

St. Francis by the Lake

Diocese of West Texas

Annual Parish Meeting

January 24, 2016

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**St. Francis by the Lake**

**The Minutes of The Annual Parish Meeting**

January 18, 2015

The Annual Meeting opened in prayer.

Ray Thompsett moved to accept the minutes of the previous year, Tom Meyer 2nd, and Maury Meyer called the question.

Fr. David recognized the incoming vestry members Bob Boudreaux, Jay Hillin, and Brad Mount filling the vacancies of outgoing members Brian Benham, Betty Morris, and Libby Templeton. He offered the opportunity for each of the outgoing members to impart insight they’d gleaned over the past three years as input for the vestry and then provided tokens of appreciate for their years of service.

Brian Benham, Sr. Warden, shared that his role had be quite gratifying and fulfilling but also had moments frustration. He’s excited about the growth in the parish and that we’re doing great things – doing, thinking, and touching lives. He mentioned that there’s so much more that we need to do and encouraged us to not put up barriers. He begged us to move forward reminding us that St. Francis by the Lake isn’t just a building or walls, it’s the people. This is our church and for those that come after us. He offered gratitude for the opportunity to serve and thanked Fr. David, and his wife, Stacey. His final remark was that we can’t stop, don’t stop.

Fr. David continued with the meeting sharing that Betty Morris had shared that her time on the vestry had been a blessing and a time for healing. That it truly is an example of one size doesn’t fit all. He announced that Lynda Leadford had agreed to serve as the parish Treasurer, Brenda Klaftenegger had agreed to serve as Clerk, and Dale Jones had agreed to continue to serve as Jr. Warden, each for 2015. He then discussed the role of Sr. Warden, that it’s the only role that’s appointed by the rector and that he’s been so blessed here; Larry Woollven, and then Ronnie Harper Schwakhoffer, Don Stackhouse, and Brian Benham. He asked Bob Amos to serve as the next Sr. Warden and looks forward to working with him during the coming year.

Lynda Leadford presented the Financial Report starting with WOW! We faced the beginning of 2014 with a deficit budget of $19k and finished the year in the black by $13k – a difference of $32K! She offered a big “Thank you” and encouragement for the coming year because while we’d begin with a deficit budget of $22k, history has shown that we are faithful and we shouldn’t be worried. She shared that she’s proud of the mindset that we have – that money doesn’t steer ministry, ministry drives and that money takes a second seat to ministry. That God’s calling us to be the Body of Christ in Canyon Lake, not to raise money.

Fr. David shared an analogy about the things in life being like a glass of water. If you only have to hold the glass for a little while, things are fine. But when you have to hold it up all day, every day, it starts to hurt – until you can’t move or think about anything else. One option may be to put your burden down. However some people are not free to do this. And so there’s another option: it’s the ministry among us, of sharing. [He then took a pitcher to represent his ministry of St. Francis by the Lake: “what am I supposed to do?: he asked. “How long can I hold it?” Spoons were then distributed, with the question – How do you get a spoon at St Francis by the Lake? Answer: Come and get one. And then the ministry is *mutual and shared*… The secret/the trick, the ***goal*** is to invite people to take some and pour it into something to grow, then come back for more – and invite others to take a spoon. Finally, it was explained quite plainly that the metaphor was not about spoons and cups; it’s the water, the water of life, of baptism. This was his *prolegomena* of the time to talk about the ministry of St. Francis by the Lake. He then opened the floor and several ministries provided updates.

Bette Wehner encouraged everyone to participate in Have a Heart for a Child, the annual ECW event, to share in the community and encourage participation in caring for the children in our community in need.

Maury Meyer discussed the ministry of Communication. She pointed out that everyone has a role in this. Ministry leaders have the responsibility to share what’s going on and the parish has the responsibility to read and be aware of what’s going on.

Betty Morris spoke about Church Periodical Club and shared how it has provided grants to the Honduras Manos de Dios mission to supply books. She pointed out the red cans spread around the church which are used to raise funds for this very worthy ministry.

Tricia Jones provided an update of our updated meal network. It’s called Ministry of Love. Anyone can be involved in this ministry of taking food to those in need for varying reasons. It uses an email system and is truly a blessing to those that make and receive.

Jeanne Slupik, the Alar Guild Directress, recognized the Altar Guild members present and thanked them for their faithful work preparing the altar for worship throughout the year. She also offered thanksgiving for the opportunity to work with the acolytes, helping them to fund new torches.

Dale Jones, Acolyte Director and Jr. Warden, thanked Jeanne and the Altar Guild for the coordination on the purchase of new torches. In his role as Jr. Warden, he thanked all those that have so faithfully helped him throughout the year keeping things with the building and grounds in shape.

George Glasby thanked all those who faithfully participate in the greeter and usher ministry.

Fr. David announced that each member of the vestry would have a portion of the parish to pray for and contact each month. This would rotate throughout the year and, at the end of the year, they will have prayed for all in the parish. He thanked parishioners for the suggestions and for holding the leadership’s feet to the fire. He asked for the parish to hold them accountable but also reminded us that it goes both ways. He thanked Julie Chalk for all of her love and support.

Special thanks was given to Linda Hillin for all the pictures she takes all year that enables us to reflect and have a wonderful look at all we do.

All ministry reports were approved by acclamation.

The meeting concluded in prayer and was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Libby Templeton

**Acolyte Ministry Annual Report for 2015**

*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 2015, the Acolyte ministry is happy to report that Connor Brian joined 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, Tommie Woollven and Connor Brian.

Book Bearer

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

We thank the parishioners for their support throughout 2015.

