



The Franciscan



Volume XXXVIII, Issue XI

St. Francis by the Lake
Canyon Lake, Texas

December 2017

It's that time again - for FEASTing!

By [Betty Morris](#)

...and you thought you had finished FEASTing for a few weeks! No, *now* is the time to set up new FEAST groups. These are our small groups who meet for a meal, at homes, restaurants, picnics, etc. Members, friends, and neighbors of St. Francis are welcome. The new groups run from Jan. 1, 2018 (where did 2017 go?) to July 31, 2018.

If you are in a group now, you need do nothing. You will be placed in a new group. If you are not in a group and wish to be, please contact Betty Morris, (830) 515-8659, or bmorris@gytc.com. Each group meets once a month, the host provides an entrée and others bring complementary dishes.

The current lists and more information are in the narthex on the right side as you enter. A sign-up sheet is there too. If you have other questions, please contact Betty. These groups make it possible to learn more about fellow Franciscans and enjoy a good meal and fellowship. We hope you will be a part of a FEAST.

Wreaths across America

By [Bernie Frey](#), Outreach Chairman

This program places a Christmas wreath on graves of veterans at National Cemeteries across the country. This year the placement date will be Dec. 16. The program began in 1992 by a single man at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, DC. In 2005, a photo went viral, showing thousands of wreaths leaning against headstones. That sparked a similar effort at mili-

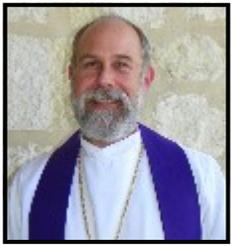
tary cemeteries across the nation. In 2016, 9,910 graves were decorated with wreaths.

Go to www.wreathscrossamerica.org to either make a general donation to the program or purchase a wreath designed for a certain grave. The web site will give you those options. If you want to designate a specific grave for a wreath, you need to know the cemetery section and grave number. The web site will also let you enter a particular national

[\(Continued on page 7\)](#)



Thank you to the Rev. Deacon Victor Manuel Velasquez Martinez (pastor of Manos de Dios) for being with us for our services on Sunday, Nov. 5.



Dear Friends,

After the Israelites settled in the Holy Land, the LORD God commanded that every seventh year in their calendar be kept as a blessing of *rest* and *release*. When seven cycles of seven years had been completed, they called that “the Year of Jubilee.” Seven is, of course, a special word and number in Hebrew. It signaled and reminded the people of the completion of Creation (God’s initial labor of love for the world,) and His rest from and appreciation of that labor. But in the celebrating and remembering (and, thereby, its *enactment*), the people were also put in mind of their original purpose, their original ministry, their *raison d’être* if you will.

“When seven cycles of seven years had been completed, they called that the Year of Jubilee.”

Their reason for existence was to worship God (i.e., to so value and enjoy the LORD and His blessings,) and that their thankful hearts would overflow in gratitude. By this, would the world come to know, worship, and thank the LORD as well.

“It signaled and reminded the people of the completion of Creation (God’s initial labor of love for the world,) and His rest from and appreciation of that labor.”

This Advent marks the completion of Julie’s and my seventh year with you. We have been truly blessed and enjoyed our time together: the ups and downs, successes and failures, joys and sorrows, mercy, forgiveness, spiritual & men-

tal & emotional & physical growth, and love. We are so thankful.

Julie joins me in our continual prayer for each and all of you: that we would continue in our life together, glorifying God, receiving His many blessings so that we might bless the world in His Name, and living our lives for the life of the world.

Happy Advent!
And may the peace and love of the Lord be with you.
Fr. David & Julie

Highway cleanup in November

By [Bernie Frey](#), Outreach Chairman

On a beautiful Saturday morning on the 18th of November, five super volunteers came out for the last highway cleanup of 2017. Tamara and Bella Huneau, Norm Littlefield, and Linda and Larry Bosenbark did

a great job of cleaning up a portion of our sector of FM 2673.

Hopefully, more folks will be able to participate in our next effort which will be in February. Stay tuned for the date.



