

St. Francis by the Lake

Episcopal Church

Annual Parish Meeting

January 18, 2015

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**St. Francis by the Lake**

**The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting**

Sunday, January 19, 2014

Fr. David prayed for the parish. In opening remarks, he spoke about the many different ministries at St. Francis which have grown and developed to serve the area since the founding of a mission at Canyon Lake 34 years ago. Fr. David reviewed diocesan canons regarding membership and status, reminding everyone that if a person is confirmed, in good standing (i.e., financially), and has been present to receive Holy Communion at least three times, they are considered a member of the church.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to accept the previous year’s minutes.

*Senior Warden Don Stackhouse presented the nominating committee’s report for the election of new vestry members. He introduced nominees Brenda Klaftenegger, Jeanne Slupik, and Maury Meyer.*

*Ray Thompsett moved to accept the three nominees Brenda Klaftenegger, Jeanne Slupik, and Maury Meyer as there were no nominees given from the floor. Bette Wehner seconded the motion to accept the three nominees. Motion was approved.*

Fr. David stated that the Diocesan Council is February 20, 21, and 22. All visitors are welcome to attend council. The delegates: Don Stackhouse, Valerie Kirk, Becky Averyt, and Lynda Leadford. Alternates: Dale Jones, Lyn Jones, Brenda Klaftenegger, and Libby Templeton. All were introduced.

*Fr. David stated that Valerie Kirk lead the acolytes for ten years. She is stepping down and handing the position over to Dale Jones.*

Treasurer Lynda Leadford talked about the financials at St. Francis, which is located in the bulletin that was passed out to everyone, and that 2014 is off to a good start and is looking great.

Fr. David thanked Dewell Downey for getting St. Francis back on track with yearlong Stewardship.

Current Stewardship Chair, Bob Amos, spoke about Stewardship and that everything we do touches on Stewardship. All we give of our time, our talent, and treasure, gives back to God. The first Annual Environmental Stewardship – water ministry will be inputted into the *Good News*. Marthe Curry was the stewardship speaker on Consecration Sunday.

Fr. David reminded the parish of the diocesan motto, that “we are a missionary people.” He spoke about our outreach ministry with Southeast Mexico and Honduras, and it was noted that the Daughters of the King (DOK) are missionaries as well.

DOK President Lynn Zimmermann reported on missionary work being right here “in this space, in our homes, here and outside.” St. Andrew’s, Seguin, is interested in forming a DOK chapter and has asked for our assistance. Last Sunday several St. Francis parishioners went to witness the new chapter being created.

Reports from all the ministries were accepted by acclamation.

Chairperson of the Planning Committee, Don Stackhouse, made a preliminary presentation to the parish. The full presentation of the Planning Committee’s work will be Feb. 16.

Don complimented outgoing vestry members Dana Downey and Tom Meyer. Don stated that he stepped into Ronnie Harper’s shoes as Senior Warden.

Fr. David announced that Lynda Leadford will continue as Treasurer; Libby Templeton as Clerk; and Brian Benham will be the new Senior Warden. The Jr Warden is elected by the vestry and Fr. David mentioned that that will happen at the next vestry meeting. Tom Meyer stated that he will assist that person in any way.

The meeting adjourned with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Pollock, Parish Administrative Assistant

**Acolyte Ministry Annual Report for 2014**

*By Dale E. Jones, Acolyte Director*

The Acolyte Ministry at St. Francis exists to serve God by assisting the priest during the liturgy in the facilitation of worship. Acolyte duties include lighting and extinguishing the candles, leading the procession of the choir and altar party into the nave for the worship service, as well as leading them from the nave during the recessional as worship concludes. During the liturgy, acolytes bring the Gospel to the midst of the people for the reading by the priest and work in concert with the ushers and greeters to present the offerings, gifts and Eucharistic elements to the altar. An acolyte assists the priest in setting and clearing the Table for the Eucharist, rings the Sanctus bells, and performs the duties of thurifer when incense is used.

During Year 2014, the Acolyte ministry is happy to report that Tommie Woollven rejoined our ranks. To our disappointment the number of Acolytes seems to be diminishing. If you have a sense of call to serve God in this capacity, please contact me by phone (210)557-1023.

Senior Server/Crucifer

Dale Jones, Don Stackhouse, Valerie Kirk, Libby Templeton

Torch Bearers

Lyn Jones, Hanna White, Josh White, and Tommie Woollven

Book Bearer

All current acolytes can serve in this capacity, including Bob Amos

We thank the parishioners for their support throughout 2014.

**Adult Education Report 2014**

*By Libby Templeton*

Adult education at St. 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)

The Sunday study time continues to typically revolve around discussion of the seasonally appropriate readings from the Lectionary. The Tuesday and Wednesday study classes have offered quite a bit of variety. The Tuesday class completed its study on the Gospel of John and began Luke Timothy Johnson’s course *Jesus and the Gospels*; the course is thought provoking and focuses on exploring the Gospels and our perceptions of Jesus through a combination of DVD lecture and class discussion. After completing their study of Revelation, the Wednesday class embarked on watching and discussing a DVD series by local archaeologist and historian Dr. Bill Neidinger.

