



The Franciscan



Volume XLII, Issue VII

St. Francis by the Lake
Canyon Lake, Texas

August 2021

Small details make
a big difference...
fr. david



Dear friends,
In every moment,
and under every
circumstance,
we—individually
and corporately—are the di-
rect, special subjects of God’s
love. In Deuteronomy (14.1,2)
God calls His people His *special
treasure* (sægulláh). This is nei-
ther a reward or a prize for
good behavior.
In fact, being God’s special
treasure is completely out of
our control. It’s God, being
God. It’s His decision: a direct
consequence, an out-pouring
of God’s divine, immutable
(i.e., unchanging) nature. It’s
God’s will; and it’s God’s way.
God’s will is to love us. This is
the how and why of God doing
more than we can ask, imagine,
or desire. In Matthew (19.26),
Jesus says “we are powerless”
to save ourselves. We can cause
alienation of others and, in so
doing, we can break God’s
heart. Yet, inasmuch as we can’t
change God’s nature, neither
can we cause God to stop lov-
ing us. We can’t make God go
against His nature.

When the time comes and we
begin to *accept* God’s love of
us, then the path into our be-
ing healed of our wounds and
restored from our alienation
becomes clearer. Not ‘easier,’
mind you, but clearer. The cure
is usually difficult and some-
times painful (think “The 12
Steps”). It’s helpful to remem-
ber that, behind the effects of
the pain and discomfort we
experience, is our Friend and
Savior. I think it was Bp Bob
Hibbs who once said, “the
means of grace may hurt like
hell... but we must *lean into it*
and not resist.”

Please know that I write to you
in the love of Christ; I believe
we’re together for a reason. If
you’re struggling or experienc-
ing difficulty, please reach out
to me, or a sister or brother in
our parish. Not everyone may
recognize your signs of dis-
tress; not everyone may hear
your unspoken hints. But given
a chance, my experience is we
respond with love (even if that
love is sometimes expressed
unhelpfully), should you
choose to share.
May God’s peace and good-
ness be yours.

fr david

2021 Episcopal Church Women Summer Pool Party!

The St. Francis ECW is plan-
ning to hold a pool party on
Aug. 17, from 11:30 a.m. until
3:00 p.m., at the home of
Maury Meyer, 1021 Meckel Dr.
Come celebrate all our sum-
mer birthdays, and, if you
would like to contribute, please
bring snacks and beverages to
share. Iced tea, soft drinks, and
a birthday cake will be provid-
ed by Maury. If the weather
doesn’t cooperate, the rain date
will be Aug. 24, same time and
place.





Treasurer's report

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

Greetings all,

St. Francis by the Lake continues to prosper better than expected, financially, in 2021. Contributions are ahead of expectations. Expenditures are lower than planned. We have an Operations balance surplus which is much better than planned. Capital Campaign, Debt Retirement, and the Endowment funds are doing well. We continue

to faithfully pay down our line of credit at Frost Bank.

Thank you so much for your continued generosity and faithfulness. It is vital to our mission.

Financial Summary as of June 30, 2021.

Operations - continues much better than expected.

Revenues: Total revenue is \$136,091.85, which is better than planned by \$28,909.85.

Expenditures: Expenditures are \$140,214.71, which is lower (better) than planned by \$6,666.29.

Balance (Revenue minus Expenditures): Balance is a deficit of \$4,122.86 which is better than planned by \$35,576.14.

Capital - continuing to do well.

Capital Campaign 2020 – 2022: Contributions were \$24,648.60 so far this year, with a balance of \$89,956.55. We are continuing making monthly principal payments of \$6,060.00 to the Frost Line of Credit.

Debt Retirement: Contributions to date were \$22,381.00. The Debt Retirement Fund contains a balance of \$80,640.80.

Endowment Fund - continuing to do well.

Total in the fund is \$148,338.82.

Our funds, as of June 30, 2021:

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| General Operating | \$ 39,779.86 |
| Debt Retirement | \$ 80,640.80 |
| Capital Campaign Fund | \$ 89,956.55 |
| Endowment Fund | \$ 148,338.82 |

Debt:

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Frost Bank - Line of Credit: | \$ 72,718.36 |
| Crump Foundation: | \$ 427,500.00 |
| Payroll Protection Plan Loan: | \$ 35,000.00 |

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@gvtc.com.



2021 ECW Survey Summary

Introduction

With the desire to make sure the ECW meets the needs of women in our parish, a survey was conducted in May/June, 2021, asking women their thoughts about ECW meetings and activities. The survey solicited thoughts regarding what was liked about ECW, what activities they would like to continue or change, and other thoughts they had. It was not the officers' intent or desire to disband ECW, but rather to determine what appeals to our women so that they and others might enjoy the fellowship and activities.

Survey Summary

The Survey attempted to reach all 72 women, identified as members of the parish, by various means. 47 women completed surveys for a 65% response rate; in the statistical world this is viewed as being a very good representation of the group's attitudes and beliefs. The majority of respondents (66%), have been active in ECW. Those who had not participated in ECW had health issues (4) or worked and were unable to participate in day time activities (3); two were not members and don't live in the area (!).

