



The Franciscan



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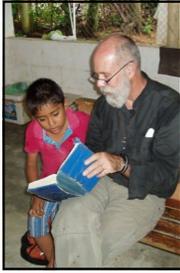
St. Francis by the Lake
Canyon Lake, Texas

April, 2021

The Rector

Fr David Chalk

*“There’s no use trying,” [Alice] said: “one can’t believe impossible things.” “I daresay you haven’t had much practice,” said the Queen. “When I was your age, I always did it for half-an-hour a day. Why, sometimes I’ve believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast.”— Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, *Through the Looking Glass**



I can’t really recall how old I was when my fascination with unicorns began. I know that, by the time I reached college, my collection was pretty extensive: cards, pictures, books, movies, and figurines made of glass, pewter, silver, clay, porcelain, and wood. And they took up sizeable portions of my bedroom walls, shelves, and bureau. And they were *real* unicorns; no “Pegasus with a horn” made it into my extensive assortment.

I still have the papers I wrote about the unicorn for high school, college, and graduate school. I hoped it would be obvious that, each time I wrote a paper, it grew in depth of knowledge over the years. Also, each paper delved into a different facet of unicorn lore, history, etymology, and meaning. It was the stuff of virgins, poison, knights, and the origins of language; it was completely consistent with how I devoured Bulfinch’s *Mythology*, then moved on to Frazer’s *Golden Bough*, then Joseph Campbell, and so on.

By the time I was in graduate school, my Greek and Hebrew studies aided my investigations into unicorns immensely. Reading original documents rather than relying on others’ translations (and biases) was fascinating. It was truly astounding to discover the myriad agendas and

prejudices that are rarely acknowledged by authors and translators. For instance, as anyone who has studied Scripture with me knows: if you believe in and understand the ministry of “bishop,” then you have no difficulty translating and understanding the New Testament [the English word *bishop* is derived from the Greek word *epískopos*, and has always been the Church’s word for bishop, cf., Acts, Timothy, Titus, 1 Peter, etc.] But if you don’t know about, believe in, or understand the significance of “bishop,” then you look around for what you might guess or imagine is a synonym and wind up with “supervisor,” or some such thing.

The same holds true for the occurrences of unicorn found in the Hebrew Bible (the Old Testament from Hebrew,) the Septuagint (the Old Testament from Greek,) and the Vulgate (the Old Testament from Latin.) If you believe in unicorns you translate “unicorns.” If you don’t believe in unicorns you wind up with “ox,” “wild cow,” “oryx,” or sometimes even “rhinoceros.” And if you don’t believe in unicorns, then knowing that the unicorn is the ancient ecclesiastical symbol for Jesus’ divine and human natures, the Incarnation makes it just that much easier to dismiss as a theological doctrine.

Now we’re into the 2nd decade of the 21st Century and the word has not only made a new appearance; it’s morphed into a dizzying array of representations. Not content with merely being a rare, unique creature, a unicorn is a one-in-a-million startup corporation. There’s a “Unicorn Trend” which designs objects, clothing, and food with a rainbow palette (as a ‘trend,’ its day is probably long passed

since it had a strong popularity among millennials in 2016.) A unicorn has even been adopted by several GSRD (Gender, Sexual, and Relationship Diversity) groups.

And so in the world’s perceptions of things the unicorn has moved from myth to metaphor. This is not unlike the world’s perception of the Christian Faith. Irrespective of the numerous historical accounts of the Crucifixion, there are many academics who posit Jesus’ death as a legend. And the Resurrection is, again according to many, a fairy tale to explain to the immature about the unknown after death.

Today, as I write, it is the Feast of the Annunciation. We commemorate the Archangel Gabriel’s visit to the young and, as-yet-unmarried, virgin Mary. Today is the day the Church has long held as the Incarnation of the only-begotten Son of God. Many would suggest this event is pure mythology; others might generously accede to its historicity, but point out that it is a literary instance of parthenogenesis (a natural form of asexual reproduction,) and that there is a universal metaphor to be gleaned from this early Christian story.

