

St. Francis by the Lake

Episcopal Church

Annual Parish Meeting

January 19, 2014

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**Acolyte Ministry Annual Report for 2013**

*By Dale E. Jones, Acolyte Director*

The Acolyte Ministry at St. Francis exists to serve God by assisting the priest during the service and to facilitate the worship service. Acolyte duties include lighting and extinguishing candles, leading the procession of the choir and altar party in worship, as well as leading them into the world as worship concludes. During the service, acolytes bring the Gospel into the midst of the people for the reading by the priest, and they work in concert with the ushers and oblationers to present the offering of the gifts to the altar. Acolytes assist the priest in setting and clearing the altar, ringing the Sanctus bells during the Great Thanksgiving, and performing the duties of Thurifer when incense is used.

In the beginning of 2014 there are 11 Acolytes, and two “as needed” acolytes. In order for acolytes to serve once a month in a standard four-Sunday month, sixteen would be ideal. We are always looking for new recruits! Plans for this year are to replace the white cinctures.

Senior Server/Crucifer

Dale Jones Libby Templeton *(New this Year)*

Don Stackhouse Valery Kirk *(former Acolyte Director)*

Torch Bearers

Lyn Jones Aidan Rodgers

Devon Rodgers Hanna White Josh White

Book Bearer

Bob Amos and Norman Littlefield *(in training)* and a big thank you to Tommie Woollven for helping out with the 10:00 p.m. Christmas service.

We thank the parishioners for their support throughout 2013.

I am extending an Invitation to everyone in the parish to pray and consider being an Acolyte.

**Adult Education Report 2013**

*By Don Stackhouse*

Adult education at Saint Francis by the Lake continues to be centered on studies as offered by the Rector several times per week. These are:

Sundays at 9:15 a.m. (between services)

Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. (preceding mid-week Eucharist)

Subjects presented usually revolve around the study of the seasonally appropriate readings from the Lectionary or in-depth discussion/study of a select book of the Bible. Attendance at each of the study opportunities ranges from 8 to around 12 parishioners, so that any given week will see around 30 people attending one or more of the learning opportunities. A new study series for Tuesday evenings in 2014 has begun. It is a series of lectures on Jesus and the Gospels presented by Prof. Luke Timothy Johnson of Emory University which focuses on exploring the Gospels and our perceptions of Jesus.

The Rector also offers classes for candidates for Confirmation or Reception, as well as new member orientation. The Rector also offers training for acolytes, Eucharistic ministers, and others who assist the priest in the conduct of worship on an as-needed basis.

Other educational opportunities, including additional lecture series, are under consideration for Saint Francis.

**Saint Francis by the Lake Altar Guild Report 2013**

*By Jeanne Slupik, Directress*



Mission: The Altar Guild is responsible for setting up the altar for Holy Eucharist for each service on Sunday; the healing service on Wednesday; for baptisms, weddings and funerals, and other services requested by the Rector.

Teams are primarily made up of 4 members who are assigned on the same weekend each month. When there is a 5th Sunday in a month, one member of each team is selected to make up a team for that particular week.

Altar Guild members are responsible for keeping the linens and vessels clean, as well as the altar and its surroundings. Members of each team meet on Saturday morning for about 1 hour.

Accomplishments in 2013:

1. Purchased new “white” burse and veil for the Altar. The previous set had sustained water damage and was worn. The new set also matches the coordinating Chasuble and Stole.
2. Successfully designated support for and completed support for Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Easter Sunday and Advent.
3. Continued to update the Altar Guild Notebook. This is a continuing process.
4. Using the wooden Missal Stand, altar candle sticks and alms basins continues to considerably reduce the wear of our brass appointments.
5. Updated the Altar Guild “Board” and represented the Guild for Rally Day.
6. Held one “working” breakfast meeting in conjunction with preparing the church for Palm Sunday.
7. Submitted a budget projection for 2014 to the Vestry and it was approved without amendment.
8. Decorated the Chrismon Tree and organized the “Greening of the Church”. Excellent support from Altar Guild Members.
9. Covered all Christmas services with Altar Guild members.
10. Continued to clean out “stuff” from the Sacristy that did not support our mission.

Goals for 2014:

1. Operate within our budget and use our supplies and current inventory wisely. Recycle where we can, especially candles.
2. Replace linens as necessary.
3. Continue to update the Altar Guild Notebook.
4. Continue to use email to keep Altar Guild members informed/updated.
5. Recycle/replace candle stock for Holy Week services.

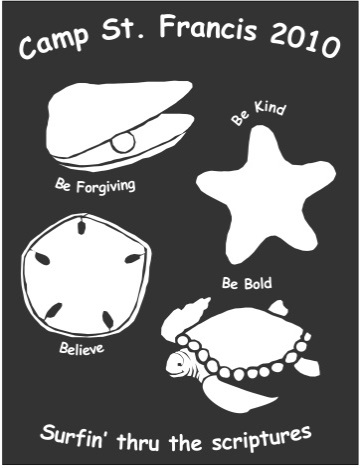
Priorities for 2014:

1. Recruit new members!
2. Replace current processional torches with ones that have glass chimney globes. Cost is $216.00 each plus shipping and handling.