The main themes throughout nearly all of the questionnaire responses were: the ECW should not be disbanded; the desire for female fellowship, especially among newer members; and very strong support for working together, with a sense of purpose to help our community. There was also a clear recognition by many respondents regarding the many people in need in the Canyon Lake area.

Regarding raising funds, the Rummage Sale was VERY popular; and many liked Taters 'n' Treasures, pri-

marily because it brought the congregation together as an "all-parish activity." Two people commented that consignments with the Pink Elephant Resale Shop is very successful, and a lot less work than the Rummage Sale. There were several mentions of trying different fundraisers, plus other ideas including selling barbecue plates or hosting a craft fair. Two people confessed that their favorite part of the rummage sale was being able to donate their unneeded things. Finally, a recurring suggestion was named: reduce the quantity of organizations we support in favor of the quality of our support to fewer groups.

Regarding planning women's activities, one person suggested having *teams* for different types of activities, which would plan those activities (e.g., fundraising, spiritual, social activities, etc.) and that perhaps this would be more effective

[Continued on page 4: 2021 St. ...](#)



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

St. Francis by the Lake
P.O. Box 2031
Canyon Lake, TX 78133
(830)-964-3820
francis@gvvc.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 |
| Frank & Beverley Matthewson | 8/25 |

August birthdays

| | |
|----------------------|------|
| Valeska McHugh | 8/1 |
| Stacey Benham | 8/5 |
| Paul McClendon | 8/8 |
| Maury Meyer | 8/12 |
| 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 |



CRRC

Current
Food Pantry Needs
toilet paper,
toothpaste,
toothbrushes,
shampoo & bar soap,
boxed mac & cheese

(not single-serve),
jelly (we have peanut butter!),
canned spaghetti sauce,
canned applesauce-15 oz. cans,
and
tomato soup

All contributions are greatly appreciated.

The Franciscan

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The Rev. David Chalk, Rector

Editors

Maury Meyer: Editor in Chief
maurymeyer@gmail.com

Janet Pollock: Layout, & Design
francis@gvvc.com

Linda Hillin: Photographer
lindahillin@gmail.com



In loving memory

Mary Lucille Cille Hardy
June 8, 1928 - August 1, 2021



Continued from page 3: 2021 St. ... than having *officers* who are expected to do everything. Then people can help with what they're interested in organizing. Besides fellowship, there was also enthusiasm from many about the option to gather to share with one another and to learn new things. Ideas included having someone share their "spiritual biography," or teach a new skill, or offer a demonstration of something. Learning from one another and getting to know one another seem to be priorities, and a point of enjoyment for many. Several people mentioned that they liked ECW because it gave women, who were new to the parish, a place to join in and get to know others, without having to take a class.

Thank You: This survey has been an excellent tool to learn what the women of our parish value. The tool's usefulness and worth was greatly increased by the willingness of those who made phone calls to many who had not responded to the written survey. This greatly expanded our sample size and increased the validity and value of the survey overall. ***Many thanks to all who invested time in this project!***

The survey was designed, completed, and assessed by the ECW Officers (Ronnie Schwakhofer, Carlie Maciejewski, Beverley Matthewson, Mary Anne O'Bryant, Becki Nichols, Anne Cain) and a team of volunteers (Julie Chalk, Maury Meyer, Lynda Leadford, Tricia Jones).

The report was prepared by Julie Chalk, Maury Meyer, and Anne Cain.



Could this be you?

by Winnie Benson

When you enter our worship space on Sundays, do you notice the flowers? Have you wondered where they come from and who arranges them?

Many years ago, the flowers were purchased from a local florist. Some ladies of the parish decided that they would like to use their skills and arrange the flowers themselves. This was the beginning of St. Francis' Flower Guild.

We began with a very willing team—16 ladies!—each of whom had their own style. Over the years, they've become more confident, and try different materials to work with. Not only has this made it interesting to see each Sunday, but the High Holy Days like Christmas and Easter have seen amazing creativity.

We're not a closed club!! New members are always welcome, and we would love to have you join us. You need no previous experience; Winnie Benson will be teaching the basic rules of design (she owned her own florist shop for 10 years). After training, you'll be paired with another guild member until you feel confident enough to "Go it alone."

If this sounds like your cup of tea, please call Winnie at (830) 899-3164. Thank you!

But wait! There's more Flower Guild news...

One of the ministries of St. Francis by the Lake is the flower guild. Our ministry is to provide the altar arrangements for worship on Sundays. Members of

the parish, at times, wish to remember loved ones, or a special occasion—such as a birthday or anniversary. A contribution is made to the guild by the parishioner, and the guild makes the arrangements. [Suggestions regarding colors and types of flowers are always welcome, although supply-and-demand means we can't guarantee our ability to comply with all requests.]

The Flower Guild has recently decided to lower the contribution amount asked for to \$12.50 per arrangement. We hope that the lower cost will make it more affordable for parishioners to remember loved ones or events, or to celebrate and give thanks, with a floral remembrance.

There is a new sign up sheet in the MOC hall, on which we ask you to write in your name, the reason for giving the flowers, and the Sunday date you wish it to be noted in the bulletin.

If you have any questions, regarding this, please call me (Winnie) at (830) 899-3164. Thank you!

