



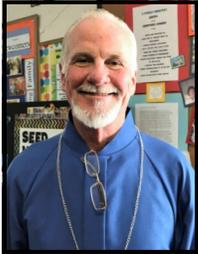
The Franciscan



Volume XXI, Issue VII

St. Francis by the Lake
Canyon Lake, Texas

August 2020



Sr. Warden

Jim Kelch

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There's something magical about returning to worship. As a choir member, I get to sing as loud as I want, since it's usually only four or five of us. Our guidelines are to be "distance" distancing but our "social" is still "social!" [Choir members are like that.] It's been a great experience for Susan and me. She's been very happy in her ministries as a reader and acolyte.

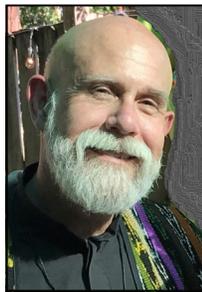
Ministry is a word that speaks to dedication and faith. While we still struggle with technical difficulties and adapting to the rule, "if anything can go wrong, it will," we regularly adapt to whatever it is that isn't working. It's not perfect; but only God is! It's my hope that these imperfections aren't too distracting and that anyone worshipping at home knows that none of us has the necessary background. Frs. David and Gordon are patient and roll well with the tide.

If you're unable to attend in person, we hope you're watching worship unfold through the links we send each week or through the links on the parish website. This is quickly becoming a "Zoom" world: your vestry and most of our parish meetings are done through Zoom. This may continue for quite some time! While you're surfing, you might find the National Cathedral and watch their marvelous, technologically correct, liturgies! They set the standard and our goal is to get better each week.

The post-communion prayer tells

us to "Go... and do..." The vestry has redoubled their efforts to reach out to our whole family with calls every month; *just to check in with you*. So, should you see an odd area code (like mine, 915, for instance,) and if you don't pick up, please listen for a message: it won't be to see if you need help with your student loans, car warranty, or a request to send a Walmart gift card for an African Princess who wants to deposit a million \$ into your account (what's that number again?) We're merely making sure you know of our love, our care, to share a prayer, or just chat!

May God send you peace and keep you well. And may we all gather together safely and soon at the end of this pandemic! I miss you all!



Dear Friends,

A few weeks ago I challenged us with many questions. I thought it might be helpful to reproduce them here, remembering that **if** we have the courage to examine ourselves in light of them, we can become more of what God hopes for us. C. H. Dodd wrote: a parable "leaves [us] in sufficient doubt about its... application, to *tease* [us] into **ACTIVE THOUGHT.**" Parables are more about **questions** than *answers*. Parables are Jesus' way of asking what God's always asked: "Adam, where are you?" "What have you done?!!?" and "Whom shall I send?" And the way we think, reflect, and meditate on the following questions is a way

we begin to answer the Lord...

How do we clear away the rocks and weeds that block us? How do we avoid useless pathways? What spiritual practices help us be well-tilled and well-fertilized soil? *How do we help God's seed take root in us to produce loving, Spirit-filled fruit?* How do we live so our lives benefit the world? How do we live so God's gifts don't fall among weeds or rocks or on worthless paths?

What aspects of our lives tend to be so **hard-packed** God can't break in? Where are our blind spots? What spiritual necessities do we avoid? What superficial *crust* keeps God's seed from taking root and producing fruit? Why the apathy to humans in need? Hearing but not listening? Protecting ourselves from *intimacy*? Will we allow God to cultivate our heart and mind to motivate us for the Kingdom?

Where's our spiritual and emotional *shallowness*? Will we sit or rise to enter the harvest? Where's our *commitment* to God and God's cause? When do we promise God things and not follow through? Why do our well-intentioned promises not materialize? What can we do to reach a greater depth of character and find intentionality and integrity in our faithfulness?

What about the thorns and weeds: what distractions keep us from God's will? How does busy-ness keep us from following Jesus? What saps our spiritual energy? What threatens to choke us? What stands between us and God? It is materialism? The desire for power? The lust for control? The vanity of success in others?

[\(Continued on page 3\)](#)



Treasurer's report

By [Robert Amos](#)

Email:

treasure@gvvc.com

Greetings all,

I am hopeful that all of you are doing well and are safe during these continuing challenging times. I miss seeing all of you. I continue to pray for our losses, healing, and thanksgivings. May God bless all of us, our families, those we love, our country, and the world.

Here are our finances as of June 30, 2020.

Operations - Mixed.

Revenues: Total revenue was \$125,634.64, which was less than planned by \$7,076.36, largely due to short fall in plate and regular giving.

Expenditures: Expenditures were \$143,770.55 which is lower (better) than planned by \$7,260.45.

Balance (Revenue minus Expenditures): Balance had a deficit of \$18,135.91, which is *better than planned* by \$184.09.

Capital - Doing well.

Capital Campaign 2020 - 2022: Total contributions are \$58,108.32. The combined balance of original Capital Campaign and Capital Campaign 2020 - 2022 Fund is \$105,002.13.

Debt Retirement: Contributions are \$23,269.00. The Debt Retirement Fund contains a balance of \$64,809.09.

Endowment Fund - Recovering.

Total in the fund was \$113,879.04 - (a \$525.23 decline from Dec 31, 2019.)

Our funds as of June 30, 2020:

General Operating	\$	(1,424.77)	- This is a temporary situation which was expected.
Debt Retirement	\$	64,809.09	
Capital Campaign Fund	\$	105,002.13	
Endowment Fund	\$	113,879.04	

Debt:

Frost Bank - Line of Credit:	\$	145,438.38
Crump Foundation:	\$	450,000.00

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

GIVE HERE

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 card, debit card, and electronic fund 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.

Wish List update

By *The Gift Committee*

Hello Friends!

The Gift Committee has added a new item to the Wish List--replace the carpet and linoleum at the rectory (Fr. David and Julie's home.)

The rectory was built in 1995 and it

still has the original flooring. 25 years is a good, long life for carpet; but it's in need of replacement, along with the linoleum. The tile is in good condition and won't be replaced. The flooring that's been chosen coordinates well and will last a good while. Estimates have been obtained: based on which rooms and available funds, the cost is be-

tween \$10,000 and \$15,000. The flooring selected is durable, water resistant, and user friendly. The flooring's guarantee is for 30 years, an investment to benefit priests and their families far into the future.

If you wish to make a contribution, please write "Wish List - rectory floor."

[\(Continued on page 4\)](#)



Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

By [Ronnie Harper-Schwakhofer](#),
ECW President

Over the past several months our parish has experienced changes and restrictions due to the COVID-19. Restrictions on public gatherings has interrupted our “in person” meetings; and so many ministries began meeting *via* ZOOM. The ECW will conduct our first meeting of the new year on Sept. 10 *via* Zoom.

(Instructions to access this are in the weekly publication *Good News*.) Future meetings will also be by Zoom, until restrictions are lifted and we can safely gather again.

ECW officers met to discuss our fall/winter/spring calendar and concluded we will postpone the Rummage Sale (scheduled for October) and Bake Sale (scheduled for November) until Spring, 2021. The decision was based on health concerns for all involved and the restrictions for public gatherings. Therefore, we won't be receiving donations for the rummage sale at this time. The following organizations are accepting donations: CRRC; Communities in Schools (only household items & clothes); the Crisis Center; Family Promise; and Salvation Army in New Braunfels. *Their contact information may be found on the internet.*

The following ladies were elected as officers for 2020-2021: Vice President: Carlie Maciejewski; Treasurer: Mary Anne O'Bryant; and Corresponding Secretary: Beverley Matthewson. The following ladies will serve for another year: President: Ronnie Harper-Schwakhofer; Recording Secretary: Anne Cain; and Chaplain: Becki Nichols. Installation of our new officers will be held at

the September meeting and outgoing officers, Brenda Klaftenegger and Susan Kelch will be honored then.

Most Honored Woman—*Trail Blazers for Christ*

Every two years the Commission for Women's Ministry, requests that each parish nominate a woman or women

[\(Continued on page 4\)](#)



**Reaching up...
Reaching out...**

Growing Something Eternal!

St. Francis by the Lake
P.O. Box 2031
Canyon Lake, TX 78133
(830)-964-3820
francis@gvtc.com
www.saintfrancisbythelake.org

August anniversaries

John & Cindy McBride	8/9
Jim & Becki Nichols	8/14
Chris & Melissa Mitchell	8/16
Frank & Cindy Smith	8/20
Chuck & Ronnie Schwakhofer	8/21
Frank & Beverley Matthewson	8/25

August birthdays

Valeska McHugh	8/1
James Stackhouse	8/2
Stacey Benham	8/5
Paul McClendon	8/8
Maury Meyer	8/12
Chrystina Power	8/12
Michelle Bachman	8/13
Kevin McHugh	8/14
Betty Morris	8/14
Mary Ann O'Bryant	8/15

Dwain Glass	8/19
Maureen “Mo” Simmons	8/25
Azile Davenport	8/27
Jeanne Slupik	8/27
Macie White	8/31



CRRC Needs

CRRC's food pantry is in need of:

canned green beans;
Canned chicken noodle soup;
Paper towels;
& rice (1# or 2#.)