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.

Several parishioners gather weekly for a lay led *lectio divina* bible class.

The Rector also offers classes for candidates for confirmation, reception, and reaffirmation, as well as new member orientation, training for acolytes, Eucharistic ministers, and others who assist the priest in the conduct of worship on an as-needed basis. Linda Hillin and Fr David have once again received the training to conduct SafeGuarding God’s Children and those classes are offered periodically and as needed.

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

**St Francis by the Lake Altar Guild Report 2014-2015**

*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 2014:

1. Successfully designated support for and completed support for Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Easter Sunday and Advent.
2. Continued to update the Altar Guild Notebook. This is a continuing process.
3. Using the wooden Missal Stand, altar candle sticks, and alms basins continues to considerably reduce the wear of our brass appointments.
4. Updated the Altar Guild “Board” and represented the Guild for the Ministry Fair.
5. Held one “working” breakfast meeting in conjunction with preparing the church for Palm Sunday.
6. Hosted a “Thank You!” dinner at my home for guild members.
7. Submitted a budget projection for 2015 to the Vestry and it was approved without amendment.
8. Decorated the Chrismon Tree and organized the “Greening of the Church.”
9. Covered all Christmas services with Altar Guild members.
10. Continued to clean out “stuff” from the Sacristy that did not support our mission.
11. Used Altar Guild Memorial Funds, Acolyte Operating Funds, and Altar Guild Operating Funds to purchase new torches with chimneys. This was one of our priorities for 2014. We also purchased a liquid candle lighter to replace the wax wicks for lighting the altar candles and a replacement pall as part of our communion linens.

Goals for 2015:

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

Priorities for 2015:

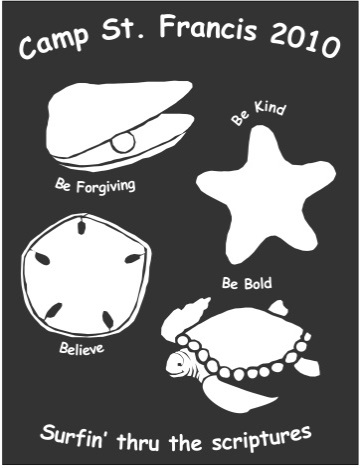
1. Recruit new members!
2. Replace processional cross with one that matches the new torches.
3. Purchase stands for the old torches so they can be stored safely



**Brotherhood of St. Francis**

*By Ray Thompsett, Chair*

The Brotherhood of St. Francis is a group of men who sponsor and cook a monthly breakfast for any and all male members of the St. Francis church family. They also cook and serve the Annual Pancake Supper. We also welcome parishioners to bring non-members to these monthly and annual events. The Brotherhood also is available to work on projects, such as grounds clean-up, Columbarium improvements etc. All male members of the St. Francis are encouraged to be part of this ministry. The Brotherhood also supports, helps organize and set up the Annual Church rummage sale. We plan to aggressively recruit new members this year.

**Vacation Bible School**

*By Fr. David*

This year St Francis partnered with our friends at St Andrew Lutheran Church in Startzville. We were truly blessed by this cooperative effort. A number of parishioners volunteered to ensure the children enjoyed daily activities, learning 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 great fun (music, crafts, and recreational activities.)

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**Choir**

*By Ricky Therneau*

The choir is composed of wonderfully dedicated members who enjoy singing to the Glory of God.

Each individual member is a very important aspect of the whole and serves in many capacities. The congregation sees members of the choir in various parts of the liturgy in other robes, but the unity of voices always rings during the anthem. The choir (especially me) also wishes to thank Brenda Smith for spending at least one day a month filing music and cleaning the choir room.

The coming year will add more solos from the members and perhaps a service of “Evensong” this spring. Also included will be more flute solos and maybe a piano/organ solo or two.

One of the main purposes of the choir is to assist in the leadership of our worship. This is becoming the number one focus of the choir at St. Francis by the Lake.

**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 2014, 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 2014**

*By Keren Necaise*

The Columbarium had some wonderful improvements done this past year. The Columbarium committee contracted with Stone Crafters of Canyon Lake to add new curbing, new crushed granite, new mulch and a wonderful peaceful fountain to our columbarium area. New stone was also added to outline the garden area where Knock Out roses were planted. This has made the whole area more peaceful and inviting; just sit and visit and listen to the wonderful sound of the water flowing from three fountainheads. We invite you to visit our columbarium and just relax and feel the presence of God.

We had no interments this year; one niche 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 10 niches available in the Garden of Eden (holding up to 4 urns each).

The balance in the Columbarium fund as of December 31, 2014 is $31,935.14.