**Adult Education Report 2015**

*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 Safe Guarding 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 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 2015:

* Successfully designated support for and completed support for Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Easter Sunday and Advent.
* Continued to update the Altar Guild Notebook. This is a continuing process.
* Using the wooden Missal Stand, altar candle sticks and alms basins continues to considerably reduce the wear of our brass appointments.
* Canceled budget projection for 2016 as there are enough designated funds in the ministry to cover for the year.
* Decorated the Chrismon Tree and organized the “Greening of the Church”.
* Covered all Christmas services with Altar Guild members.
* Continued to clean out “stuff” from the Sacristy that did not support our mission.

Goals for 2016:

* Operate within our budget and use our supplies and current inventory wisely. Recycle where we can
* Develop a plan for replacing the kneelers at the Altar
* Replace linens as necessary.
* Continue to update the Altar Guild Notebook.
* Continue to use email to keep Altar Guild members informed/updated.
* Recycle/replace candle stock for Holy Week services

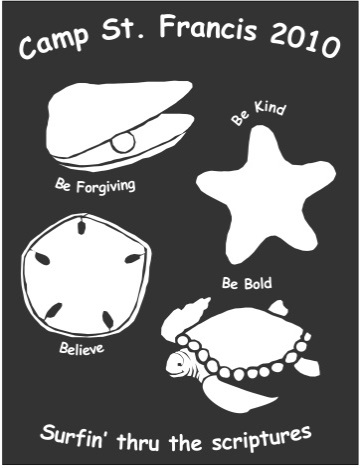
Priorities for 2016:

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

**Brotherhood of St. Francis**

*By Ray Thompsett, Chair*

After a year of no activity the Brotherhood of St. Francis plans to move forward this year. We will meet with Fr. David and discuss where and when we can be effective in the day to day overall working plans and needs of St Francis and the community. An early meeting in the New Year will be planned for all interested men of the St. Francis family and hopefully we will set some attainable goals and objectives for 2016. Be prepared to be active.

**Vacation Bible School – *Who do you say I am?***

*By Lynda McNab*

For the second year St. Francis partnered with St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church for an exciting Vacation Bible School Day Camp held at St. Andrew June 29 through July 3. Through our partnership with St. Andrew we worked with a talented team of energetic, trained young people who led us in Worship, Bible Study, Music, Art and Games.

We were expecting 40 children, but on Monday morning more than 50 showed up and we called in an additional counselor from Cross Trails Ministry. On Tuesday, unfortunately we had to turn away several new children because they just could not be included safely.

From 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., campers played and prayed, sang and danced and answered the question “Who do you say I am?” We learned that I AM is the Good Shepherd, The Vine, The Bread of Life, and The Resurrection. Children added their own answers; “He is my Home,” “He is my Friend,” and “He is my Family.”

As a service project the families and members of both congregations contributed items which were assembled into “Blessing Bags” which can be given to those in need. We assembled more than 75 bags, and like in the story of the loaves and fishes, we gathered the extra items to contribute to the summer feeding program for local children in need.

Volunteers from St. Francis assisted the Cross Trails staff. Betty Colley, Burnham Jones, Candace Fitch, and Linda Bosenbark helped with registration. Gloria Wildberger, Jackie Mata, Alex Wallace, Maureen Simmons, Beverley Matthewson, Don and Kay Stackhouse, Lynda and Robert McNab, and Maury Meyer “shepherded” children during various activities. Meal captains, Maury Meyer and Ronnie Harper-Schwakhofer assisted by Lynn Zimmermann, Tricia Jones, Jo Laney, Brenda Smith, Val Rae Lenius Torres, Mary K Chittenden, Lynda Leadford, Betty Morris, Bernie and Judy Frey, prepared and served snacks and lunches. Tom and Maury Meyer also hosted the counselors for an evening meal.

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**Choir**

*By Ricky Therneau*

This past year has seen the choir grow to twenty members (singers and musicians). This allows the performance of more diversified music. We are looking at the purchase of new robes. The ones being worn now are the only ones St. Francis by the Lake has ever had. If you have any musical suggestions please contact Ricky.

**Christian Education for Children and Youth**

*By Lynda McNab*

Sunday school is provided for children elementary age and younger during the 10:30 a.m. service. Interactive lessons focus on the gospel reading for the week.

This year we have added a Sunday school class for students in Jr. High and High School at 9:15 a.m. We explore the scriptures from the lectionary through prayer, art, music, literature and drama and apply them to living in the world today.

**Church Periodical Club**

*By Betty Morris*

The red canisters you see at the entrance to the church can provide hope for a child! How is that possible? The money you put in there will go to provide books and other reading materials for those who could not otherwise afford them. The goal is to further the mission of Christ throughout the world.

Recently, our Honduras scholars received a grant for books from the Miles of Pennies fund which assists children and students. Patricia Perea says a grant has provided Kindles for the students and she is requesting another CPC grant for books in electronic format. We can help with this by leaving pennies or green paper pennies, or checks - in the red canister. Part of the funds will be sent to the national office to assist with grants and the remainder will go to a specific need identified by Patricia.

The CPC has another fund, National Books Fund, which can assist these students in their careers after graduation. We have had a teacher from Honduras here to speak to us and an NBF grant could assist her in her role as a teacher.

Be a part of this world-wide ministry even while we focus on Honduras students. Help to change the world - one book at a time.

**Columbarium Committee 2015**

*By Keren Necaise*

The Columbarium has been enjoyed this year by many people visiting and experiencing the peaceful setting. We invite you to visit our columbarium and just relax and feel the presence of God.