As we reenact the events of Holy Week, beginning this Sunday with Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem, we will walk with Him and (this is my prayer for each and all of us) allow what we believe as *fact* to help us, to permit what we understand as God’s *purpose* to inspire us, to engage what we feel as God’s *love and compassion* to birth in us new hope. And then, when Easter arrives, to enjoy what we accept as God’s *gift* to lead us into fullness of life.





Treasurer's report

By [Robert Amos](#)
treasure@gvvc.com

Greetings all,

So far in 2021 our financial condition is much better than expected. Contributions are somewhat ahead of expectations. Expenditures are as planned. We received a second Payroll Protection Plan loan which helps with our cash position. We expect to be granted loan forgiveness by the Small Business Administration later this year.

So far so good! Thank you so much for your continued generosity and faithfulness, as we all at St. Francis by the Lake continue to do God's work with in our community, the diocese, and the world.

Financial Summary as of February 28, 2021

Operations - much better than expected.

Revenues: Total revenue is \$63,615.26, which is more than planned by \$28,453.26. Extra revenue was largely due to transfer of surplus funds for rectory flooring to the general fund, per donor instructions, and pledge contributions ahead of plan.

Expenditures: Expenditures are \$51,910.97, which is slightly higher (worse) than planned by \$898.97.

Balance (Revenue minus Expenditures): Balance is a surplus of \$11,704.29, which is better than planned by \$27,554.29.

Capital - continuing to do well.

Capital Campaign 2020 – 2022: Contributions were \$5,979.52 so far this year. Combined balance of Capital Campaign and Capital Campaign 2020 – 2022 Fund is \$96,500.13. We are continuing to make monthly principal payments of \$6,060.00 to the Frost Line of Credit.

Debt Retirement: Contributions are \$4,478.00. The Debt Retirement Fund contains a balance of \$66,299.48.

Endowment Fund - continuing to do well.

Total in the fund is \$136,707.55.

Our funds as of February 28, 2021:

General Operating	\$	50,366.24
Debt Retirement	\$	66,299.48
Capital Campaign Fund	\$	96,500.13
Endowment Fund	\$	136,707.55

Debt:

Frost Bank - Line of Credit:	\$	96,958.38
Crump Foundation:	\$	427,500.00
Payroll Protection Plan Loan:	\$	35,000.00

As a reminder, you have the ability to contribute on-line. Go to our website, www.saintfrancisbythelake.org. You will see a button for electronic giving.



When you click on the button, you will be taken to a page to enter your contribution. We are able to support secure transactions on credit cards, debit cards, and electronic funds transfers from your bank and/or financial institution.

Of course, you can send your contributions by mail: St. Francis by the Lake, P.O. Box 2031, Canyon Lake, TX 78133.

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





Episcopal Church Women

By [Ronnie Harper Schwakhofer](#)

We hope you will join us for our April meeting on Thursday, Apr. 8, at 11:00 a.m. This meeting will be held in the Ministry and Outreach Center (MOC) as well as on Zoom. Our guest speaker is Julie Chalk, who will tell us about her involvement in the Threads of Blessings Ministry, a non-profit that enables women in Uganda to create and market unique textile art. These women are committed to supporting and nurturing their creative process. They use the proceeds from the sale of their creations to buy supplies to encourage Threads of Blessing women to tell their stories in unique tapestries. Through the sale of their work, they are providing medical care, education for their children, buying livestock and seed for crops, and building homes for their families. We are hopeful Julie will be able to bring a sampling of their beautiful tapestries to our meeting.

We will have our election for the 2021-2023 term at this meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor with the agreement of the nominee. The Nominating Committee will present the nominees, and the membership will elect a President and Recording Secretary. Our current Chaplain, Becki Nichols, has agreed to remain for another two years.

Since we did not have our annual fundraisers (Rummage Sale, Bake Sale, and Taters N' Treasurers) due to the COVID19, we encourage everyone to continue to donate their unused clothes, household goods, etc., to the Pink Elephant Resale Stop in Startzville. They give us a larger than normal percentage on items donated by us. Be sure and mention St. Francis

to the gals in the shop when you drop off your donations. The proceeds we receive from the Pink Elephant and other donations allow us to distribute donations to our local service organizations in May as we have done in past years.