The Columbarium Committee members are Keren Necaise, Chair; Tommie Helen Woollven; Winnie Benson; and Ray Thompsett

**The Daughters of the King**

*By Lynda McNab, Chapter President*

The 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 chapter is a large and very active chapter. We currently have 31 active members. 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 Lynda McNab, Lynn Zimmermann, or the parish office.

Daughters of the King meet monthly. Meetings include fellowship, a short business meeting, group study, and discussion of the prayer list. This year we have continued our study taken from Devotional Classic, a compilation of spiritual writings intended to inspire, encourage and guide Christians. Meetings are suspended in the summer, but are replaced with casual gatherings for spiritual fellowship and sharing our walk. This year we are encouraging members to join other chapters in spiritual walking as they prepare for the Triennial in Utah this summer. Each month we focus on a different meditation as we walk and record the miles to add to those of others.

The DOK serves at receptions for funerals, memorials, and other occasions.

Each year DOK and ECW 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 for a day of spiritual direction and reflection. This year our quiet day featured the Rev. Nancy Coon, who served at The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit in Dripping Springs for 13 years. She spoke to us on “Rekindling the Gift of God Within You: Along the Road with Jesus.”

The Daughters of the King helped to provide food for two families during the Christmas and Thanksgiving break. Children in these families would have breakfast and lunch provided at school. Easy to prepare items, both individual and family size, were gathered and delivered to the school counselors. 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 serve through 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 set before us, and we are making a difference in our parish 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 from meetings in the summer. (We participate in one activity in the summer and that is a celebration of summer birthdays in the month of July). Our meetings usually consist of gathering in a members home, enjoying a guest speaker, having a short meeting, and then celebrating members birthdays that month, every 2nd Thursday of the 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 a member of ECW by virtue of the fact you worship at St. Francis. We welcome you and invite you to come and experience the love we have for one another.

Our fundraisers are a big part of the life of ECW. We have two fundraisers a year. One in the Fall, TWICE BLESSED, RUMMAGE SALE AND BAKE SALE, and our big fundraiser in February, HAVE A HEART FOR A CHILD, VALENTINE LUNCHEON AND MARKET. From the proceeds of these two amazing fundraisers, we are able to make a substantial difference in the lives of many in and around our community. I am deeply moved by the dedication our ladies have shown in order to make our fundraisers so very successful. If you are interested in seeing where our money goes, 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 peace and love to all.

**Evangelism – 2014**

*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) 17 individuals/families signed the guest book and 7 were visited by the Welcoming Committee. Two Newcomer Dinners were held, 13 newcomers attended and all have become members or regular attendees at St. Francis. The next Newcomer Dinner will be scheduled for early spring. Part of welcoming our visitors and newcomers are to present anyone visiting for the first time a “welcome mug.” We order the mugs once or twice a year as needed. For those who live in our area, we send a team from our welcoming committee to their home to drop off a welcome package, which usually contains “cookies in a jar,” a copy of our newsletter, *The Franciscan*, and pens or pencils and any other items we may have available. Usually once a year we gather to make the “cookies in a jar.” Anyone is welcome to help. We have several teams that make visits. Many have positive feedback. If you would like to help, please contact Ronnie Harper at (210) 885-6886.

Ushers/Greeters – currently we have 34 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. We utilized the local newspapers, the *Herald Zeitung* and the monthly publication in Canyon Lake, *Canyon Lake Views*, to promote various activities and holiday services. We’ve had banners made for these events as well; these banners were hung outdoor at the corner of FM 306 and Spring Mountain Drive. The local Chamber of Commerce 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)**

*By Betty Morris*

Our FEAST groups continue to provide a wonderful way to get to know each other, our neighbors and friends on a deeper level. Over 50 people participated regularly and many others were invited. Groups were smaller so that, if everyone regularly in the group came along with Fr. David and Julie, the group was 10 people and that number will fit around most dining room tables.

This next year, I am trying something new due to a personal need. I contacted all the single people-who happen to be women-and asked if they would like to partner with another woman so one would cook and the other have it at her home. Some have mentioned that their homes are not large enough and this way, they could still be part of FEAST. So far the response has been good and we will see how this works out.

FEAST groups are dinner groups that meet in homes, restaurants, parks, or wherever the host decides. The host provides the entrée and others bring side dishes, appetizers, desserts. The only rule is that no hard liquor is to be served. If you would like to be part of a FEAST group, sign the sheet in the narthex or call Betty Morris, (830) 515-8659 or email at bmorris@gvtc.com. Enjoy!

**Flower Guild**

*By Winifred Benson*

The Flower Guild, having been founded in June of 2002, is now entering its 14th 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 St. Francis. 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 of greenery and red ribbons.

Memorial donations of the altar flowers, two each Sunday, remain at $25 each, and we encourage all to continue to remember their 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.