We did have the right front lower panel suffer some damage. This panel has been ordered and will be replaced as soon as it is shipped from Eickhof Columbaria. We have been notified that it will be here before the end of January.

We had a beautiful red bud tree given in memory of Jo Nairn by Betty Morris. We also had a generous donation of $5,900 made by John and Susan D’Andrea to use for its expansion.

We had four interments this year; four full niches were sold in the Granit Columbarium

This leaves us with 10 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 Dec. 31, 2015 is $40,335.14. Out of that amount we have commitments of $577 for the balance owed on the panel. We will have to have the panel re-engraved.

The Columbarium Committee members are Keren Necaise, Chair; Tommie Helen Woollven; Winnie Benson, Ray Thompsett, Jo Laney, and Linda Bosenbark.

**Community of Hope 2015**

*By Tricia Jones*

The Community of Hope International “A school for God’s service.”

The mission of Community of Hope International (COH) is to create and sustain Christian communities of lay pastoral care givers united in prayer, shaped by Benedictine spirituality and equipped for and serving in pastoral care ministries.

Pastoral care is when a person is being “present” in a listening, compassionate, non-controlling manner to an individual or group for the purpose of consciously or unconsciously representing God to them and seeking to respond to their spiritual needs.

COH focuses on growing each participant spiritually, within a nurturing community “because those who are the healthiest spiritually will have the most to give to others in need.”

In the spring of 2015, Fr David received an invitation from Christ Church Episcopal Church in San Antonio to participate in their upcoming Community of Hope training program. The training was open to parishes that did not have a Community of Hope Center and were exploring starting a center. Tricia Jones, Velda Vukoder and Julie Chalk attended the sessions and were convicted to organize and provide leadership for a Community of Hope center at St Francis.

Dates for training were put on the church calendar; COH materials were ordered and prepared; parish members were asked to pray and discern if they were being called to training and service as lay pastoral caregivers in their current ministries at St Francis and their personal ministries. The first class of Community of Hope began in September and was completed in November. On Nov. 22, 2015, during the 10:30 a.m. service Fr David Chalk commissioned 15 people into the Community of Hope and re-affirmed two members. Fr Gordon Scheible completed the COH training sessions and committed to continue COH participation and support in any way he is able.

Members of Community of Hope have made a covenant to:

• Pray and Worship together

• Expand their knowledge through training and continuing education

• Deepen their love for community

• Strive to see Christ in others and provide pastoral care using each one’s unique motivational spiritual gifts

• Reflect on pastoral experiences through debriefing with prayer partners

The newly commissioned lay pastoral caregivers identified and expressed their personal ministry preferences. Velda, Tricia and Julie, working with Fr David, are developing linkages with facilities (rehab, cancer memory care, hospitals) for visitations and also a process for lay visits to those in need in the St Francis community.

If you would like more information about COH and lay pastoral care, please contact Tricia Jones, Velda Vukoder, Julie Chalk, and Fr David Chalk, or the office.

**The Daughters of the King**

*By Lynda McNab, Chapter President*

The Daughters of the King is an Episcopal order for women whose mission is the extension of Christ’s Kingdom through prayer, service and evangelism.

Each daughter has taken a vow to follow the rules of prayer and service. We pray daily for the unity of Christ’s church, the spread of Christ’s Kingdom, especially among women and girls, for God’s blessings upon the members of the order, for the spiritual growth of the parish and the clergy and for special needs as requested by others. If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, please contact one of the daughters. All requests are confidential.

Daughters fulfill their vow of service in many ways. We help with the receptions for funerals, memorials and other occasions. Many daughters are involved in community service and this year several daughters are tutoring children at Mt. Valley Elementary School. Each Sunday we deliver the alter flowers to those who are ill or in need of encouragement.

Each year the DOK and ECW jointly sponsor a Lenten Quiet Day. Last year we spent the day in quiet contemplation and prayer. This year we are joined by Community of Hope. We encourage all to participate in this opportunity on March 5.

Monthly meetings are held in the parish hall on the fourth Wednesday of each month following the Eucharist. We have a brief business meeting and group study. This year we have continued our study taken from *Devotional Classics*, a compilation of spiritual writing intended to inspire, encourage and guide. In November we traveled to the Pinnacle at Eden Hill to allow members who were residents to participate in the meeting.

The St. Francis by the Lake chapter is a large and very active chapter. We currently have 32 members. We were blessed with 6 new members this year. 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 contact Lynda McNab, Lynn Zimmermann, or the church office.

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 Valeska McHugh, President*

The Episcopal Church Women, (ECW) are the women of St. Francis by the Lake. We work towards spiritual enrichment thru our knowledge of each of our members and building our faith knowledge. Our meetings build our faith through learning what empowers us to accomplish tasks within the church and community. Our meeting are leading us to do good works related to the services we all are provided. How we give of ourselves in our daily lives make a huge difference in each and every life within our sphere of action. Our nine regular meetings a year are held in church member’s homes, learning based and fun filled. Our summer meeting is to celebrate birthdays and enjoy the company of our members.

The ECW kick­off September meeting was one that no none wanted to miss. Our speaker will be Barbara Rosen, Community Relations Coordinator for SODALIS, Assisted Living and Memory Care. Barbara answered frequently asked questions such as, How do you identify dementia or Alzheimer? What are your concerns regarding either diagnosis? How do I care for dementia or Alzheimer patients? How do I effectively respond to emotional and behavioral issues such as anger, confusion, or anxiety? What are the key things to look for when care is no longer effective in the home? Is the next step placement?