Mar. 15-18: Cursillo weekend #278 at Camp Capers. Lay Rector is Rosine Carter, and Spiritual Director is the Rev. Lisa Mason.

May 3 - 6: Cursillo weekend #279 at Mustang Island Conference Center.

Sept. 27 - 30: Cursillo weekend #280 at Mustang Island Conference Center.

Nov. 8-11: Cursillo weekend #281 at Camp Capers.



(L to R): Bella and Tamara Huneau, Norm Littlefield, and Larry and Linda Bosenbark helped clean up St. Francis’ section of FM 2673. (See article on this page.)



Treasurer's report

By [Robert Amos](#)

Email:

treasure@gvtc.com

Good friends, as we enter Advent, the beginning of our Christian new year, and the upcoming holidays, I can think of no better time to invite friends, family, and neighbors to join us for worship and fellowship at St. Francis by the Lake. It's a wonderful time of the year. Libby recently handed out cards to help us. If you need some, please see the church office. We are a wonderful parish and the most welcoming church I have ever attended. I'm sure you feel the same. Please consider bringing or inviting someone to come to church with you.

Here is our financial summary as of October 31, 2017.

Operations:

Revenues: Year-to-date revenues in the general fund are \$205,427.85 and exceed the budget projection by \$7,785.85 (3.9%) and are 7.3% higher than the same period last year. Thank you. The good news continues.

Year to date pledge contributions are the largest part of our revenue and are \$172,989.20 year to date. This is \$12,002.80 less than budget. While this is still behind our expected budget, pledge contributions did meet October monthly estimates. Thank you for your faithfulness last month. Let's try to close the gap.

Regular giving (those who give regularly but have not pledged) is \$26,239.59 year to date, and continues well ahead of budget projections.

Expenditures: Year-to-Date expenditures from the general fund are \$223,009.43, which are less than the budget projection by \$6,685.57 and are 8.1% less than the same period in 2016, due to diligent expense management by the staff and vestry.

Balance (revenue minus expenditures): We have a current year-to-date deficit of \$17,581.58, which is approximately the same as my last report. This remains a challenge, but is still much less than the year-to-date budget deficit estimate of \$32,026.00 and the annual outlook, from last January, of \$39,159.

Capital:

Capital Campaign: Contributions continue to increase, with contributions totaling \$208,301.66. This is an increase of \$11,900 from last month.

Debt Retirement: Year to date contributions to debt retirement total \$9,595.00.

Thank you for your attention to your capital contributions. We are doing well. Keep up the good work.

Endowment Fund:

The endowment fund balance is \$49,771.42. The principle of this fund is protected. Interest earned can be used for special purposes approved by the vestry. It is as a place for contributions from wills and testaments. As you consider your own will, please remember St. Francis by the Lake and this fund.

Our **funds** as of October 31, 2017:

General Operating:	\$	28,009
Debt Retirement:	\$	9,182
Building (New Bldg.):	\$	32,673
Capital Campaign Funds:	\$	208,310
Endowment Fund:	\$	49,771

Our **debts** as of October 31, 2017:

Crump Note:	\$	30,000
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If you have comments or questions, or if you would like to discuss a pledge or contribution, please feel free to contact me, Bob Amos, at treasure@gvtc.com.



Episcopal Church Women update

By [Tricia Jones](#) ECW President

Like October, November was a busy month for ECW and the parish. We had a fantastic day trip for our monthly gathering and a hugely successful bake sale!

The trip to the Whitworth Stained Glass and Art Gallery was informative and inspirational. Jack and Cindy Whitworth, owners and artists, gave us a thorough hands-on tour of their custom stained glass workshop, showing us pieces in the various stages of design and completion. In addition to being known across the USA for their custom stained glass work, the Whitworths are known for their preservation/restoration of old stained glass. These jobs include dismantling old pieces from the structure, and installing the restored pieces, sometimes precariously high. We were delighted to be able to see some panels that had not been restored and some that had.