**Brotherhood of St. Francis**

*By Ray Thompsett, Chair*

Men’s breakfast was held monthly. Other events were held throughout the year. Shrove Tuesday’s pancake supper was cooked and served. Participated in the Spring clean-up. Power washing the exterior wall of the Sacristy, trimming bushes outside of the classrooms. This year we set up the daily menu for camp St. Francis which was a great success. We organized the Annual Rummage sale which was financially very successful. Set up and helped organize Thanksgiving Supper. Nativity scene was set up by members of the Brotherhood.

**Camp Saint Francis 2013 – Sonrise**

**National Park Vacation Bible School**

*By Ronnie Harper*

We were truly blessed by the number of parishioners who volunteered with Camp St Francis this year! The children, average attendance of 18/day, enjoyed daily treks where they faced daily challenges and learned to depend on the promises of Jesus: true peace, true riches, true power, true love and true hope. The children as well as adults enjoyed fun (music, crafts, and recreational activities) and great picnic/BBQ food, thanks to the Men of St. Francis and their helpers.

Next year’s VBS will be held July 7-11 and many folks have volunteered to help again in 2014. We’re anticipating a larger daily attendance of children and many more volunteers.

It was an honor for Don Stackhouse and myself (Ronnie Harper) to serve as co-chairs of this special ministry!

**Choir**

*By Ricky Therneau*

The choir ministry is composed of approximately 15 members and several strong supporters that diligently donate several hours a week and talent to this endeavor. The main purpose of this group is to provide worshipful praise music and prayerful thought music in each and every service for the glory of God. The attendance record of this choir is remarkable. Each member of the choir is quite active in other phases of the service/church life. This year we would like to add another bass or two plus some more instruments.

**Church Periodical Club**

*By Betty Morris*

The Church Periodical Club, an affiliated organization of TEC, provides funds locally, nationally and internationally for those who need Christian materials in printed or electronic format and who cannot afford them. During 2013, St. Francis donated funds to provide materials to support the Veterinary Mission to Southeast Mexico. The donation boxes and information pamphlets remain available because there are other needs. Funds are available from the Miles of Pennies funds that could supply books for the students in Honduras if someone on the team will be responsible for taking a grant request form and supplying the information needed to request a grant. Support for that MOP and National Books Fund will come from donations made by us at St. Francis. The big red can remains near the door to the church and will accept funds at any time. There are two small donation boxes there too if you wish to take one home and make a donation every time you are grateful for the books you have available to read. At this time, I am notifying our Episcopal seminaries of grants made to support their students. We are able to give only $400 to each seminary. Won’t you become part of this ministry of the printed (and electronic) word? For more information, contact Betty Morris (830) 515-8659.

**Columbarium Committee 2013**

*By Keren Necaise*

The Columbarium had some updating and maintenance to do this year. The upper left quarter of the granite columbarium, side B had to be replaced due to damage. Fortunately the granite matches beautifully; all the names on this piece of granite were re-engraved.

The Columbarium committee met recently and decided that a good cleaning and trimming were needed. That has been started and will be continued when the weather permits. We will add new crushed granite and even out the stones around the circular part of the Columbarium.

We had three interments this year; Robert Bartlett, Richard A. Blair and Betty Johnston. One niche (for 2 people) in the Granite Columbarium was sold and one niche (for two people) was sold in the Garden of Eden.

This leaves us with 15 available niches on the B Side of the granite columbarium (holding 2 urns each) and 11 niches available in the Garden of Eden (holding up to 4 urns each).

The balance in the Columbarium fund as of December 31, 2013 is $33,906.28. Out of that amount we owe $800.00 for engraving for which we have not been billed by Carter Memorials.

The Columbarium Committee members are Keren Necaise, Chair, Tommie Helen Woollven, Winnie Benson, Ray Thompsett, Jo Laney; Tom Meyer is our grounds representative. We are minus one member, Dana Downey who recently moved out of state; we hope to fill her position soon. If you would like more information on our columbarium please contact any of these committee members.

**The Daughters of the King**

*By Lynn Zimmermann, Chapter President*

Daughters of the King is an Episcopal prayer order open to all women in the Episcopal church. Daughters of the King accept the vow to follow a course of prayer, evangelism and service within the church, the community and the world The St. Francis by the Lake Daughters of the King chapter is a large and very active chapter. We encourage all women of our parish to consider becoming a daughter as a spiritual step in their walk with Christ. For more information about DOK, call Lynn Zimmermann, Ann Bartlett or the church office.

Daughters of the King meets monthly. Meetings include fellowship, a short business meeting, group study and discussion of our prayer list. The main focus for this year’s study was taken from Devotional Classics, a compilation of spiritual writings intended to inspire, encourage and guide Christians. Other studies included a review of the Daughters rule of prayer and a look at our spiritual gifts and how to apply them. Meetings are suspended during the summer but are replaced with prayer and share time for those who wish to attend. These summer meetings are casual gatherings for spiritual fellowship and sharing our walk.

Two new officers were elected this year: Vice-President, Ann Bartlett and Treasurer, Ronnie Harper. Four women completed the DOK course of study and were inducted into the Order: Jo Conchado, Carol Glasby, Janet Pollock, and Velda Vukoder. A 2014 membership class will be offered this spring. DOK currently has 29 active members.

Each year, DOK and ECW (Episcopal Church Women) join together to sponsor a quiet day. Men and women from our parish family, our extended church family and our community are encouraged to attend. A quiet day is a day of spiritual direction and reflection intended to refocus and inspire those attending. Last year our quiet day featured Sylvia Maddox, a professor and author from the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio. Sylvia spoke on “The Tenderness of God’s Love.” Quiet days are held during the Lenten Season.