All contributions are appreciated.

[Dear Friends](#) [\(Cont'd from page 3\)](#)

eyes? The refrigerator? What do we need to eliminate that distracts or destroys the good we *would* do? What fears won't we face; what risks won't we take? How do we love God **completely**, and our neighbors? How well we examine, how fearlessly we inventory, how humbly we grow determines how much “rich soil” our lives have.

May the Master Gardner of the Universe grant you peace and goodness.

The Franciscan

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Canyon Lake, Texas

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St. Francis Wish List 2020

To contribute tangible items, contact a member of the Gifts Committee. For monetary contributions, contact the Parish Treasurer. Contributions of tangible items may be subject to review and approval by the Gift Committee, the associated ministry, and the Vestry. All tangible items require review and or approval and shall be kept by donor until accepted.

Wish List Items	Ministry	Monetary (M) vs Tangible (T) (new/gently used)	Estimate Cost *	Purchased
Rectory floor	Vestry	M	\$10,000-15,000	
Altar kneeler replacements	Altar Guild	M	\$1,000	
Large outdoor sign	Vestry	M		
Shelving - closets & mech. room	Jr. Warden	T and/or M		
Grill for the patio	Fellowship/Hospitality	T and/or M	\$500	
St. Francis Room: tables & chairs	Interior Design Team	M	\$8,000 (still accepting contributions)	2/2/2020

* If contributions for an item exceed actual cost, excess will be used for needs in the same ministry category.

Wish List ... (Cont'd from page 2)

in the memo. Contributions may be sent to St. Francis by the Lake, P.O. Box 2031, Canyon Lake, TX 78133, dropped off at the office, or you may use our online electronic giving feature. (If you have questions about how to use online giving, please review instructions in the *Good News*, the *Worship Bulletin* link, or contact Bob Amos, our Treasurer.)

The entire Wish List is included above. Questions about the Gift Committee or the Wish List, may be directed to Linda Bosenbark, Chair, or any member of the Gift Committee. (Linda Bosenbark, Chair; Bob Amos, Treasurer; Fr. David, Rector; Brian Freiberger; Tamara Huneau, Jr. Warden; Tricia Jones; Betty Morris; Ginger Rose; Frank Smith; and Nancy Summers.)

Episcopal ... (Cont'd from page 3)

to be honored for their ministry. A "Most Honored Women" celebration is held at the annual Spring Women's Luncheon at Diocesan Council, General Convention, the official governing meeting of the Episcopal Church. The nominations for the 2021 Most Honored Woman were submitted to the Diocese in May. The following ladies were nominated: Betty Morris, Tricia Jones, and Maury Meyer. Plans for the Spring Women's Gathering in 2021 haven't been confirmed due to COVID-19. Details will follow when we receive them from the Diocese.

I wanted to share this inspiring prayer with you, written by Kathleen Henderson Staudt, PhD, a Professor at Virginia Seminary: "Loving God, we pray for this church community in this time of crisis. Deliver us from simply desiring to go "back to normal," and give us grace instead of opportunities that your Spirit brings in this time of separation.

Grant that we may come out of this crisis with open eyes, more fully available to the needs of those most vulnerable and those whose labor we have always depended on. Give us creative hearts to embrace and carry forward the new ways we have found to connect with one another; and in your good time bring us safely back together as a people renewed in the knowledge of your faithfulness and abiding love and strengthened for the work ahead. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen."

Looking forward to the day when we can be together again "in person" as a parish family. Stay healthy and God Bless. Blessings, Ronnie

The Mission of the ECW is to empower the women of St. Francis by the Lake to carry on Christ's work in the parish, the community, and throughout the world.

All women of the parish are members of ECW and are welcome to participate in ECW meetings and events.

In loving memory

Ward Kelsey

November 23, 1938 - June 28, 2020

In loving memory

Jimmie Matthews

July 10, 1931 - July 9, 2020

In loving memory

Stanley Reese

October 5, 1936 - July 16, 2020