We reluctantly left the studio to go to the First United Methodist Church, New Braunfels; however, we were quickly absorbed in the beauty, details, and stories of the seven stained glass panels the Whitworth's had created and installed, depicting in non-traditional scenes, the seven "I Am" passages of the Gospel of John. Jack and Cindy love what they do. They are extremely talented and dedicated to their work. They are truly using their gifts to bring the light of Christ to others now and for many generations to come.

Our day out was completed with a lovely lunch and fellowship

at the Huisache Grill and a stroll through the courtyard markets.

The second ECW fund-raiser, the annual bake sale was held Sunday, Nov. 19. We were blessed with a beautiful fall day, and a wide array of cakes, brownies, cookies, pies, breads, casseroles, and other specialty home-made goodies AND many generous buyers! Just over \$1,150 was raised for ECW outreach ministries. Many thanks to everyone for participating, but especially the Bake sale committee, Lynda Leadford, chair, and her committee members: Debbie Barnwell, Stacey Benham, Josie Loria, and Tricia Jones.

As we move into Advent, a time of reflection and hopeful anticipation, I want to express my sincere appreciation to the whole parish for the very hard work that has been done to support ECW and our fund-raisers. We are blessed and we are called to share those blessings!

The ECW Advent Party is on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the home of Susan and Jim Kelch. Their address is 188 Brookhollow, New Braunfels. Spouses are invited too! Ham, small breads, condiments, wine and beer are provided. If you would like, please bring an appetizer, side dish, or dessert to share.

I look forward to worshipping with you as we begin a new church year and Advent. If I may be of service, please contact me at (512) 497-2297 or gabe.triciajones@gmail.com.

"With all humility and gentleness, and with patience, support each other in love." *Ephesians 4:2*



Gentle
Exercise Class
At

Saint Francis by the Lake

Class instruction focuses on posture, breathing, stretching, balance, form, and light exercise.

Instructor: Jeanne Slupik

When: Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:15 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Where: Parish hall. Please wear comfortable clothing, and bring a yoga mat.

Cost: Donations only, to benefit St. Francis by the Lake.

Come join us!



Needs for the CRRC food pantry

Our local food pantry continues to be in need of the following items:

plastic grocery bags;

toilet paper;

cereal;

spaghetti;

laundry detergent;

shampoo;

conditioner;

shower gels;

dish soap;

hand soap;

baby diapers - sizes 2, 3, 4, and 5, and adult sizes, (both disposable and cloth diapers;) and

toothbrush, toothpaste, and floss.

(When visiting the dentist each patient is usually given a small bag that contains a toothbrush, toothpaste and floss. As each of us has our semi-annual checkups, please consider bringing those to church for the CRRC donation box. Thanks to Betty Morris for that suggestion.)

All contributions are appreciated.

What's happening

Daughters of the King (DOK) is on the fourth Wednesday of every month (Dec. 27) at 12:30 p.m. The group will meet in the parish hall after the 11:30 a.m. Eucharist.

Episcopal Church Women (ECW) meets on Saturday, Dec. 9, at 3:00 a.m. for their ECW Advent party, at Susan and Jim Kelch's home. [\(See article, p. 4.\)](#)

Scripture Study Group is an informal study that meets at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesdays in the parish hall, followed by Eucharist.

Vestry meets the second Sunday of each month. The group will meet on Dec. 10 at 12:30 p.m., in the parish hall.

Adult Sunday School meets most Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the parish hall.

Prayer Shawl Ministry meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 1:00 p.m. The group decides at their meeting where the next get-together will take place.

Evening Study Class meets at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays in the parish hall.

Al-Anon meets every Saturday at 10:00 a.m. in Jones Hall.

Caregiver Support Group meets every third Monday (Dec. 18) of the month at 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the parish hall.

COH Circle of Care will meet on Sunday, Dec. 3, at 12:15 p.m., in the parish hall.

Second Saturday Diocesan Mini Retreat meets each month on the 2nd Saturday at 9:00 a.m. at the Bishop Jones Center. On beautiful grounds, the time is for contemplative silence and fellowship. (If you would like to carpool, there are several woman from St. Francis that would be glad to have

you join them. Please call the St. Francis office (830) 964-3820 for more information.)