**Oct. 8, 2015 –** ECW Outreach to Wimberley with tour, shopping. lunch and learning. Chaplain Jim McKee, Regional Director of Victim Relief Ministry went over What Matters Most, Emotional and Spiritual First Aid, What is an Effective Crisis Responder, How we should Respond, The Process of Crisis Intervention and Training Resources. What an in depth look at what we can and should in this type of disaster. The message was such a sensitive subject so eloquently elaborated. We presented Chaplin a St. Francis Cookbook to remember us and a contribution to cover his expenses.

Stephens’ Sharon East talked about what and how they helped to restore balance for the families that lost everything. They had 31 families and 31 Community of Hope trained responders. Sharon did a wonderful presentation including personal experiences that were truly God’s intervention. We gave St. Stephen’s a love offering for their continued support to the recovery effort.

**Oct. 16 – 17, 2015 –** Twice-Blessed Rummage/Bake Sale at St. Francis for Community Outreach. What a wonderful group of church members that helped and gave of their time, talents and treasurers to make it the best ever!!

**Nov. 12, 2015 –** Our speaker was Chief Brandon Kludth. A question and answer was helpful in knowing about our wonderful EMS and how it works. We learned the geographical areas covered, where we would be transported in an emergency and why, and some of the equipment the new vehicles are using. He explained our air transport and why they call certain carriers. Our area has a new amphibious terrain vehicle which is adapted to our new boat that cruses the lake. The diversification has made our EMS an outstanding service to Comal County in which we can feel very secure

**\*Dec. 12, 2015 (Saturday) 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. –** The ECW was a huge success for all who attended as it was shear fun and pleasure and getting to know our members on a personal level.

The entire year is filled with positive knowledge and hope for being more active in the families lives around us. MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

The remailing meeting are based on knowledge of community, outreach and leaning more about all that is available to us thru faith based organizations.

Our executive committee is chosen from our congregation and truly make a difference in our Church and the community!

**Jan. 14, 2016 –** Program: Community of Hope; What it will mean to you and St. Francis.

Speakers: Lin Boudreaux and Tricia Jones

**Feb. 11, 2016** – To be announced

**Mar. 10, 2016 –** Program: Nominations of new ECW officers

**Mar. 5, 2016 –** Parish-wide Quiet Day

**Apr. 4, 2016 –** Program: Field Trip to West Texas Diocese, Speakers: Bishop Reed and Kurt

Mason – Intro and history of Diocesan Offices.

**May 12, 2016 –** Potluck Salad Luncheon/Meeting 11:30 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Program: Installation of new officers and Honor past presidents.

We appreciate the membership supporting our ECW programs and always look forward to our next meeting. Live Simply! Love Generously! Care Deeply! Speak Kindly!

**Evangelism – 2015**

*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:

We continue to welcome newcomers to St. Francis with a St. Francis mug on their initial visit. Also a home visit is made to local visitors to take gifts which include a jar of cookie mix. A newcomer dinner was held at the rectory on May 31 to welcome 5 newcomers. The next dinner is scheduled for Jan 31.

Ushers/Greeters – currently we have 32 people who alternate as greeters/ each Sunday (two people serve at each service).

Public Relations/Advertising: participated in various events sponsored by the Canyon Lake and Bulverde/Spring Branch Chamber of Commerce. We utilized the local newspaper, Herald Zeitung, the monthly publication in the Canyon Lake Views, and CRRC’s North Pole Village event program to promote our holiday services and other events. We are members of the Canyon Lake Chamber of Commerce; our church brochure is kept in their display case for visitors. This year we advertised in the Texas Symphony Society annual brochure for the first time. Banners promoting our events are hung on our newly constructed banner/sign frame on the corner of FM 306 and Mountain Spring Road. The local 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)**

*By Betty Morris*

The FEAST groups continue to enjoy getting to know those members of St. Francis better and including newcomers and visitors to the groups. This coming six months, we have only five groups due to some temporary situations that made people unable to participate this time, but we look forward to returning to six or more groups in July. We also have had requests from some singles to pair with others to share the preparations to host the groups. Please continue to invite friends and neighbors and newcomers to St. Francis to join when you are hosting a group. For fifteen years, these groups have helped our community become better acquainted, which helps strengthen us - the Body of Christ.

For more information, contact Betty Morris, (830) 515-8659 or [**bmorris@gvtc.com**](mailto:bmorris@gvtc.com).

**Flower Guild**

*By Winifred Benson*

The Flower Guild, having been founded in June of 2002, is now entering its 15th 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 $25.00 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.

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

*By Maury Meyer and Linda Hillin*

*The Franciscan* was published monthly during 2015, except for the customary combined June/July issue, with Maury Meyer as Editor. Janet Pollock, as parish admin. ass’t., 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. 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 might 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 2016.

**St. Francis by the Lake & *Manos de Dios***

*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 –** We have been working in the *colonia Nueva Esperanza* in Danli, Honduras for the past 15 years. The initial commission for the Manos team was to plant a church in Nueva Esperanza, an underserved neighborhood in the heart of Danli. After many years of work, dedication, generous donations, and constant prayers, we have been able to plant and build a church. In addition, we have built a vocational center and have been able to work in various social areas with the purpose of empowering the members of the community and help them be self-sufficient.

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. The idea is to maximize our resources and spread blessings and go to remote villages and work with the local community in various ministries. In January 2015, we decided to work in San Lorenzo, a small village about 40 miles from Danli. We held a vision clinic, as well as a VBS session. We worked side by side with our Honduran partners throughout the day. Manos to Go has become an outreach effort for the Manos de Dios Church. This is something that they do throughout the year as they try to help surrounding villages such as Santa Maria and San Diego.

A small team of three went to Honduras in September 2015 to check on the Manos de Dios mission to help us plan for the January 2016 trip.