I hope everyone had the opportunity to read the article about Tatiana Hoecker, daughter of Patricia Perea and Dusty Hoecker, in the March 15 edition of the *Good News*. Tatiana was chosen by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry as the Province VII delegate to attend UNCSW. The conference was held in March and was held virtually. We are so proud of Tatiana and we look forward to hearing about the conference.

Our Connection Ministry continues to reach out to our congregation. Recently they mailed St. Patrick's Day and Easter cards. Other ministries such as the Vestry, Community of Hope, and Daughters of the King are reaching out to our community as well. We are truly blessed to have so many compassionate folks in our church!!

Episcopal Church Women's Prayer
Almighty God, we pray that You will bless our work in mission and ministry in the world. Help us pray fervently, labor diligently and give liberally to make known the power of your love given through your Son Jesus Christ. Let us not forget the lessons from the past nor fear the challenges of the future. Anoint us with your grace and shine in our hearts as we reflect your light throughout the world. Amen

REMINDER: All women of St. Francis are members of Episcopal Church Women. Come join us at our monthly meeting held on the second Thursday of each month in the Ministry and Outreach Center (MOC) or on Zoom.

April anniversaries

Tom & Mary Anne O'Bryant 4/19
Chuck & Azile Davenport 4/24

April birthdays

Lynda Leadford 4/6
Kathryn Woehler 4/7
John Rose 4/10
Helen Stackhouse 4/18
Burnham Jones 4/20
Riley Mitchell 4/22
John McBride 4/24
Larry Bosenbark 4/27
Mike Maciejewski 4/27
Brian Benham 4/29



CRRC Needs

The pantry is in need of:
toilet paper;
toothpaste, toothbrushes;
shampoo, bar soap;
Mac & cheese, boxed, (*not single-serve*);
jelly (*we have the peanut butter!*);
canned spaghetti sauce;
canned applesauce-15 oz. cans;
Hearty soups (*like Campbell's Chunky or Progresso Soup*);
Tomato soup;
Chicken noodle soup;
and "Cream of" soups (*for casseroles or other meals*.)
All contributions are appreciated.

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The Rev. David Chalk, Rector

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Reaching up...
Reaching out...
Growing Something
Eternal!

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Volunteer Opportunities at the Community Recreation & Resource Center (CRRC) Food Pantry & Thrift Store

By [Maury Meyer](#), Editor

As many of us at St. Francis by the Lake are getting vaccinated and have reached the two-week immunization period, you are probably wanting to rejoin the world outside your home! As part of that, you might want to consider volunteering at our local Community Resource and Recreation Center as a new personal ministry (as Fr. David reminds us, we are all **ministers!**) I know we have several parishioners who already do so, but there is plenty of room for more helping hands.

They could use more volunteers for the Food Pantry, Meals on Wheels, the Community Garden, and **most especially the Thrift Store**, which raises an important amount of the money to fund the Food Pantry.

If you are willing to volunteer at the Thrift Store, please let their Manager, Patti Moreno, know. Patti knows where and when they need the help, so please come by the Thrift Store and talk to Patti or contact her through email at: thrift.store@crccofcanyonlake.org.

If you would like to volunteer at the Food Pantry or delivering Meals on Wheels, please contact Camille Cooper, at crccvolschedule@gmail.com. In addition to delivering meals to clients, the Food Pantry needs volunteers to work in the pantry assembling orders for their clients (8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.) and in the warehouse. Most days, you will also receive a personal benefit of walking 10,000 steps in a shift!

For gardeners, there is the Community Garden (located by the Recreation Center,) where you can help grow fresh produce for the Food Pantry. In 2017, the Community Garden provided over 500 pounds of food for the Pantry! To work in the garden, go by the Rec Center and talk to Austin, or email CRRCGarden@gmail.com.