***The Franciscan* and the *Good News***

*By Maury Meyer and Linda Hillin*

*The Franciscan* was published monthly during 2014, except for the customary combined June/July issue, with Maury Meyer as Editor. Janet Pollock, as parish secretary, continued her good work in assembling the articles and photographs in a reader-friendly design. Linda Hillin continued to pull together the weekly e-news, the Good News, and provided many, if not most, of the wonderful photographs for both communication publications throughout the year.

Many times we have heard folks say “I didn’t know about this ‘fill-in-the-blank activity,” and we are both usually surprised by that. If all parishioners would get in the habit of reading both *The Franciscan* and Good News on a routine basis, we should never hear such statements. For *The Franciscan* this year, after consultation with Fr. David, Janet began altering the placement of articles and photos from various ministries throughout the newsletter, instead of always placing them on the same page or area, in order to encourage our readers to read the entire newsletter.

We are indebted to and grateful for the people who write regular columns, who send articles to keep everyone informed of the many ministries that define our parish, and send the weekly updates on upcoming activities. However, the editors can only assemble the news, and edit it for spelling, grammar, punctuation, style, clarity, and brevity. There is no way we can know all that is going on and report it to the parish: that is the duty of our ministry leaders, and all of our other involved St. Francis parishioners.

Alas, this year, we had continual problems with some ministries failing to report newsworthy articles in a timely fashion, causing delays in getting *The Franciscan* out to the parish, and leaving important upcoming activities out of the weekly Good News; with some ministries providing meeting minutes, instead of news articles; and even with some who failed to report at all. Ministry leaders who lead routine services (such as ushers and greeters, readers, acolytes, altar guild, flower guild and delivery, and hospitality/newcomer visitors) are not expected to provide news articles, unless something happens out of the ordinary, about which parishioners should be informed, or perhaps to solicit more involvement if needed. Other ministry leaders, who have past or upcoming actions that parishioners should be aware of, are responsible for reporting news on the past month’s activity, as well as upcoming activities, in a timely fashion (by the 20th of each month for *The Franciscan* and each Monday by 9:00 a.m. for the Good News.) If you are unable to fulfill this duty, please delegate the task to another willing and knowledgeable member of your group.

Finally, if any parishioner, not just ministry leaders, has information that should be shared with the rest of us, please submit your articles to *The Franciscan* and the Good News.

We pray that all our leaders will provide their news to us, and all parishioners will read the monthly newsletter and weekly e-news, ever more faithfully in 2015.

**St. Francis by the Lake/*Manos de Dios* 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 maximized the space and used 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 third year where we selected a remote village close to Danlí to bring all of our resources (both physical and spiritual). 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 2014, we went to *Yuscaran*, which is a beautiful little colonial town. In January 2015, the Manos to Go will go to the village of San Lorenzo, where we will be conducting a vision clinic and vacation bible school for the children in the village.

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 2015 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). The profits from these micro-enterprises have helped the ladies of the community bring some income to their families, as well as helping them reinvest some of the funds into materials for future projects. Another important ministry is the Manos Scholarship Program for students in 9th-12th grades, as well as college. Currently, the program has 38 middle and high school students including 7 college students studying in areas such as Civil Engineer, Industrial Engineer, Agronomy, Forestry, Computer Science and Nursing. In December 2014, we had three students graduate from high school. In addition, we have had 4 students from our Scholarship Program graduating from college. 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.

**Grants**

This year we received two grants. We were awarded the Miles for Pennies grant for a total of $844.80 to be used for the purchasing of books for our library in our Manos de Dios community center in Danlí. This grant was sponsored by the Church Periodical Club which has an affiliation with the Episcopal Church.

We also received 438 pairs of new shoes from Buckner Shoes for Orphan Souls, which is a non-profit organization located in Dallas. We will bring as many of those shoes that we can to Danlí during our January trip.

**Upcoming Trip to Honduras in January 2015**

A total of 18 members, including 5 members from St Francis, will be traveling to Danlí, Honduras from January 21-28, 2015. The St Francis members include: Fr David, Gloria Wildberger, Mo and Harold Simmons, and Patricia Perea.

The objectives of the January trip are as follows:

1. Conduct three Vision Clinics: Manos de Dios, Ojo de Agua, and San Lorenzo
2. Continue the train the trainer program with workshops in:
   1. Club Aventura – Book club
   2. Baking Cookies, cupcakes and empanadas
3. Launch year 13 of the scholarship program
   1. Select 7-8 new candidates for 2014
   2. Intercambio: ESL/Spanish session
   3. Scholarship award ceremony
   4. Meet with recent high school graduates (Class of 2014)
   5. Meet with 3 seniors scholarship recipients who graduated in Dec 2014
   6. Honor Roll Dinner with top 3 students and their families and the Manos de Dios Team
4. Manos to Go to San Lorenzo (Vision Clinic and VBS)
5. Work on the construction projects:

a. Build Manos de Dios school supply store front

b. Church maintenance projects

c. Build a tin roof for the water basin (tentative)

*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 to 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.