Christmas poinsettias

Poinsettias will be purchased to decorate the altar and church for the Christmas season. You can help by donating the cost of a poinsettia.

Please fill out a slip included in the December bulletins, and designate your memorial or thanksgiving wishes. The poinsettia plants are \$10 each, and a list of donors and their memorials will be included in the Christmas bulletin. Thank you for your support.

December anniversaries

Bob and Jeanne Slupik	12/19
Bubba and Margo Horner	12/21

December birthdays

Joan Blankenbeker	12/4
Phil Hopkins	12/4
Dave LaCombe	12/7
Brad Mount	12/12
Fr. Gordon Scheible	12/13
Mary K. Chittenden	12/15
Becky Averyt	12/18
Lynda Middleton	12/18
Kristina Kirk	12/24
Linda Hillin	12/25
Bob Kerr	12/25
Carlie Maciejewski	12/25
Gloria Wildberger	12/25
Brenda Amos	12/26

Mark your calendars

Dec. 2 - St. Francis Trekkers - trail walk through Boerne.

Dec. 9 - Second Saturday mini retreat at the Diocese.

Dec. 9 - 3:00 p.m. - ECW Advent party at Susan and Jim Kelch's home. [\(See ECW article, p. 4.\)](#)

Dec. 13 - 12:30 p.m. - DOK Christmas Luncheon at Ginger Rose's home.

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve
9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist - Rite II (regular service) with music.

5:30 p.m. - Christmas Eve Rite II Service with music.

Dec. 25 - Christmas Day
10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service w/music.

Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve
9:30 a.m. - *All Together Now* Service
11:00 a.m. - Potluck Brunch

The Franciscan

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Stewardship through outreach

As stewards for God’s Kingdom we are asked to provide not only our resources but also our time and talent. On Sunday, Oct. 29, we were blessed to hear details about two programs that St. Francis Parish members are participating in where we can help those in our community who need assistance.

Clarissa Reece was the first graduate of the Greater New Braunfels *Family Promise* program and she discussed her experience and what the program has done for her. The Family Promise organization is dedicated to addressing the crisis of family homelessness. This program is very successful: 74 % of families served move on to long term housing. The greater new Braunfels chapter is now four years old and has graduated 34 families, a total of 101 parents and children. As a support church to the local host church, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, parish members provide the evening meal and also family time to the clients one evening each quarter.

Jessica Fields spoke about the backpack program which provides supplemental weekend and school holiday food to needy students. Jessica is the liaison between families of the community, and school at Mountain Valley Elementary School. Canyon Lake’s socioeconomic status is considered disadvantaged with over 40 % of student’s families below the poverty level, which qualifies students to receive free/reduced priced lunches. Canyon Lake has approximately 3,200 students between five schools and using the 40 % disadvantaged number equates to 1,300 students receiving free/reduced price lunches. Of that number, 300 receive back-

pack bags weekly. The program is administered by the First Baptist Church and St. Francis donations are provided by parish members as well as the DOK. Some quotes from receiving students; “This helps us a lot. We don’t have much food. We’re so poor all we have money for is gas and we have to go to the food bank,” “We can barely afford dinner but since you give me the food bags, it’s really helpful.” A letter from a student written to Jessica reads “Mrs. Jessica, I’m thankful for having you as a awesome teacher but also having good food to eat and having a good person to give it to me and I want to thank you for helping me. Thanks Ms. Jessica, you are the best and the food helps me not be starving when I get home.”

Any parish member who is interested in participating in either of these programs, please contact Bernie Frey at (210) 863-7866 for additional details. We all need to be reminded that, but for the grace of God, there go I.



Reaching up... Reaching out

Lord, what do you want to do through me?

This is our parish. The time is now. Pray for our Capital Campaign and our Stewardship Campaign and ask God’s guidance in how you are to join in the vision.

The floor plan of the Outreach and Ministry Center is available in the Narthex.