**Ongoing Support to Ministries –** The Manos de Dios team continues to support our sister Church in Danli, 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 40 middle and high school students including 8 college students studying in areas such as Civil Engineer, Industrial Engineer, Agronomy, Computer Science and Nursing. In December 2015, we had three students graduating from high school. In addition, we have had 6 students from our Scholarship Program graduating from college to date. 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.

We have added two new programs that are available to the students of the Manos Scholarship Program.

1. Club Intercambio ( ESL Classes)

As we see our students graduate from high school and college we have noticed that they are in a disadvantage compared to other students from other schools that might have been more fortunate to learn English. Given this situation, in March 2014 we decided to start an ESL program for our scholarship students. We have a class of 16 students that meet on Saturdays for three hours led by a local Honduran teacher. The class has been very successful and given the demand, we decided to open a second class of beginner students.

1. Club Aventura (Book Club)

The notion of book clubs is not really something that our students have been exposed to as part of their upbringing either at school or at home. In an effort to encourage and inspire students to read and discuss books with their peers we started a new book club called Club Aventura. It has been a wonderful experience to see these students so excited about the idea of reading and sharing their thoughts. They have read several books throughout the year and in January 2016 we will be introducing reading tablets and they will be able to download many more books.

**Upcoming Trip to Honduras in January 2016 –** A total of 13 members, including 4 members from St Francis, will be traveling to Danli, Honduras from January 13-21, 2016. The St Francis members include: Fr. David, Mo Simmons, Harold Simmons, and Patricia Perea.

The objectives of the January trip are as follows:

1. Conduct three Vision Clinics: Manos de Dios, El Porvenir and Santa Maria
2. Conduct three VBS sessions: Manos de Dios, El Porvenit and Santa Maria
3. Continue the train the trainer program with workshops in:
   1. “Sewing Together” with members of Confecciones Manos De Dios (sewing mircro-enterprise)
4. Launch year 14 of the scholarship program
   1. Select 8-10 new candidates for 2016
   2. Conduct a college fair for all scholarship recipients
   3. Introduce reading tablets (Kindles) to the Club Aventura (book club)
   4. Intercambio: ESL/Spanish session
   5. Scholarship award ceremony
   6. Meet with recent high school graduates (Class of 2015)
   7. Meet with 7 seniors scholarship recipients who will graduate in Dec 2016
   8. Honor Roll Dinner with top 3 students and their families and the Manos Team
5. Manos to Go to El Porvenir and Santa Maria (Vision Clinic and VBS)
6. Work on the construction projects:

a. Church 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, Senders and Pray-ers. 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’s difficult to pre-pare food for themselves and their caregivers. Giving AND receiving are blessings that nurture our souls.

During this year, Ministers of Love provided 42+ meals for 6 recipients plus their family and care givers, about 14 people. About 21 people provided the meals.

Several individuals keep frozen meals available for situations when meals are needed immediately. A few freezer meals are also kept in the church freezer.

Using the electronic tool TakeThemaMeal.com, 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 a few meals were needed and there were a few circumstances where support was provided for 8-9 weeks.

Information about the Ministers of Love is periodically in the Weekly “Good News” electronic newsletter.

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

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 that occurs when the Body of Christ cares for one another.

**Eucharistic Visitors**

*By Betty Morris*

Eucharistic Visitors are available to bring Holy Communion to anyone who is not able to attend the services at St. Francis. If someone wishes to receive at home, hospital or nursing home, please call the office at 830-964-3820 or contact Fr. David directly at (830) 719-2442, especially in an emergency. If no one answers the phone at the office and you cannot reach Fr. David, don’t leave a message, but contact Betty Morris, (830) 515-8659 before 9:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. I will notify Fr. David of the need and either he or a Eucharistic Visitor will bring Communion after either the 8:00 or 10:30 service.

**Hospitality**

*By Lynda Leadford and Velda Vukoder*

Everything we do usually involves food. Well, church service is no different. Although, our service is most important, our hospitality after service is a close second. We value this short time to have fellowship with our church family, guests and those new to our church.

Individuals just need to bring cookies or any baked or bought item suitable for 9:00am in the morning. You are asked to bring the coffee from the kitchen to the Narthex. I will be glad to train anyone willing to help with this wonderful ministry. 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.

Hospitality continues to be a wonderful ministry at St. Francis. Everyone is gracious and provide wonder “goodies” for us each Sunday.

The only improvement would be if the number of people involved would increase so the same people wouldn’t have to bring so frequently. Sincerely, Velda

**Ushers and Greeters**

*By Lynda Leadford and George Glasby*

The first people you meet when you enter the doors of St. Francis are the Ushers. I hope you remembered your experience. It may have even made you want to return to our church the following week. It is not difficult to be an Usher. Our Ushers serve in a group of two. You don’t have to be related. You hand out bulletins, smile now and then, answer questions, count heads, bring the bread and wine to the Altar.

If you attend church it is one of the easiest ministries to be a part of. It is a great way to get to know other parishioners. If you attend the 8:00 a.m. service, please think about joining our group. We have 6 groups presently. Even if you are a snow bird you can usher while you are here. 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. We can really use your help.

At the 10:30 service we have 20 people that serve as greeters. This year we went to two greeters at the service to give some time off between serving. It seems to have worked well and in case of conflicts of time, it is easier to switch dates. Thank you greeters. 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 work days, 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 2015. There are currently 11 Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs) and 19 Lectors faithfully providing their service in support of our weekly worship.

