



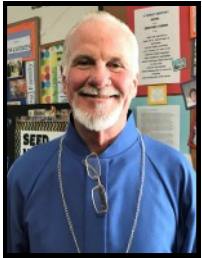
# The Franciscan



Volume XXI, Issue

St. Francis by the Lake  
Canyon Lake, Texas

December 2020



## Sr. Warden

**Jim Kelch**

[james.r.kelch@gmail.com](mailto:james.r.kelch@gmail.com)

I have some long expected news! Several weeks ago, a group was formed by Fr. David to bring to fruition a long-anticipated church sign on FM306! The group consisted of the Sr. Warden, Jim Kelch, as convener, Lynda Leadford, Ken Leadford, Linda Bosenbark, and Keren Necaise.

The group first met with Fr. David to discuss what was within our boundaries. Cost was discussed, as well as design and functionality. Agreement was reached as to what we were tasked with, and the team went forth to research and examine all options. We agreed to meet in two weeks after our research had been conducted. Keren was far ahead of the pack since she had served on initial committees in the past.

Keren contacted several companies, but no one could compete with the design, functionality, and cost of what soon became our favorite company. We met once again and agreed that “Stewart Signs” could provide us with what we needed. It was a great learning opportunity for us. The summary was presented to the Vestry, who then voted unanimously to approve the expenditure and go forward.

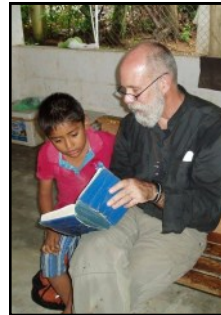
Due to some forward thinking and wonderfully generous parishioners, the cost of the sign was already covered. Besides some landscaping, we anticipate at least an electrician’s services to connect the sign to our power source.

The contract with the sign compa-

ny is being written as I write, and 50% of the cost will be paid up front. It will be exciting to sign the check and see this get underway! We are very excited about this opportunity to make ourselves more visible in our community we love and serve. As one parishioner stated, “Advertising pays!” (I won’t say who, but he has an [\(Continued on page 4\)](#))

## Rector’s Reflections

Fr. David Chalk



*“When the candle is burning, who looks at the wick? When the candle is out, who needs it? ... But the world without light is wasteland and chaos, and a life without sacrifice is abomination.”*—Annie Dillard, Holy the Firm

Just when we thought it might be safe to turn on the news again, we find that there are good things going on, and there continue to be bad things going on. The world is not much changed after Nov. 3. And what’s “good” vs. what’s “bad”? In our distinctively individualistic culture, that continues to be “in the eye of the beholder.” What’s a Christian to do in this chaotic, divided, no-holds-barred, knock-down-drag-out, “I just can’t be your friend if you think *this* way...” world we live in?

I think the answer starts with the word “Christian.” And if you’ll allow me to do away with the article and concentrate on the noun: It starts with *being* Christian, being *Christ*-like, or being “little Christs” in the world. It means we put on Christ in all

aspects of our life. We are intent about doing the very things we’ve always striven to do: wage peace; be reconciled; and “do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.” We are signs of Christ’s love in this sinful, broken, self-absorbed, fearful world. Intent on being Christ-like, we speak blessings with our words, rather than criticism or curses. Sometimes we need to hold our tongues rather than get drawn in to what we think are inane comments and conversations.

Speaking of which, we need to ratchet down our “offence meter.” I’d be willing to bet that 98% of what people say to us isn’t about us at all. It’s about them. And so rather than be offended or get angry, what if we exercised compassion? Or, what if an unkind or overly critical comment directed in our vicinity served as a reminder to check on how we’re being perceived? I’m trying to scatter reminders to myself, all around, of how I wish, want, and hope to comport myself. I have, do, and always will rage against injustice and oppression; but I’m finally learning that anger rarely contributes to a solution. Not only that, but I find I lose friends and/or I have lots of mopping up to do...

This Sunday, we move into a new Church year: Advent. Somber and dark as Advent is, we will light the wreath and add to its light, week by week, until we celebrate the Beloved Gift of God: Jesus, the Light of the World. I propose a “new year’s resolution” for this Advent: let’s not wait until then to be the light He said we are. (John 8.12; Matthew 5.14-16)



## Treasurer's report

By [Robert Amos](#)

Greetings all,

As you read this St. Francis by the Lake is well into our annual stewardship drive. You should have received a packet with lots of good information, a pledge card, and a return envelope. Your pledge is private and confidential; and pledging is not required. Pledging is important since it helps us be better stewards and helps us plan for the new year. Still, we recognize that giving to God's work at St. Francis by the Lake is between you and God.