Daughters of the King sponsor an outreach during the Christmas season. This year each Daughter gave a donation to the person, charity, or Ministry of her choice. At our annual Christmas luncheon, each daughter spoke about her donation recipient and why she felt called to support that cause. Daughters do not fund raise. All outreach and operation is financed by donation and annual chapter and National dues.

The Order of the Daughters of the King is truly blessed to be a blessing in prayer and service FOR HIS SAKE.

**Episcopal Church Women (ECW)**

*By Candace Fitch, President*

The Episcopal Church Women, (ECW), of St. Francis by the lake are amazing women. We have continued the path that has been set before us, and we are making a difference in our Church and the community by spreading the word of God through our actions.

We meet 9 months out of the year, beginning in September and ending in May, with a three month hiatus in the summer. Our meetings usually consist of gathering in a member’s home, enjoying a guest speaker, having a short meeting, and then celebrating members birthdays that month. We are growing in numbers each time we meet and the presence of the Holy Spirit is definitely felt among us. Each and every woman present at St. Francis is automatically a member of ECW by virtue of the fact you are an Episcopalian. We would love to see our membership grow and strongly invite you to join us, so if nothing else, you can come, experience, and feel the love we have for one another.

We are very active in our fundraising at St. Francis, and this year in February, our new Valentine luncheon will make its debut. What fun it has been listening to all the new ideas, deciding on all the details and soon making it a reality. It will be a lot of work, but make no mistake… this group isn’t afraid of work, accepts a challenge with open arms and makes it all happen because of their fundamental belief in Jesus Christ who is at the core of everything they try to achieve. I know it will be a success... and even more of a success if, at this function, we can invite people to join St. Francis, because after all, making money is secondary to our mission in bringing people to know our precious God like we do. If anyone is interested in seeing where our money goes from our fundraisers, a copy will go to the Church Treasurer in May, after we make an Executive decision on distribution.

We are a safe place to come to. We want you to be the woman Christ has called you to be. We want to help empower you to do Christ’s ministry in the world. We are called. We are different. We are one body.

God’s gracious peace to all.

**Evangelism Committee – 2013**

*By Ronnie Harper, Linda Hillin, and Lynda Leadford*

The Evangelism Ministry includes the following ministries: Visitors/Newcomers, Greeters/Ushers and Public Relations/Advertising. Below is an update on the activities throughout the year for these ministries:

Visitors/newcomers – (local) 38 individuals/families signed the guest book and 9 were visited by the Welcoming Committee. One Newcomer Dinner was held, 7 newcomers attended and all have become members or regular attendees at St. Francis. The next Newcomers Dinner is being scheduled.

Ushers/Greeters – currently we have 20 people who alternate as greeters and ushers each Sunday and both services.

Public Relations/Advertising: participated in various events sponsored by the Canyon Lake and Bulverde/Spring Branch Chamber of Commerce. These activities include the annual Winter Texan Reception sponsored by the Canyon Lake Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber also advertises our events on their calendar and web-site events. Our sharing our Faith Dinner at FEAST Dinner Group in May was well received and attended.

**F.E.A.S.T. (Friends Eating and Sharing Together) Groups**

*By Betty Morris*

FEAST groups have provided fellowship and fun - a s well as excellent dining - for 14 years. Every six months, new groups are organized including over 60 members of St. Francis and they meet approximately once a month for a meal. Actual participants may also include friends and neighbors and visitors to St. Francis. Gatherings may be held in homes, restaurants, or as picnics in a park, wherever is most convenient for the monthly host. The only rule is that no hard liquor is to be served. If you would like to be included in a group or visit a gathering to see if this is a fellowship you would like to be part of, contact Betty Morris, (830) 515-8659.

**Flower Guild**

*By Winifred Benson*

The Flower Guild, having been founded in June of 2002, is now entering its 12th year, and ever since has been able to keep our account in the black. We have many dedicated volunteers who enjoy creating the floral arrangements for the altar each Sunday.

Because of their efforts we have been able to purchase the supplies needed for this ministry at little or no expense to the parish. New members are always welcome and even if you are a novice you will be given some guidance and paired up with an experienced member. Each member is scheduled about once every two months. You may contact me if you are interested in joining this fun group.

During this past year, apart from the regular arrangements on the altar each Sunday, the occasion of Easter and Christmas brings more décor for the church. At Easter we adorn the church with palms and Easter Lilies and at Christmas there are the poinsettias, candle arrangements in the windows, and pew decorations also with candles.

Donations of the altar flowers, two each Sunday, remain at $25.00 each, and we encourage all to continue to remember there special occasions in this way. Names and dedications are listed in each Sunday’s bulletin. A sign-up sheet can be found in the Narthex.

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***THE FRANCISAN***

*By Maury Meyer*

*The* *Franciscan* was published monthly during 2013 except for the customary combined June/July issue. Janet Pollock, as parish secretary, continued her good work in assembling the articles in a reader-friendly design. She does the lion’s share of the work and makes my part easy. Linda Hillin helped to ensure quality control as assistant editor.

We continued to ‘go green’ by emailing a PDF version of the Franciscan to all who were willing to receive it that way.

We are indebted to and grateful for the people who write regular columns and those who send articles to keep us all informed of the many ministries that define our church. Our goal is to publish a newsletter that our members want to read and you make this possible. *The* *Franciscan* is just one leg of our communications efforts. Please let me know of any suggestions for improvements to the Franciscan that you might think for 2014: we are always striving to do better.

**The Good News – Weekly Newsletter (between *Franciscans*)**

*By Linda Hillin*

Our weekly E-newsletter has continued to grow into an informative weekly update of activities and information pertinent to the upcoming week at St. Francis. Ministry chair-persons are welcome to send us newsworthy items on upcoming events for the *Good News*. Thank you Libby Templeton for taking over for me in my absence these past several months.

**St. Francis by the Lake *Manos de Dios* Honduras Ministry**

*By Patricia Perea*

***Manos de Dios Mission Statement***

*Called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the living Christ, together with the people of Honduras, we seek to serve God and equip laborers for the harvest through education and training and encouragement of spiritual growth.*

**Background**

As we look into the past several years, it has been a long journey from the time we first planted the home churches in the *colonia* Nueva Esperanza back in 2000. We held services in three home churches for about one year until we were able to “borrow” a house that served as our Manos Pastoral house. We had an agreement with the owner to make some yearly repairs to the house in lieu of paying rent. Even though the Pastoral house was no bigger than 500 square feet, we maximize the space and use it for our services, youth groups activities, Bible school, social area ministries, scholarship program ceremonies, etc. Several years later, we were able to purchase the land for the future church and only five years ago, we were able to complete the church and community center. In January 2008, Bishop Allen consecrated the Iglesia Episcopal Manos de Dios in Danlí, Honduras.

As we look into the future, we will continue supporting our sister church Manos de Dios, but we also started a new ministry called Manos to Go. This is our second year where we selected a remote village close to Danlí to bring all of our resources. We load a bus and trucks with the Manos team, as well as many Hondurans from our church to go and work in the selected village for an entire day in various ministries. In January 2013, we went to *El Porvenir*, which means “What is to come.” El Porvenir is a beautiful small village located on top of a mountain. Even though, the houses are spread through the green lush hills, there is a sense of community as everybody knows one another. El Porvenir has no electricity and no running water, which adds to the stillness of the place. In January 2014, the “Manos to Go” will go to the village of Yuscaran, where we will be conducting a vision clinic, vacation bible school, and a small construction project.

A small team of four went to Honduras in August to check on the Manos de Dios mission to help us plan for the January 2014 trip.

**Ongoing Support to Ministries**

The Manos de Dios team continues to support our sister Church in Danlí, as well as a community center with two micro-enterprises (sewing and baking), and a Scholarship Program for students in 9th - 12th grades, as well as college. Currently, the program has 36 middle and high school students and 8 college students studying in areas such as Civil Engineer, Industrial Engineer, Agronomy, Forestry, Computer Science, and Nursing. In December of 2013, two students from the scholarship program graduated from college and 3 students from high school. It is amazing to see how these children are all grown up and doing well in college when they never thought they would go beyond a sixth grade education.

**Upcoming Trip to Honduras in January 2014**

A total of 17 members, including 8 members from St Francis, will be traveling to Danlí, Honduras from January 23-30, 2014. The St Francis members include: Mary K and Chitt Chittenden, Fr. David, Ronnie Harper, Maureen Ortiz, Mo and Harold Simmons, and Patricia Perea.

The objectives of the January trip are as follows:

1. Conduct three Vision Clinics: Manos de Dios, Yuscarán & Santa María
2. Continue the train the trainer program with workshops in:
   1. Resume workshop for college students and Juniors and Seniors in HS
   2. Exercise and health workshop: Ponte a Mover!
3. Launch year 12 of the scholarship program
   1. Select 7-8 new candidates for 2014
   2. Career Day – Vocational inspiration
   3. Scholarship award ceremony
   4. Meet with recent high school graduates (Class of 2013)
   5. Meet with 3 seniors scholarship recipients who will graduate Dec 2014
   6. Honor Roll Dinner with top 5 students and their families and the Manos de Dios Team
4. Manos to Go to Yuscarán (Vision Clinic, VBS, Casitas project)
5. Work on the construction projects:

a. Manos to Go in Yuscaran b. Casitas Project (Danlí) c. Maintenance projects

*A complete report on the trip will be submitted upon return of trip.*

**St Francis Involvement in the Future**

The Manos team would like to thank members of St Francis for their continued support. Also the team would like to invite more members of St Francis to join our ministry. We need Goers, Pray-ers and especially Senders. The Senders include people who help others go to Honduras by providing spiritual and or financial support, people who are willing to help raise money; people who are willing to sponsor a child go to high school or college. In addition, we always need Pray-ers who are willing to support and pray for our efforts and mission in Honduras.

**Home Communion Visitors**

*By Betty Morris*

During 2013, several people were trained to take Holy Communion to persons unable to attend services at St. Francis who request a visitor. These visits are a supplement to those made by Fr. David and can provide additional spiritual support for those who are ill, their families and friends. If you wish a visit from Fr. David or a Home Communion Visitor, please call the office.

**Hospitality - 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.**

*By Lynda Leadford and Velda Vukoder*

Besides my Ushering duties, I really enjoy the Hospitality Ministry. After each service, this ministry usually provides coffee, juice, cookies, and sweet things which may be made or bought. Coffee and juice, as well as all paper products, are furnished by the parish. Many times I have stood around the coffee table after the service, either conversing with friends or getting to know our visitors and guests. This is a wonderful time for fellowship.