**Ministers of Love**

*By Tricia Jones, Meal Coordinator*

St. Francis by the Lake, Ministers of Love, is one of many avenues that our parish has to love and serve our parish family. This ministry is dedicated to assisting our folks during times when it is difficult to prepare food for themselves and their caregivers. Giving AND receiving are blessings that nurture our souls.

During this year, Ministers of Love provided food for about 15 recipients plus their family and care givers. January through September, Bette Wehner was the meal coordinator and we used the electronic tool “Meal Train.” In October, Tricia Jones became the meal coordinator and we began using “TakeThemAMeal.com,” a free web-based tool, that was simpler to use, collected all the information participants need, and was very accommodating for changing circumstances.

Using the electronic tools, phone trees and word of mouth, meal schedules were set up on very short notice when there were emergencies and they were planned well in advance of scheduled events such as surgeries. Sometimes only one meal was needed and there were a few circumstances where support was provided for several weeks and months. A birthday cake was delivered to one recipient and a special meal was prepared for a family before a funeral.

Implementation of the new tool has been received enthusiastically from meal recipients and meal preparers (Ministers of Love) and it is an efficient tool for the meal coordinator.

Information about the Ministers of Love is in the Weekly “Good News” electronic newsletter and articles were in several of the monthly *Franciscan* newsletters.

Information about those who may have had a need for meals was closely coordinated with the Ministers of Love Meal Coordinator, Fr. David, the Parish Office, and the Daughters of the King prayer team contact person.

For 2015, we have plans to clear a shelf in the freezer and stock it with prepared meals that are immediately available when a need arises.

It is easy enough to count the number of people helped and the number of meals provided to know that this ministry is successful. What cannot be measured is the nourishment of this Body of Christ that occurs as individuals allow others to help and when the Body cares for one another.

**Eucharistic Visitors**

*By Betty Morris*

Eucharistic Visitors are prepared each Sunday, or other necessary occasion, to take Holy Communion from the altar at St. Francis to people who would like to receive it but are unable to attend the service. The travel Communion set is placed on the altar during Sunday services, if there is a request, and then it is filled with Consecrated Elements. At the end of the service, the Visitor comes to the altar and the priest says, “I send you forth to \_\_\_ in the name of St. Francis Church.” The parish responds, “We who are many are one Body for we all share, one Bread, one Cup.” The visitor then leaves to go to the person requesting Communion and their family, friends, or caregivers.

When requesting a Visitor, please call the office and if a request has not been made or, if changes are necessary at the last minute, call Betty Morris before 9:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. We who are many are ONE BODY, for we all share one Bread, one Cup. Keep those not physically present with us and receiving this Communion in your prayers.

**Hospitality**

*By Lynda Leadford and Velda Vukoder*

Hospitality is such an essential part of our services on Sunday. It is another way in which we serve not only our members, but guests and visitors as well. We share our gifts of coffee and treats (whether baked or bought). This simple act serves as a continuation of our service, allowing us to meet, greet and share God’s love. If you are interested in serving in this ministry, please contact Lynda Leadford at (210) 508-5497.

Velda has taken over the 10:30 a.m. hospitality. All has gone well. We welcome the addition of Debbie Barnwell and Lyn Boudreaux in our welcoming ministry.

**Ushers and Greeters**

*By Lynda Leadford and George Glasby*

Ushers are generally the first set of people you meet at the church’s door. They greet and welcome you, hand you a bulletin, answer questions and give directions. They also count the number of people attending, bring the bread and wine to the Altar, and collect the offering. This is certainly a good way to get to know others and recognize newcomers. If you attend the 8:00 a.m. service, please think about joining our group. We usher about once every two months. If you are interested in the 8:00 a.m. service, please call Lynda Leadford at (210) 508-5497.

The Greeters for 10:30 a.m. service number 21 at the present time. We try to alternate where each person only serves once a month. This summer with vacations, we managed at some services to only use two or three greeters to cover the service. On the *All Together Now* services, we have two greeters from 10:30 a.m. and two from the 8:00 a.m. service. If you would like to join the 10:30 ushers, please call George Glasby.

**Landscape**

*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 very hot summer, we have not had any scheduled workdays, with volunteers helping with some of clearing of areas we do not maintain on a regular basis. Hopefully in the New Year, we can address this problem.

**Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors**

*By Libby Templeton*

The Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors serving St. Francis by the Lake continued their outstanding support of our worship services throughout 2014. There are currently 10 Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs) and 15 Lectors faithfully providing their service in support of our weekly worship.

There will be a training session in early 2015 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 contact me at ltempleton254@gmail.com or (817) 475-3909.

**Memorials 2014**

*By Betty Morris, Memorial Committee Chair*

During 2014, memorials were received for Marge Eliot, Bob Bartlett, Barbara Wickert, Bob Badders, Lee Sommers, Kirstin Lenius, Fr. Bob Hedges, and Ed Kelley. Gifts were also received to honor Richard Ellas, Maury and Tom Meyer, Fr. David’s birthday, and the marriage of Ronnie and Chuck Schwakhofer.