While we were unable to schedule a training session in 2015, one is planned in early 2016 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 2015**

*By Betty Morris, Memorial Committee Chair*

Donations to this fund are in memory of those who have died, to honor living persons, or to celebrate a life event such as anniversary, birthday or other occasions. Those recognized may be for anyone including members of the parish, friends, or family. The donations may be designated as you wish and currently those received had gone to Altar Guild, Building Fund, Columbarium, Daughters of the King, Debt Reduction, and Undesignated.

Donations to the Memorial Fund during 2015 have been received in memory of:

Rory Allee Ann Bartlett

Betty Brown (Candace Fitch’s mother) John D’Andrea

Don Kerr Joyce Little (Lynda McNab’s mother)

The Rev. Jim Mitchell Jo Nairn

Mike Roberson Katy and Pat Scrivener Kim Willoughby

Currently Linda Hillin and Bob Kerr serve on the Memorial Committee. Please contact Betty Morris, 830-515-8659, [bmorris@gvtc.com](mailto:bmorris@gvtc.com) with any questions.

**Outreach Activities 2015**

*By Bernie Frey*

The 2015 was not a quiet year in our neighborhood, paraphrasing Garrison Keillor from Prairie Home Companion.

But, that wasn’t a bad thing. The many organized local Outreach programs that St. Francis has been involved with continued apace this past year, including The CROP walk; CRRC programs including but not limited to the food bank; First Sunday Services at the St. Jude’s Ranch for Children Bulverde Campus (which if you haven’t experiences I strongly suggest that you give a try). It is an interactive service where when Father David asks a question he gets a significant number of hands raised and offers to reply.

Also continued were the quarterly blood drives, providing groceries to the Good Samaritan Community Center in San Antonio for their Christmas meal program; sending Christmas cards to deployed military members from the Canyon Lake area. Thanks be to God those numbers have dropped from the high 30s to the low teens. Family Promise, the Student Nutrition Program and the Angel Tree gift program benefiting students at Mountain Valley Middle School were also continued.

Lastly, but not least our fan favorite, the quarterly highway cleanup of our 2 mile section of highway FM 2673 thru Sattler which resulted in many treasures being discovered.

In 2015 a new program was added to the participation list and that was the Salvation Army meal preparation and delivery program during Thanksgiving and Christmas. More Information will be forthcoming with the goal of being able to expand that effort in 2016.

Again in 2015 Parishioners volunteered with many, many programs, organizations and activities outside of those organized by the Church which accounted for tens if not hundreds of support hours to the community.

On behalf of the recipients including both children and adults, I offer and relate to you their extreme gratitude for your time, financial support and efforts. Their thanks is not measured in glossy thank you notes but much more when expressed by their smiling eyes and firm handshakes.

**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.

**Annual Stewardship Report 2015**

*By Dr. Valerie Kirk*

Our annual stewardship pledge campaign at St. Francis by the Lake, ran from Oct. 4 through Nov. 1, 2015. The Committee, which consisted of Bob Amos, Brian Benham, Valerie Kirk, Maury Meyer, J.P. Smith, Don Stackhouse, and Libby Templeton, met with Father David and our guest speaker and discussed at length what mission means and what each of our roles is in encouraging all parish members to become joyfully committed to giving generously of their time, talent and treasure to further the Kingdom of God.

Each of the four consecutive Sundays, we heard from a different speaker who spoke from their heart about why they give and how important mission is to them personally and to the parish, finishing by inviting all to join them in the work God has given us all to do. Three speakers were members of St. Francis-by-the Lake: Maury Meyer, Brian Benham and Don Stackhouse. Our guest speaker was Curt Mowen, from St. Luke’s, San Antonio. Each Sunday, Fr. David reinforced the message of listening to God and acting on what each of us is being called by God to do. He asked that all remember that he, the vestry, and our fellow parishioners are here to assist in any way possible to accomplish the goal of responding to God’s call to mission. Feedback from the parish was both 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 1, 2015. 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 remains the focus of our year round stewardship. We share opportunity for participation every week formally through e-News and announcements, and monthly through our annual parish newsletter, The Franciscan. We will be having the opportunity during the coming year to hear in from a representative of each of our parish ministries, what their goals are and how each of us can become involved in spreading the Gospel and serving others through our skills and talents.

**2015 Annual Ministry Report for Veterinary Missions**

*By Dr. Valerie A. Kirk*

Southeast Mexico – 2015 marked the third year for the veterinary mission to the Anglican Diocese of Southeast Mexico. Our team of nine included six from the San Antonio area, two from the Rio Grande Valley, and one from México. We have an established group of parishes and their associated communities which we visit, working with the priests and parish leaders to provide preventive veterinary care to the animals of the communities.

Near the town of Playa Vicente in the State of Veracruz, we serve the community of Santa Teresa Barrio de Pacheco through the parish of San Andrés Apóstol, the community of Arroyo Zacáte through the parish of San Pedro Apóstol and the community of Camalotal through the parish of La Divina Providencia. In the State of Oaxaca, in the vicinity Tuxtepec, we serve the community of La Joya through the parish of La Santa Cruz and the community of La Esperanza la Gloria through the parish of Jesús de Nazaret.

Each work day morning we gathered in prayer for the coming day before breakfast, praying for ourselves and for the people and animals in the community we would serve that day. Every mission we worked with provided a home-cooked lunch for all of us. When we arrived at each of the mission churches, we were greeted warmly with hugs and kisses of welcome, and an already waiting group of animals needing care.

In the five days of work, we and our friends treated 2,421 animals, including both pets and farm animals. Last year we treated 1,576 animals and in 2013, our first year, we treated 953. It is a rapidly growing ministry.