At the present time, we have eight different pairs of people who provide hospitality to the early service, generally once every other month. To join our group or learn more, please call Lynda Leadford at (210) 508-5497.

Velda took over the 10:30 a.m. hospitality in August. ***She believes to have an accurate list of participants and will continue to contact midweek to remind.***

**Ushers and Greeters**

*By Lynda Leadford and George Glasby*

Our Ministry at 8:00 a.m. is always growing and always changing. We are generally the front line for visitors & guests FAQs, such as “do you have a nursery,” “where’s the restroom,” “what ministries do you have here,” “do you have any programs for children,” “what time is the next service” and many others. This for me has always been a very rewarding ministry and gives me an opportunity to get to know other members better and meet and greet newcomers as well. Along with welcoming members, guests and visitors, we distribute bulletins, hand out “mugs” to first time visitors and guests, count those attending the service, bring the oblations (the gifts of wine, bread, and tithes) to the Altar. At 8:00 a.m. we have one set of Ushers (two individuals or a couple may be ushers). They are sometimes called hosts or greeters. If you would like to join our group or learn more, please call Lynda Leadford at (210) 508-5497.

The 10:30 a.m. service has a total of 20 people who alternate as greeters for St. Francis by the Lake. Although we had no new signers from the fair, we always welcome those who wish to serve in this ministry. We also have a couple of people who would volunteer as needed.

**Landscape Committee**

*By Winnie Benson*

The purpose of this ministry is to keep the beds around the church and its buildings in order. Each member of this ministry is given a specific area to maintain, and they put in many unseen hours to obtain an orderly and weed free areas.

In this past year we have not updated any of the shrubs or the flowers, only maintained and pruned what is already there. Due to the hard rains we had in November, the gravel area in front of Jones Hall was washed almost away and we are planning to replace the gravel in the New Year.

**Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors for 2013**

*By Libby Templeton*

The Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors serving St. Francis by the Lake continued their outstanding support of our worship services throughout 2013. There are currently 13 Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs) and 21 Lectors faithfully providing their service in support of our weekly worship.

While we were unable to schedule a training session in 2013, one is planned in early 2014 for both Lectors and Lay Eucharistic Ministers.

If you feel called to serve Christ and your fellow parishioners in either, or both, of these worship ministries, please discuss it first with Fr David and then contact me at ltempleton254@gmail.com or (817)-475-3909.

**Memorial Committee 2013**

*By Betty Morris, Chair*

The Memorial Committee is notified when donations are made in memory of someone who has died or in honor of someone living. The Committee consists of Betty Morris, Chair, Jo Conchado, Bob Kerr, and Jo Laney. Linda Hillin serves also as she is the one who enters names into the Memorial Book when donations are received. She also prints the notices that are sent to the family of one who has died or to the one being honored.

During 2013, funds received were: Altar Guild $125.00; New Building Fund, $963.00; and Undesignated Funds, $780.00.

The Memorial Books are in a cabinet in the narthex and pages are turned regularly so that entries are able to be seen.

**Outreach Activities 2013**

*By Bernie Frey*

The Christmas Season makes us think about giving. This report shows that our members continue giving throughout the year and as a result make the Canyon Lake area a better place for those hurting or in need.

The year 2013 saw members continue to be involved in many outreach activities outside of those organized by or through the church. In a very informal survey I contacted eleven (11) members who I am aware of that are involved in those types of activities. To my amazement (although it should be no surprise when you hear their stories) their time spent on behalf of others throughout the year total over 1700 hours!!

This small sampling validates what we already know from anecdotal information that St. Francis by the Lake members are a loving and caring group of people ready and willing to ‘reach out’ to help others. My goal for 2014 will be to capture more of that information to be included in my end of year report.

Some of the activities members are supporting are as follows.

* Participating in reading, tutoring and mentoring programs through the local schools.
* Delivering meals on wheels weekly from the CRRC office to individuals in the Canyon Lake area.
* A variety of activities for CRRC including working in the food bank, administrative activities, pick up food from the food bank, off-loading trucks, building maintenance, North Pole Village set up and take down and working at booths and the Christmas parade.
* Participating as a member of the Patriot Outfitters that takes wounded warriors on an annual deer hunt. The weekend isn’t just about hunting as each evening a devotional is held where participants share their beliefs.
* Serving on local boards and committees of social and civic organizations such as CASA, CRRC, Tye Preston Memorial Library, The Canyon Lake Community Library District, Lions Club and Rotary.
* Donating food and clothing to the Crisis Center of Comal County
* Volunteering at The Fisher Houses for wounded warriors located at San Antonio Military Medical Center (SAMMC) (previously BAMC) including putting up and decorating Christmas trees in each of the houses.

This is not an all-inclusive list but rather intended to be a sampling of activities.

We continue to support the CRRC food bank with generous weekly donations of requested food items. Also, we contribute $100.00 a month to the CRRC food bank which is multiplied by 10 times through purchases from the San Antonio Food Bank.

Worship services are conducted by Fr David the first Sunday of each month in the Chapel of the St. Jude’s Ranch for Children Bulverde Campus. As many as 15 members of St. Francis join the SJR residents for the monthly service. The service is very interactive with SJR residents freely joining in dialog with Fr David.