Vestry members Brad Mount (left) and Chris Mitchell prepare the spaghetti for our Gratitude Sunday luncheon on Nov. 5.



Harold Simmons (left) and vestry member Dave LaCombe prepare the plates to send out to parishioners for our Gratitude Sunday luncheon.



Vestry members Mo Simmons serves wine to parishioners at our Gratitude Sunday luncheon.

Open house

By [Tricia Jones](#)

Jack and Cindy Whitworth, owners and artists at the Whitworth Stained Glass and Art Gallery, are hosting an Open House, on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The gallery is a wonderful place to buy gifts and to view art from the Whitworths and other artists. The gallery is located at 104 Melody Lane, New Braunfels. See the ECW article in this issue for more on ECW's recent visit to the gallery.

[Wreaths ...](#) *(Cont'd from page 1)*

cemetery to see if that location participates in the program.

The price of the wreaths is \$15 each. In addition to purchasing wreaths, volunteers are needed at the Ft. Sam Houston Cemetery to help lay wreaths there. The contact person for volunteering at Ft. Sam is Judy Carlisle at (210) 861-8037 or (210) 556-5766.

Partnerships are good for the heart

From the Community Resource & Recreation Center (CRRC) of Canyon Lake

Partnerships are good for the soul - a warm soul - too!

This time of year, CRRC is grateful for Canyon Lake Rotary's Project Warmth program. Every

year, the club collects jackets, sweaters and coats that are gently used. They bring them to the CRRC main office, where we put them on a coat rack.



Folks coming into the office for the food pantry are welcome to help themselves to one. When the cold weather hits, people start asking about the coats! They know where they can find a coat for free.

So, obviously, the Canyon Lake Rotary would run out of coats themselves if they only dug into their closets. That's why they, and we, ask you to dig into your closets and drawers to find some warm outerwear that you might not be using

anymore. You can drop them off at the CRRC Food Pantry (in our main office building at 1917 FM 2673 in Sattler,) when you drop off your food donations.

(We thank you for the sweet potatoes! We're also getting low on the evaporated milk.)



Warm regards,
Maureen Schein
Resource Program Director



The ECW toured the Whitworth Stained Glass and Art Gallery on Nov. 9. (Back row, L to R): Lancine Justin, Betty Morris, Brenda Klaftenegger, Carlie Maciejewski, Linda Bosenbark, Azile Davenport, Lynda Leadford, and (front row, L to R): Betty Colley, Maury Meyer, Susan Kelch, Judy McClendon, Carol Glasby, and Tricia Jones. If you would like to see the beautiful stained glass, see the article on this page.



One of the myriad items happening on Gratitude Sunday (Nov. 5) was the UTO (United Thank Offering) at both services. Maury Meyer (left) and Susan Kelch collected donations at the 10:30 a.m. service. [\(See article, p. 8.\)](#)



Blue Box Sunday

By [Mary K. Chittenden](#), UTO Coordinator

Thanks to all of you who gave so graciously to the Spring and Fall UTO In-gatherings for 2017. We, at St Francis, will be sending \$1,259.36 to the UTO National Office at the end of the year. This money will help so many around the world.

Be one of the first to pick up another 'blue box' to begin filling with all your 'Thanksgivings' and blessings. Be ready for our next in-gathering in the Spring of 2018.

Mary K. Chittenden,
UTO Coordinator



Tom and Maury Meyer celebrated their 25th Anniversary by renewing their marriage vows on Nov. 26 at the 10:30 a.m. service.

Remember to update your Christmas Eve and Day, and New Year's Day schedule:

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve

5:30 p.m. - Christmas Eve Rite II Service with music.

Dec. 25 - Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service with music.

Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve

9:30 a.m. - *All Together Now* Service

11:00 a.m. - Potluck Brunch

St. Francis by the Lake

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Our Mission Statement

As Children of God we, at St. Francis by the Lake, are committed to living, learning, and sharing the love of Christ, the Word of God, and the power of the Holy Spirit with our parish family, our communities, and the world.

114th Diocesan Council

Feb. 22 - 24

San Marcos