Some gifts were designated to the Altar Guild and used in the purchase of the new torches. The Building Fund and Daughters of the King also received designated gifts. Other receipts were not designated. Keep the Memorial Funds in mind, not only to remember one who has died, but also to honor a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion.

**Outreach Activities 2014**

*By Bernie Frey*

St. Francis parishioners continued to generously support many Outreach programs in the community and area in 2014.

Participation continued for the events that are on a continuing schedule such as the CROP walk that supports Church World Service; Community Resource and Recreation Center (CRRC) programs and especially the food bank; First Sunday services at the St. Jude’s Ranch for Children Bulverde Campus; Quarterly blood drives; Providing bags of groceries to The Good Samaritan Center in San Antonio for their Christmas meal program; our quarterly highway cleanup of a two mile section FM 2673 through Sattler and sending Christmas cards to deployed military members.

In addition to those scheduled activities and programs, parishioners continue their volunteer work in the community and in the area through work in a wide host of activities involving school volunteering, many facets of CRRC activities, local boards and committees of social and civic organizations such as CASA, CRRC, Tye Preston Library, Lions Club, Rotary, and the Comal Crisis Program.

The year 2014 saw St. Francis join with local churches in two new programs: *Family Promise* and the Student Nutrition Program.

St. Francis joined St. Andrew Lutheran Church as a support church for their quarterly hosting of Family Promise clients. *Family Promise* is a nonprofit organization committed to helping low-income families achieve lasting independence. St. Andrews hosts families from *Family Promise* of Greater New Braunfels for a week once a quarter. St. Francis takes the responsibility for the evening one day of the week. Participation involves providing and serving the evening meal, helping with homework as necessary in addition to family support and conversation.

The Student Nutrition Program is a two part program provides supplemental food items during the summer months to students who during the school year receive either free or reduced price meals and also on weekends during the school year. We have joined with the First Baptist Church supporting their ‘backpack program’ which provides food to those same students over the weekend. With both programs recipients are identified by the Communities in Schools representatives at Startzville Elementary, Mountain Valley Elementary and Middle Schools.

As with our continuing programs, these two new programs extend the hands of St. Francis deeper and wider into our community helping others who but for the Grace of God go I.

**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.

**Stewardship**

*By Bob Amos, Chairman*

Our annual stewardship pledge campaign at St. Francis by the Lake, ran from October 5 through November 2, 2014. We employed learning from the 2014 “Abide in Me” conference and focused our messages on the mission of our parish, the dioceses, and the world. We invited all members of our parish to participate in that mission though prayerful commitment of their talent and financially.

Our campaign included four speakers, one for each Sunday, who spoke frankly about why they give, mission and invitation to participate in our mission. Three were members of St. Francis by the Lake. One was a guest speaker, Cheri Green from St. James, Del Rio. Feedback from the parish was positive and encouraging.

We sent letters to the parish membership from the vestry and a personal letter from Fr. David during the weeks leading up to Consecration Sunday. These letters reinforced the messages heard in church and provided reminders for key dates.

Our ingathering, Consecration Sunday, was November 2, 1994. Members of the congregation brought their commitment forward during both services. A celebration luncheon was provided after the 10:30 service. Phone follow up was conducted to assure everyone had the invitation to participate.

Mission and ministry is the focus of our year ’round stewardship. We share opportunity for participation every week formally through the *Good News* and announcements, and monthly through our annual parish newsletter, *the Franciscan*. We share one on one as we minister to each other and invite others to our ministry. As we progress through 2015 we will continue this focus and are seeking to enhance communication of successes in changing lives through our ministry.

**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 conducted the second annual mission November 11-18, 2014. The seven-member the team consisted of Father David Chalk as Spiritual Director, Dale Jones and Dr. Valerie Kirk, Linda Jones from St. Mark’s, San Antonio; Dr. Celeste Hill from St. Stephen’s, Sweetwater; Carol Reed from Church of the Advent, Brownsville, and Eigner Juárez from the Anglican Diocese of Southeast Mexico. The mission team was divided into the Small Animal Team composed of Dr. Celeste, Linda Jones and Carol Reed, and the Large Animal Team of Dr. Valerie, Father David, Dale and Eigner.

Funding this year came from a variety of sources including a diocesan apportionment of $9,637.14 for medications, in-country transportation and emergency animal care kits for the parishes. However, the medications and vaccines were funded in part by the government of the State of Veracruz, and a very generous donor from within the Diocese of West Texas. Additionally, the Commission for Women’s Ministries of our diocese donated $304.06 for animal care books for the parish libraries.