We also continued our participation in the annual CROP walk that supports Church World Service activities throughout the world in addition to 25% of the money raised being provided to local food banks.

The highway cleanup of a 2 mile section of 2673 through Sattler is well supported by around fifteen (15) each quarter members who gathered over 60 bags of trash throughout the year.

Once again in 2013 members responded generously and provided 60 bags of groceries to The Good Samaritan Center in San Antonio that are given to their clients for their Christmas meal.

Many Christmas cards were sent to members of the military who are affiliated with the Canyon Lake Blue Star Mothers program which the troops appreciate ‘hearing from home,’ knowing that they are in our thoughts and prayers.

It cannot be said enough that members of St. Francis by the Lake Episcopal regularly demonstrate the guidance of our Patron Saint Francis “Preach the Gospel at all times and use words when necessary.”

**St. Francis Prayer Shawls**

*By Linda Hillin*

The prayer shawl group continues to meet monthly to create beautiful shawls and lap robes. The finished items are blessed and hung on the rack in the parish hall where parishioners are welcome to take them to those who are ill or going thru a difficult time, or to commemorate a special occasion. This is a meaningful ministry for those creating the needlework as well as those giving and receiving the items. Last year seven shawls and blankets were lovingly shared with others.

**Stewardship Committee**

*By Bob Amos, Chairman*

We kicked off our fall Stewardship activities on September 2, leading up to Consecration Sunday which is planned for October 20.

Ministry moments have been published weekly in the eNews starting Sep 2. And articles have been placed in the Franciscan.

We began our Sunday speakers on Sep 15 with Brian Benham, followed on Sep 22 with Bob Amos and Sep 29 with Betty Morris. October 4 we were blessed with a visit and talk by Dr. Martha Curry. We have one more speaker on Oct 13, Lynn Zimmerman.

Sunday Sep 29 we held the Ministry Fair, at an “All Together Now” Sunday. Much thanks to Libby Templeton and Lynn Zimmerman for coordinating this well attended and well received event.

Parish members and regular worshipers have been invited to come and make their pledge of financial support on Consecration Sunday and to stay for a catered meal after the 10:30 service. If they cannot attend, they have been asked to return their pledge cards to the church office ahead of time. Our Stewardship Letter was mailed along with pledge cards and an RSVP card for the catered meal.

A second mailing with a personal letter from Fr David, regarding Consecration Sunday, will be mailed on Oct 10.

I do expect we will have to do some follow up with parish members, who have not responded, over the few weeks following Consecration Sunday to complete the pledge drive. The intention is to assure they were contacted and had the opportunity to pledge.

**Veterinary & Public Health Mission to the Diocese**

**of Southeastern Mexico Ministry Report 2014**

*By Dr. Valerie A. Kirk*

The Veterinary and Public Health Mission to the Anglican Diocese of Southeastern Mexico made its first trip in four years, marking the beginning of a renewed relationship with our brothers and sisters in Mexico.

Early in the 2013, Dr. Marthe Curry, World Missions Development Director of the DWTX, and I met with Bishop Benito Juárez Martinez and Eigner Juárez, from the Diocese of Southeast Mexico, at our annual Diocesan Council in Corpus Christi. We set the date of the veterinary mission for the Fall of 2013 and discussed an overview of what each of us would contribute to the planning of the mission.

I worked with Eigner, as Bishop Benito’s representative, over the next several months, planning which communities we would visit, how many and what types animals we would treat, where we would stay, and all the logistics involved in planning an international mission. Betty Chumney, World Mission Officer of the DWTX, received our request for funding of the mission and submitted the request to the DWTX World Missions Board of Directors, who would consider it along with the requests made by all the other missions of the diocese. God blessed our veterinary mission with the full amount requested of $6,000. Additional funds of $972 were raised through the sale of Anglican prayer beads and $1,870 was received as gifts from individuals and the St. Francis ECW.

One goal of the mission is the support of the communities in Diocese of Southeast Mexico through education in animal care and husbandry. Toward that end, we were able to supply each parish we visited with a copy of *Donde No Hay Doctor Para Animales* (“Where There Is No Animal Doctor”) and 4 booklets in Spanish which provide specific guidance in animal care for goats, rabbits, chickens and swine. Bishop Benito was given a DVD educational series in animal care and husbandry which is intended for teaching the viewer via live animal demonstrations how to care for different types of domestic animals. The series is in Spanish and is also formatted to allow a Spanish speaker to translate it into any other language or dialect. This will be very useful, since there are many native dialects spoken in the diocese. The provision of the books and the DVD was made possible through the generous donations of individuals of St. Francis parish who donated the *Donde* books directly and through the donations of designated funds to the Church Periodical Club.

The date of the mission was set for September 21-27, 2013. With those dates in mind, a team was formed from a list of nine interested persons, with health concerns preventing three of the nine from being able to go.

We had received donations of veterinary vaccines, pharmaceuticals and supplies from veterinary manufacturers, through the Honduras Veterinary and Public Health Mission, by combining our request for the supplies with that of the other veterinary mission. Additional items were purchased with some of the Southeast Mexico mission funds.