I believe that sacrificial giving for God's work is *sacramental*. That is, it is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. Sacrificial giving provides me one of many ways to show my gratitude for what God has given and continues to give me. And giving gives me peace. Giving nurtures me. Since it is sacrificial, it means choices must be made; priorities decided. It means I must put aside some of my wants. But over the years, I can say that the spiritual reward is far greater. It is part of seeking balance in my life. It is very rewarding. I encourage you to take some time to pray, study, and prioritize. Consider what God continues to give you and how you respond.

Overall our finances at St. Francis by the Lake through October 2020 are mixed.

### Operations - less than expected.

Revenues: Total revenue year to date is \$206,089.54 which is less than planned by \$15,089.46.

Expenditures: Expenditures are \$231,606.10 which is lower (better) than planned by \$11,137.90.

Balance (Revenue minus Expenditures): Balance is a deficit of \$25,516.56 which is worse than planned by \$3,956.56.

This does not include the Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) loan. We have applied for the PPP loan forgiveness, which will take several months for the Small Business Administration to complete.

### Capital - doing well.

Capital Campaign 2020 – 2022: Total contributions are \$72,397.84. Combined balance of Capital Campaign and Capital Campaign 2020 – 2022 Fund is \$97,979.26. We are continuing making monthly principal payments of \$6,060.00 to the Frost Line of Credit.

Debt Retirement: Contributions are \$36,966.00. The Debt Retirement Fund contains a balance of \$46,178.16.

### Endowment Fund - doing well.

Total in the fund is \$119,740.32, which is an increase of \$5,336.05 so far this year.

#### Our funds as of October 31, 2020:

General Operating	\$	(8,805.42)
Debt Retirement	\$	46,178.16
Capital Campaign Fund	\$	97,979.26
Endowment Fund	\$	119,740.32

#### Debt:

Frost Bank - Line of Credit:	\$	121,198.35
Crump Foundation:	\$	427,500.00
Payroll Protection Plan Loan:	\$	35,000.00

The General Fund being negative is not a large concern. It moves up and down throughout the year. While it does reflect a year to date deficit larger than planned, cash is OK. We have the PPP loan to draw on if needed.

As a reminder, you have the ability to contribute on-line. Go to our website, [www.saintfrancisbythelake.org](http://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 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@gvyc.com](mailto:treasure@gvyc.com).



## Episcopal Church Women

By [Ronnie Harper-Schwakhofer](#),

We had a great turn out at our November meeting... 14 attended "in person" (everyone wore masks and practiced distancing) and four attended via Zoom. Maureen Schein, Development Director for CRRC, gave a very informative presentation on the various programs provided by CRRC. Perhaps some will decide to volunteer at CRRC?

So far, we have received a total of \$1,271.00 in donations from our parishioners!! We are so grateful; these funds will allow us to support local organizations in May. (If you still have things to donate, please consider giving them to the Pink Elephant in Startzville since they give St. Francis a greater percentage for items donated by us. Be sure to tell the manager your donation is for St. Francis.

Usually ECW has a Christmas Party rather than a meeting in December; last year it was held in the MOC, husbands were invited, and we enjoyed great food, wine, and conversation. However this year, due to COVID, the venue would have to be different; we are considering a lady's luncheon at an off-site location. I sent an email asking the ladies to consider whether they wanted to attend and to please let me know by Friday, Nov. 20. Once we have an idea on the number of attendees, we can consider our restaurant options. Please check the *Good News* for further updates.

The programs at our monthly meetings for the upcoming year (January - May) are being confirmed, the speakers are members of our parish and are involved in organiza-

tions in our community. In January: Tom Meyer, Lions Club; in February: Diane Thovson, Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation; in April: Julie Chalk, Threads of Blessing; in May: Spring Luncheon, election of ECW officers.

The following is a prayer for our parish community written by Kathleen Staudt from the Episcopal Church Women website: *Loving God, we pray for this parish community in this time of crisis. Deliver us from simply desiring to go "back to normal," and give us grace instead to be open to the opportunities that* [\(Continued on page 4\)](#)

## Patla's Blessing

Dear Good People of St. