



Practical Exercise Class At Saint Francis by the Lake

Class instruction focuses on posture, breathing, stretching, balance, form, and light exercise.

Instructor: Jeanne Slupik

When: Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:15 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Where: Parish hall. Please wear comfortable clothing, and bring a yoga mat.

Cost: Donations only, to benefit St. Francis by the Lake.

Come join us!



Needs for the CRRC food pantry

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

plastic grocery bags;

toilet paper;

cereal;

spaghetti;

laundry detergent;

shampoo;

conditioner;

shower gels;

dish soap;

hand soap;

baby diapers - sizes 2, 3, 4, and 5, and adult sizes, (both disposable and cloth diapers); and

toothbrush, toothpaste, and floss.

(*When visiting the dentist each patient is usually given a small bag that contains a toothbrush, toothpaste and floss. As each of us has our semi-annual checkups, please consider bringing those to church for the CRRC donation box. Thanks to Betty Morris for that suggestion.*)

All contributions are appreciated.

Address Updates: (Cut and paste into your Directory)

Velda Vukoder

2502 Lonesome Creek Trail
New Braunfels, TX 78130

Jeanne & Gay Helm

1001 W. Park Blvd.
Plano, TX 72505
Phone: (469) 786-0773

Ruth Hemphill

210 Covenant Lane, #410
Kingsland, TX 78639

What's happening

Daughters of the King (DOK) is on the fourth Wednesday of every month (Jan. 24) at 12:30 p.m. The group will meet in the parish hall after the 11:30 a.m. Eucharist.

Episcopal Church Women (ECW) meets on the second Thursday of the month (Jan. 11) at 11:00 p.m., at Beverley Mathewson's home. ([See article, p. 4](#))

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

Vestry meets the second Sunday of each month. The group will meet on Jan. 14 at 12:30 p.m., in the parish hall.

Adult Sunday School meets most Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the parish hall.

Prayer Shawl Ministry meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 1:00 p.m. The group decides at their meeting where the next get-together will take place.

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

Al-Anon meets every Saturday at 10:00 a.m. in Jones Hall.

Caregiver Support Group meets every third Monday (Jan. 15) of the month at 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the parish hall.

COH Circle of Care will meet on Sunday, Jan. 7, at 12:15 p.m., in the parish hall.

Second Saturday Diocesan Mini Retreat meets each month on the 2nd Saturday at 9:00 a.m. at the Bishop Jones Center. On beautiful grounds, the time is for contemplative silence and fellowship. (If you would like to carpool, there are several woman

from St. Francis that would be glad to have you join them. Please call the St. Francis office (830) 964-3820 for more information.)

Inquirers classes are starting in January.

The Bishop Jennifer Brooke-Davidson will visit St. Francis on Sunday, Feb. 11. She will be our celebrant for the day.

Fr. David will have classes for those seeking answers about Christianity or about St. Francis, and those interested in renewing their understanding are invited to Inquirers Classes at 6:00 p.m. on Mondays: **Jan. 8, 15, 22, & 29**, and also on **Feb. 5**. Inquirers may join at any time; information missed will be presented again as needed.

January anniversaries

Jay and Linda Hillin	1/1
Harold and Mo Simmons	1/4

January birthdays

Pam Scheible	1/1
Cary Corbin	1/4
Naomi Chalk	1/10
Stacey Brian	1/14
Ann Freiberger	1/14
Ray Ferguson	1/15
Leah Hopkins	1/16
Brenda Klaftenegger	1/19
Tamara Huneau	1/22
Ray Thompsett	1/22
Alejandra Black	1/24
Nanette Callahan	1/26
Velda Vukoder	1/26
Cindy McBride	1/27
Abel Villarreal	1/28

Mark your calendars

Jan. 1 - New Year's Day - office is closed.

Jan. 8, 15, 22, & 29 - 6:00 p.m. - Confirmation/Inquirers Class.

Jan. 11 - Honduras Mission team leaves, and returns Jan. 18.

Jan. 21 - 9:15 a.m. - Annual Parish Meeting in the parish hall.

Jan. 28 - Guest speaker for both service is Southwest Blood & Tissue representative, Beth Lowrie.

Feb. 11 - Bishop Jennifer Brooke-Davidson visitation at St. Francis.