The Commission for Women’s Ministries also donated $825 to purchase five copies of the two-part DVD, *Effective Livestock Care*, a companion to the animal care book *Donde No Hay Doctor Para Animales.* Each parish will receive a copy of the DVD for their library*.* A video projector recently purchased by the Diocese of Southeast Mexico will be used for showing the DVD’sin the parishes, allowing us to reach a much wider audience of animal owners than was originally planned. The video demonstrates livestock care techniques using live animals. Because it is in a bi-lingual English-Spanish format, it can be shown to Spanish or English speaking audiences, as well to audiences who speak any language, using an interpreter who speaks their language and either English or Spanish . This will be very valuable resource because there are many native languages spoken in the rural communities in Mexico.

Additional funding was provided through the sale of Anglican prayer beads which raised $754 this year.

Although the animal care classes have not yet been formally established, teaching of animal care techniques has already begun. During the work days of this year’s mission, large animal owners were encouraged to try vaccinating and deworming their horses and cattle, and dog and cat owners were shown proper restraint techniques.

The rural communities served this year included the San Pedro Apóstol parish of Arroyo Zacate, the San Andrés Apóstol parish of Santa Teresa Barrio de Pacheco, the La Divina Providencia parish of El Camalotal, the La Santa Cruz parish of La Joya and the Jesús de Nazaret parish of La Esperanza Arroyo de Gloria. In five workdays we treated 1,596 animals this year, which was an increase of 65% over last year.

Behind the numbers and the statistics of is the true heart of mission work which is spreading the Gospel of Jesus by loving our neighbors as ourselves. We go to educate and empower our friends to create better lives for themselves and their families. We give of ourselves, from our hearts, the love Christ first gave us. And we receive so much more from our friends than we can ever give to them. It takes much more to accept strangers into your home than it does to be the stranger. The Mexican people welcomed us with open arms, with hugs and kisses. Not only did they give us their love, they give us their trust. We have become one, working together in a partnership for growthandsuccess.Everymorningwhen the parish women lovingly prepared a hot lunch in our honor and served in the one of the homes in the parish, it testified to that trust. Thanks and appreciation was in evidence daily as everyone generously shared whatever they had with us. And in parting at the end of each day, we kept in our hearts the knowledge that we would be together again next year.

Thank you all for your prayers and financial support, your encouragement and enthusiasm. We could not do this work without you. On behalf of all your friends in Mexico, “Muchas, muchas gracias y bendiciones para todos!”

bs00580_**St. Francis by the Lake Website 2014**

*By Keren Necaise*

The Saint Francis by the Lake Website was revised this year and has a whole new look. The new website is a lot more user-friendly and also is easier to update. It has the same information as the old website, and more. One of the important purposes of our website is to inform visitors about all the ministries we have available, where we are and how to contact us; and to keep members of Saint Francis updated on what is happening at our church. Try viewing our website to read our Franciscan and ministry schedules and to enjoy the many pictures that Linda Hillin provides for us of all our important functions. Our website address is www.saintfrancisbythelake.org.

**United Thank Offering (UTO) 2014**

*By Mary K. Chittenden*

The United Thank Offering ((UTO) the little blue/white boxes for your change)) is held twice a year. The UTO is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. The UTO is entrusted to promote thank offerings, to receive the offerings, and to distribute the UTO monies to support mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church and in invited Provinces of the Anglican Communion in the developing world.

Through the UTO Fall and Spring Ingathering at St. Francis, a total of $1,179.40 was sent to the Diocese in 2014.

**Treasurer’s Report – FY 2014**

*By Lynda Leadford*

The last several years we have been working with deficit budgets (ones that expenses were greater than income for the year). In each case we have ended the year well into the black instead. 2014 was no different. The budget that was approved for 2014 indicated that if all went according to plan, we would end the year with a net deficit of $19,009 (expenses over income). We had planned to offset that amount with funds approved and set aside to be used if that came to fruition. But again we finished the year with a net income of $12,828. You might think we would have cut corners to do this. But we did not.

We paid our bills; we covered payroll; we made needed repairs; and we did not lose sight of God’s plan for St. Francis. This parish is full of activity; we are a very energetic group, full of enthusiasm. We kept the highways clean; gave blood; made mission trips to Honduras and Southeast Mexico; helped paint buildings at St. Jude’s Ranch for Children; joined with St. Andrew Lutheran to help families in need through *Family Promise*; helped set up both the North Pole Village at Community Resource and Recreation Center (CRRC) and the Nativity Scene at St. Francis; delivered meals through Ministry of Love; partnered with St. Andrew Lutheran in a joint vacation bible school; provided food to the CRRC Food Pantry; and many other activities. We also provided monetary support to these activities plus raised funds for Communities in Schools, the Good Samaritan Center, Summer Student Nutrition Program, Back Pack Program, Angel Tree Program, CRRC expansion program, Books for Honduras, World Missions support through the United Thank Offering (UTO), and more. The Lord knows how many were helped through the Rector’s Discretionary Fund. And some made time to attend a weekly bible study, or a multitude of monthly ministry meetings. God calls us to be faithful with our time, our talents, and our treasure. We’re doing better about hearing the call!