Early in all the planning, during Lent 2013, the Lord orchestrated an encounter which would prove to be pivotal to the Mexico mission. The Rev. Canon Dr. Alison Barfoot, from the Diocese of Uganda, spoke at our parish about her mission in Uganda. Following the meeting, I introduced myself to her and expressed my interest in a future veterinary mission to Uganda. Very soon afterward, Dr. Barfoot introduced me to Dr. Mary McDonald, who works with S.A.M.S., the Society of Anglican Missionaries and Senders and who conducts a course entitled Farm Animal Refresher for Missions (F.A.R.M.). I attended the F.A.R.M. course in Virginia the weekend prior our scheduled mission departure of September 21. I came away from the course with an entirely different mission perspective and found out the day I returned to Texas, that Mexico was being hit on the Pacific and the Gulf Coasts with two simultaneous hurricanes. The F.A.R.M. course supplied the opportunity for the veterinary mission to take a new direction and the weather created the time delay needed to put the new plan into action. On September 20, we were told by Bishop Benito that it was too dangerous for us to come in September. God’s ever-present grace allowed us to reschedule the mission the very same day it was postponed. Our new date was set for December 2-8, 2013.

The team composition was reshuffled by the change in dates, unfortunately preventing Stacey Benham from going, but allowing Dale Jones and a second veterinarian from Sweetwater to go. We now had our team: Father David Chalk, Spiritual Director; Dale Jones; Carol Reed (Church of the Advent, Brownsville), Dr. Celeste Hill (veterinarian from Sweetwater), Dr. Paul Martin, Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Seguin; Eigner Juárez and Dr. Valerie Kirk.

An unexpected surprise occurred shortly before we were to depart, when Eigner told us the Mexican federal government would not allow us to bring any of the vaccines or pharmaceuticals into Mexico without following some very expensive regulations. Miraculously, because they were anxious for the mission to succeed, the Veracruz state government donated all the vaccines and pharmaceuticals. The items we had purchased to take to Mexico did not have to be used and will be taken on the Honduras veterinary mission in May 2014. The funds we had spent to buy some of the items will be reimbursed by the Honduras veterinary mission.

The Southeast Mexico mission itself was most rewarding and fruitful and, of course, did not go according to the planned agenda! We treated more animals in some communities than had been planned and fewer in others. All together, we treated nearly 1,000 domestic animals. In each of the communities we visited, our group was divided into two teams, one working with the large animals and one with the small animals. We worked with the owners animals to treat their animals, with each community visit centered on and coordinated through the local parish. Some days we had to stop work because it got dark and other days we kept on working after dark. But every day we met for group devotions and prayer before breakfast and again at the end of the day to talk about how the day had gone.

Everywhere we traveled, the people were very warm and welcoming, preparing meals for us, giving us gifts of fresh fruits from their yards, laughing with us, signing with us, and even helping us learn words in the local dialects. We saw the beautiful countryside and enjoyed the companionship of a strong and proud people who strive for what we all strive for, a healthy and happy family which prospers in a community, faithful to each member, but most of all, faithful to God.

We traveled to Mexico to bring the Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to the people of Mexico, serving as the hands and feet of our Lord, to bring health to the animals and thereby the people. God willing, we will be returning every year in December to strengthen that relationship and bring hope and help without hurting to our Mexican brothers and sisters, our new friends in Christ.

To all of you, who have been so faithful in your financial support, your warm and uplifting prayers and encouragement, and your love, we all say “thank you,” “ gracias,” “escoletiá” (Zapotec), “líma” (Chinantec). Thank you for being a member of the mission team.

Faithfully, Valerie

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**St. Francis Website 2013**

*By Keren Necaise*

The Saint Francis by the Lake Website has a team that is working on updating and improving it; we will have a whole new and exciting look. The new website will be launched very soon. It will have the same information on it, and more. One of the important purposes of our website is to inform visitors about all the important ministries we have available for them, where we are and how to contact us, and to keep members of Saint Francis updated on what is happening at our church. Our website address is [www.saintfrancisbythelake.org](http://www.saintfrancisbythelake.org).

**Treasurer’s Annual Report – FY 2013**

*By Lynda Leadford*

This has been a year of learning, growing, and moving forward in my thinking. We’re not stagnant.

In my first year as treasurer, I have gained considerable knowledge about our ICON Financial System (really it is in the “cloud,” but not beyond me). I can work at home or in the parish office which adds much flexibility.

Last year I spoke about the previous two years 2011 (income exceeded expenses over $50,000 and we expected to see a shortfall over $38,000) and 2012 (income exceeded expenses over $38,000 and we budgeted for a loss of $408). I also stated our reluctance to be more generous and maybe a bit too conservative. In 2013 we were more generous to our ministries’ requests. Even so, with a “0” budget for 2013, (we expected income to equal expenses) St. Francis ended 2013 with $14,790.03 income over expenses. I believe our budget for 2014 reflects this encouraging attitude. Thanks to each of you for giving so generously in the past and for your pledges for 2014 which allows St. Francis by the Lake to continue to be a beacon for God’s work.

Year - End statements were emailed or mailed to everyone last weekend. In 2013, “quarterly statements” were re-implemented. I hope they were helpful. If you have questions, please email me [treasure@gvtc.com](mailto:treasure@gvtc.com) or call (210) 508-5497.

The 2013 year-end financial report is attached as well as the 2014 budget. If you have questions after reviewing, please contact me, any Vestry member, or Fr. David. We will be happy to help.

One last item: if you are paying by check, please use the “memo line” to direct where we should put your contribution, e.g.,: operating fund, building fund, altar guild, flowers, etc.