Feb. 22-24 - 114th Diocesan Council in San Marcos. The theme is "The Word is very near to You." *Deuteronomy 30:14*.

The Franciscan

A monthly publication of
St. Francis by the Lake
Episcopal Church

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Daughters of the King (DOK): a Friendship of women

By [Lynda Leadford](#), DOK Member

Who are the Daughters of the King? Most of our congregation knows them as the women who pray for healing, for strength and peace, for special needs, for support of our military, and for many other situations. Although this is true, we are actually composed of women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church, churches in communion with it, or churches in the Historic Episcopate.

Our DOK members undertake a *Rule of Life*, which incorporates the *Rule of Prayer* and the *Rule of Service*. We are dedicated to the spread of Christ's Kingdom and the strengthening of the spiritual Life of the Parish.

The St. Francis by the Lake chapter is a large and very active chapter. We meet monthly for fellowship, devotional study, and a discussion of the prayer list. This year as part of our service project, we are continuing to assist Bernie Frey with his "Pack the Backpack" program. Each month we provide packages of food for the impoverished children in our schools to cover weekends off from school. The bags are transported to the First Baptist Church for distribution.

Study classes for new daughters will begin soon. As a past president Lynn Zimmermann stated, "There is no "special" quality or "holiness" that qualifies or calls one to be a Daughter of the King. It is God-given abilities and the desires of our

hearts that draw us." Please consider becoming a daughter as a spiritual step in your walk with Christ. If you are interested, please contact Becky Averyt, at (830) 624-5080 or email her at averytrebecca@gmail.com. You may also leave a message with our secretary, Janet Pollock at (830) 964-3820.



Reaching up... Reaching out

Lord, what do you want to do through me?

This is our parish. The time is now. Pray for our Capital Campaign and our Stewardship Campaign and ask God's guidance in how you are to join in the vision.

The floor plan of the Outreach and Ministry Center is available in the Narthex.



(Inside corner of table front to back): Jennifer Bergman, Betty Morris, and (back of table L to R): Libby Templeton, Debbie Barnwell, Brenda Klaftenegger, Linda Hillin, and Carol Glasby put together Advent calendars in the parish hall on Sunday, Nov. 26.

Pre-council meetings for Diocesan Council

Sunday, Jan. 21, the Eastern Convocation, which includes St. Francis by the Lake, will meet in San Marcos at St. Mark's.

Clergy, delegates, and alternates will meet at 6:00 p.m. for a dinner. The group will get their diocesan packets to prepare them for what is to be discussed at Diocesan Council in February (22-24.)



The F.E.A.S.T. (Friends Eating and Sharing Together) group dined and enjoyed fellowship at Chris Cagle's home on Saturday, Dec. 16. (L to R): Chris Cagle, Brenda Smith, Bob Boudreux, Betty Morris, Lin Boudreux, Bruce Smith, Linda Harkness, and Jay and Linda Hillin. Chris Cagle and Linda Harkness hosted this get together. The new January through June 2018 F.E.A.S.T. schedule is in the Narthex on the right side when you walk into the church. If you are not involved in a F.E.A.S.T. group and would like to be, call Betty Morris at (830) 515-8659 or email her at bmorris@gvtc.com.

Annual Crafts Retreat at Camp Capers

The Crafts Retreat will be held at Camp Capers Friday through Sunday, Jan. 26 - 28. Bring your craft projects, on-going or brand new, and create together with others from around the diocese. Online registration is coming soon at www.dwtx.org/events.



Fr. David helped Ben and Susanna Vessey give thanks for their newborn son, Briggs.

In loving memory

Tom Hemphill

May 19, 1924 - February 5, 2016

We recently received a letter from the Hemphill's daughter, Trish McElroy, informing St. Francis that Tom Hemphill had passed away in February of 2016. His wife, Ruth, has moved closer to her youngest daughter. If you would like to send cards, please send to the address noted on page 4.



St. Francis parishioners and some helpers performed in the live Nativity on Thursday, Dec. 14. Thank you for being a part of CRRC's North Pole Village!



Snow at St. Francis.

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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.

114th Diocesan Council
Feb. 22 - 24
San Marcos

The Word
is very near to **You**

Deuteronomy 30:14