The Vestry approved the 2015 Budget that is attached to the end of your annual meeting report. This year the difference between what we need to spend and what was pledged amounts to $22,272. Our past history has shown that as we do God’s work we have nothing to fear. We thank Him for His many blessings; we pray for wise leadership; and while we spend prudently, we trust and believe that God is leading us.

A number of people heard the Lord asking them to give more than their pledge. This is the kind of sacrificial giving that is called faithful stewardship.

Year-end statements were emailed or mailed to everyone a few days ago. Since January 2013, “quarterly statements” have sent out. They are meant to serve as statements and reminders and we hope they’ve been helpful. If you have questions please email me **treasure@gvtc.com** or call (210) 508-5497.

The 2014 year-end financial reports are attached as well as the 2015 approved budget for your information. If you have questions after reviewing, please contact me, any Vestry member, or Fr. David. We will be happy to help.

One last note, if you are paying by check, please use the “memo line” to let us know where we should put your contribution: e.g., operations, building, altar guild, flowers, etc.

**December 31, 2014 Notes Payable:**

Church Bldg. Note Payable - $60,000.00

Rectory Note Payable - $26,020.27

**Summary Budget 2014:**

Operations **Actual**  **Budget**

Income $276,130.57 $248,064.00

Expenses $263,302.06 $267,073.00

NET $ 12,828.51 ($19,009.00)

**2015** – 73 Pledges - $242,979.00

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

**Junior Warden**

*By Dale Jones*

In 2014 we had several major repairs.

Our first project was to repair the A/C unit for the Church. Next we replaced the gutters on the entryway to the Church. We then replaced the A/C ducting in the Parish Hall. We are presently working on repairing the flat roof on the church in order to stop the water leak in the Sacristy and prevent leaks elsewhere. Several minor repairs were also accomplished and I had a lot of help. I would like to take this opportunity to give a special “Thank You” to Tom Meyer, Marcel Klaftenegger, Ken Leadford, and Larry Bosenbark.

After the roof is repaired, we still have projects to complete. If you know any experienced drywall or window framers, please contact me at (210) 557-1023.

**Senior Warden**

*By Brian Benham*

Three years ago, when I was asked to join the Vestry at St. Francis by the Lake, I agreed with a great deal of trepidation. Two of the greatest reasons for these feelings was what could I possibly contribute to the leadership of the parish, and did I have enough time. In time, I discovered that participation was rewarding and touched my soul, knowing that I was contributing to not only our church, but His church. Participating as I did allowed me to see aspects of the functioning and life of St. Francis that were not evident to me before.

When Fr. David approached me last year to ask if I’d serve as Sr. Warden, I hesitated less, but still felt unworthy to represent this fine church family as your Sr. Warden. The depth and breadth of the genuine love that this congregation displays both to our own and to those in our community is profound. This love helped to carry me and my ministry to you and the Vestry forward. Seeing the growth in our church family in terms of community and foreign outreach is inspirational and motivational. However, we must never rest on our figurative laurels to admire all we’ve done. Christ’s kingdom is too big, and needs us more than you know.

So, as the new year brings in a new Sr. Warder and Vestry members, please step forward not with criticism but executable suggestions for growth. Start to dream of what we can accomplish and do not hesitate. Be a part of the church, Christ’s church that sees the need both within our parish and in the greater world. Remember, we are the body, in Christ, that must go forth to not preach with our voices, but preach with our deeds and bring our abundant love to those that need it most.

In closing, I’d like to thank the love of my (earthly) life, my Bride, Stacey. She was ever my champion and compass when I felt lost or overwhelmed. To Fr. David, and my Vestry brethren, thanks as well. Follow your vision, knowing that it is provided not by you, but by Christ.

Brian

**Rector’s Report**

*Fr. David Chalk*

Pastorally we have seen growth and some changes. The Sunday schedule is full with Adult Bible conversations and lively worship. The numbers of people whom I see to pray with and offer spiritual counsel is increased and it is apparent that there is a profound need for support for married people.

Administratively the office is moving ahead. The new job title of Parish Administrative Assistant sits very well on Janet’s shoulders and she and I have a good and complimentary working relationship. The Vestry has been engaged with mission and ministry ideas over the past year as well as with structural and organizational matters.

Sacramentally at St Francis by the Lake, during 2014, there was one baptism. There were no weddings and we celebrated the lives of Marge Elliot, Kirsten Lenius, and Sue White. The Eucharist was celebrated at least twice every Sunday (except on 5th Sundays where we gather together as one), our average attendance continues to hover around 100. The time people spend with the Rector before worship is having an impact on all; and it is expected that forthcoming classes will also help our life together deepen.

Presently, I am a nominee for Diocesan Executive Board; and I have been reappointed to serve on the Mission Commission, as an Examining Chaplain; and am the newly appointed Dean of the Northeast Convocation.

As we allow the Holy Spirit to move in our lives and seek to mature as Christians I see challenge and opportunity. What a privilege it is to serve our Lord Jesus Christ here! May we all worthily serve each other and the world in His Name.