December 31, 2013 Notes Payable:

Church Bldg Note Payable - $70,000.00

Rectory Note Payable - $38,453.10

Summary Budget 2013: Operations Actual Budget

Income $272,333.71 $264,770.00

Expense $257,543.68 $264,770.00

NET $14,790.03 $0

2014 - 74 Pledges - $235,764.00

*(The financials are located at the end of the Ministries Reports.)*

**Message from the Senior Warden**

*By Don Stackhouse*

When Fr. David asked me to consider being the senior warden, my first reaction was surprise followed quickly by the thought that there was no way I was prepared to take on such a responsibility. But after a lot of prayer, and with a lot of encouragement from him—and from the outgoing senior warden—I dove, with much trepidation, into the yearlong journey that would prove to be not only challenging, but also as eye-opening and fulfilling a learning experience as I could have imagined. And it went by so quickly! In some ways too quickly!

Did I say a learning experience? Serving on the vestry, and especially serving as senior warden, allowed me to learn so much about our church, our diocese, the Episcopal Church, and the Anglican Communion. What I saw and learned was that we are a community—both local and worldwide—dedicated to service, living Christ’s desire for us to be blessed so that we might be a blessing to others. I saw first-hand how the 40-some-odd ministries in our parish—each in its own way—serve both inside our church as well as in our community and the world. I was blessed also during my year to serve as a delegate to diocesan council, where I experienced the very real service that the 90-or-so parishes in our diocese were performing every day—not just of my year as senior warden—but every day of every year for God’s work in the world. When I came back and reported to the congregation that it made me proud to be an Episcopalian and that it might serve as a source of pride also in each of us in the parish to know that we are part of something much bigger than the confines of our parish, I did so with the knowledge that we would continue to seek new, better ways to serve and bless.

We are, after all, a missionary people. The congregational sensing sessions from year before last, when we as a congregation were able to quantify and qualify how we see ourselves rela-ting to our community and the world, showed me that we as a parish have a strong common desire to expand our service in our local community and the world. At our retreat in early 2013, the vestry authorized the establishment of a planning committee to develop a master plan for improving our campus and facilities in order to give us greater capability to realize our mutual dream. That committee, working with architects, church leaders, and other professionals, is very near completion of the master plan for presentation to the congregation. Although full execution of the plan will likely take many years, I am confident in our ability as a church community to work towards full realization of our missionary potential.

I said earlier that my year as senior warden passed quickly. But the love and dedication I felt—and feel—every day from the people of our parish will never pass. I am in humble awe of every one of you and your work, and I thank you sincerely for having given me the opportunity of this past year to serve you.

**Rector’s Report**

*By Fr. David Chalk*

As I’ve written before, *the reports in this booklet represent hard work, time, talent, money, commitment, love, mercy, compassion, and faith. All of which make St. Francis by the Lake the glorious place she is*. The past year has been exciting in that the Planning Committee has done such faithful work. Long, sometimes tedious, very often frustrating, but faithful: I am so proud of them. Under Don Stackhouse’s leadership they have been very conscientious. We look forward to sharing their work with you very soon.

I continue to be inspired by the staff for their work to coordinate our efforts. At the risk of leaving someone out, specific thanks go to Janet, Don, Lynda Leadford, Linda Hillin, Lynda McNab, Gloria, and Lupe for their ministries. They are a gift to us and we should all be proud.

The vestry continues to not be satisfied with the *status quo* and has made significant strides in leadership this past year. I’m grateful for their work and faithfulness. Being kept abreast of the Planning Committee and wrestling with matters that impact our lives, we met and discussed and struggled through many ideas and we are all better for it. Sometimes we act precipitously, but always with the best interests of the whole community in mind.

I thank Don and the Planning Committee, Libby and the Finance Committee, and Tom and all the people who helped in the stewarding of our facilities and properties for their service to the parish and for their service on the Vestry as well. Betty Morris also executed the creation of a Home Communion & Visitor program which has been a great addition to our pastoral care.

In our life together as St Francis by the Lake, during 2013: one person in and one transferred out. Five of our friends died. There were two baptisms; 2 were confirmed; 2 were received and 3 people reaffirmed their confirmation vows. There were no weddings in the parish. An average of 9 people went to St Jude’s Ranch for children 11 times in 2013. Over the course of 179 Sunday worship services at St. Francis, our average Sunday attendance in 2013 was 102. Easter attendance was 228. There were 59 midweek services and 15 home or hospital Communions. Please remember that most visitors have never been to an Episcopal worship service and may be confused. Help them. Visitors will stay with us because of the way we show Biblical hospitality and Christian care.

As a priest of the Church, I am humbled to continue my appointment to the Board of Examining Chaplains for a 9th year. I am also a permanent member of the World Mission Commission. I am concluding my tenure as a Trustee of the Diocese, and a Trustee of TMI. Locally, I attend the community leaders’ bible study. The SE Mexico and Honduras ministries are very important facets of my work in the wider Church.

I conclude my fourth annual address with a quotation from Archbishop Anastasios, the Orthodox primate of Albania and a World Council of Churches president. “*The Mission of the Church, and every living member of it, means the obligation and the necessity to share the gifts which we have each received from God. This means to proclaim the truth, love, and power revealed by Christ, the Crucified and Resurrected One. To share with all everywhere, by the power of the Holy Spirit, with our presence, silence, speech, our acts of love, the fullness of life, the longing for justice and peace all over the world.*” This is our purpose.