The people are very enthusiastic and thankful for the care being provided. We are purposefully working toward the parishes and communities becoming more and more involved in the planning and execution of the mission, being in full partnership at the community level, not just the diocesan level. In the future, one to two community animal health care workers will be trained to assist each community with animal care issues in the absence of a veterinarian, and will join the community leaders in coordinating the annual mission visit.

Thus far, funding has been provided by the government of the State of Veracruz and an apportionment from the Diocese of West Texas, but the apportionment for all diocesan missions is diminishing. We are working toward importing donated medications through a non-profit in México, but the logistics of this are not yet firm. This year the mission cost about $7,500, excluding the nearly $1,000 each team member paid for their own travel expenses.

India – An exploratory mission to the Diocese of Durgapur, India, is being planned for March 4-16, 2016. Eleven team members from already established missions within the Diocese of West Texas will be visiting the State of West Bengal to investigate how our diocese can partner with the Diocese of Durgapur to further the Kingdom of God. Representatives from St. Francis include Fr. David, Patricia Perea, leader of Manos de Diós in Honduras, and her husband Dusty Hoecker, and Dr. Valerie Kirk, leader of veterinary missions to SE Mexico and Honduras.

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**St. Francis by the Lake Website 2015**

*By Keren Necaise*

This year we welcomed Linda Bosenbark to the team that edits the website. This makes it much easier to keep the website updated when one of us is not available. Libby Templeton is still in charge of the major look of the website; Keren and Linda Hillin update it.

Our website continues 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) 2015**

*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 $1,390.88 was sent to the Diocese in 2015.

**Treasurer’s Report – 2015**

*By Lynda Leadford*

After looking back at the last three year’s remarks in my Annual Parish reports, it seems that St. Francis could go into a a successful business for teaching how to overcome deficit budgets (expenses over income). There have been at least 5 deficit budgets in the last 5 years including 2015. All 5 ended in a surplus: positive and in the black. This is due to the thankful and faithful participation of YOU. Thanks be to God. In 2015 we anticipated a deficit of $22,272. We finished with $19,262 income over expenses. This is wonderful. It is a difference of $41,541. But I used the term surplus, this is actually incorrect. That would indicate we had used all we needed and had plenty left. Not So! We managed our funds prudently and paid our expenses promptly looking forward to the future. How do we accomplish this feat? We do this by casting out fear and believing in God, having faith that as we do His works in our parish, in our community and in the world He will continue to provide for us, abundantly.

As has been stated previously, we don’t look at financials just as dollars and cents. We look at all the exhilarating work that is done *with* those dollars and cents. We are a vibrant and busy parish who listens the Word of our Lord and takes action when called. We are involved in many ministries at home, in our community, in the world. Such Ministries as Family Promise, Back Pack Program, St. Jude’s Ranch 1st Sunday Ministry, Community Thanksgiving Service, Summer Feeding Program Ministry, Angel Tree Program, and Good Samaritan Christmas Bags are all Ministries that benefit our community. Programs like Honduras Ministry, S. E. Mexico Ministry and the soon to be India Ministry as well as our United Thank Offering benefit our mission in the world. We have had many functions that are outside the walls of our church that help improve our lives such as the Abide in Me conference, 2nd Saturday Mini Retreats, Craft Retreat at Camp Capers, Women’s Fall & Spring Gathering, Cursillo and the Episcopal Church Women’s “Have a Heart for a Child Valentine Fundraiser” to mention a few. Then of course, there are many events right at St. Francis like Dr. Duane Miller’s program during Lent on Islam, Altogether Now services with potluck breakfast, Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper, numerous potluck dinners (one with a chocolate theme), DOK/ECW Quiet Day, Prayer Shawl Ministry, the Choir Ministry and my special ministry I just can’t wait for – Highway Cleanup. Let me not forget Ministries that keep us informed such as the Web Site, the Franciscan and the Good News. This year we have added the Community of Hope Ministry which makes us all better at what we do. This is certainly only a portion of what goes on during the year. I believe that it is our Ministries which bring out the best in each of us and gives us inspiration to do even more.

We transferred funds from General Operations Net Balance to Capital Expenditures in order to enhance our property and make it safer for all to use. The parking lot was paved, which is very noticeable. Signage was put up at our new entrance and we updated the old entrance; and the sound system is modernized and is still a work in progress. We are moving forward and making progress. I think you heard not only God’s call, but saw the good works and gave us “a December to remember” with your generous contributions. Thanks to all who gave to help us meet our goals in 2015.

The Vestry approved 2016 General Fund Operating Budget is attached at the end of your annual meeting report. This is also a deficit budget. The difference between our needs and the dollars pledged is $47,805. During our budget meetings we were able to find $23,159 that we will use, if necessary. Yes, that does leave a balance, but hardly more than we dealt with this year.

The 2015 year-end reports are attached, as well as the 2016 Approved General Fund budget for your review. The 2016 Debt Retirement Pledges total $17,120 and 2016 Building Pledges total $3,600. If you have any concerns or need anything clarified, after reviewing the financial reports, please contact me or any one on the Vestry or Fr. David. We will do our best to answer your questions.

Every year in the annual report, at least once in my article in the Franciscan and at least once in the Good News, I say the following: *If you are paying by check, please help your treasurer by using the memo line to let me know where you wish your donation to be placed.* Some have learned the value of doing this. If the memo line is blank, your contribution will be used in operations.

Also, we accept checks to cover more than one category, with one exception: When writing a check to Honduras, please make a separate check as these funds are deposited in a different bank.

Year-end statements were mailed or emailed to you last week. Remember that during the year we send Statements quarterly (April, July, October and Mid December). You may contact the treasurer by email at treasure@gvtc.com with any questions.

I will be stepping down shortly and Micheline Ellas will become the Treasurer of St. Francis by the Lake. I have enjoyed being your treasurer for the past 3 years. I have also appreciated all the support you have given me. You are a great parish to serve! *(The financials are located at the end of the Ministries Reports.)*

**Junior Warden**

*By Dale Jones*

In 2015 we had several major repairs. We had the flat roofs that was leaking into the Sacristy replaced. During the roof repair we had the gutters around the main roof of the church replaced. Next we had the water damage in the Sacristy repaired. Pulled up the carpet and had the floor painted to match the rest of the church’s floor.

We also had a septic drain break and Ken Leadford help me to repair it and It seems to be holding.

We also held two work days to clean up the property between FM 306 and the church. I would like to thank all who showed up on those days.

I installed three combination door locks which makes it easier to get into the Parrish Hall and Church without having to have a key.

Thank you all who helped me to do a lot of the repairs and maintenance by pointing out the problems as they noticed them for the last two years.

2015 was my last year as Jr Warden and I thank you all for your help.

**Senior Warden Report for 2015**

*By Bob Amos*

The vestry focus for this year has been Ministry, Outreach, Membership, and Participation. All of our decisions have been made around these focus areas.

We significantly increased our communication to the parish on ministry and outreach. Our participation in these areas has always been high; and significantly higher than most parishes within the diocese. Our focus this year has improved that and made us more aware of opportunities. We should be quite proud of this. Increased communications included Sunday service announcements, e-News articles, articles in the Franciscan, personal testimonies from parish members and parish leadership, and phone call reminders of important upcoming events.

We accomplished several grounds improvements aimed at becoming more attractive to visitors and satisfying to our members. These improvements included a new parking lot, new signs, new entrance, improved sound system, and grooming of the parish property in general. These things have significantly improved our image to visitors and I believe satisfaction from the parish. There is certainly more to do. We are a sincerely welcoming parish. It is our hope that these improvements have improved our image so visitors will be attracted and experience the welcoming people of our parish and the Holy Spirit moving within our congregation.

We also made significant progress toward our goal of a new Ministry and Outreach Center. The goal of this center is to provide a home for better outreach within our community and offer improved facilities for children and our ministries. We organized a building committee which has done a fantastic job of translating our campus vision into a more tangible plan for the center. These have been communicated to the parish, but more to do going forward. We also organized a successful assessment by the diocese of our spiritual and financial readiness for this project. We had good parish participation and have recently received their report.

I’m proud of the faithfulness and work done by your vestry in 2015. They all have the best interests of our parish at heart and are motivated by the Holy Spirit. The teamwork and support has been amazing. I am truly humble to have been a member of the vestry for three years and Sr. Warden for 2015. It has been a fantastic learning experience, often pushing me out of my comfort zone. But the most cherished experiences have been working with the people of St. Francis by the Lake. We have something special here and you all recognize it.

**Rector’s Report**

*Fr. David Chalk*

There’s a Biblical metaphor I have used recently from Nehemiah, ch 4, where the workmen rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem labor with a tool in one hand and a weapon in the other. So you could sum up my hope in the prayer that this will be “a season for the trowel not the sword.” I hope this new year will be one of building, rather than always defending, the Kingdom of God.

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*. It’s not repetitive to remark that the past year has been a tremendous movement forward by the vestry doing faithful work. I am humbled and delighted to minister with them. We look forward to sharing their work with you very soon.

I am grateful for the ministries of so many who help to coordinate and support the efforts of our parish. Special thanks go to Janet; Ricky, Becky, and Julie; Bob Amos; Lynda Leadford; Linda Hillin; Lynda McNab; Gloria and Lupe for their ministries. They are a gift to us and we should all be gratified.

On a more personal note, I want to express my heartiest thanks for the new collegial and pastoral support of Fr. Gordon Schieble. He has been an extremely valuable asset to the parish. I pray for a long and fruitful relationship.

The vestry’s work this year has been exemplary. I’m grateful for their work and faithfulness. The parking lot, the signage, and the diocesan feasibility study are merely the tip of the iceberg of ministry they’ve been responsible for improving.

There are so many people to thank who helped in the stewarding of our facilities and properties. I continue to be grateful to Betty Morris who coordinates the Lay Eucharistic Visitor program; and this year I add the Community of Hope, which you will hear from during the meeting.

In our life together as St Francis by the Lake, during 2015: we grew through the addition of five persons, however we decreased by 11 (three funerals, 8 transfers). This means we have a total of 304 “baptized members” using the canonical definition. Our average Sunday attendance in 2015 was 105 so, from a percentage standpoint, we have quite a bit of work to do with respect to participation in worship. There were no baptisms or confirmations; 2 were received and 1 reaffirmation of confirmation vows. There were no weddings in the parish in 2015. An average of 12 people attended St. Jude’s Ranch for children 11 times in 2015. 103 Sunday worship services were celebrated at St. Francis. Easter attendance was 199. There were 57 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 an 11th year. And it seems that I am a permanent member of the World Mission Commission. I conclude my term on the Executive Board of the Diocese, and have been asked to stand again for election as a Trustee of TMI. Locally, I attend the community leaders’ bible study and am actively evangelizing several community leaders. The SE Mexico and Honduras ministries are very important façets of my work in the wider Church.

I conclude my address with another quotation I came across recently. It expresses a deep understanding of our role in the world: “Even in the darkness, his/her smile threw shadows.” (Hugh Howey, *Wool*) Wouldn’t the light of Christ go forth in new and powerful ways if this should be said of each of us?

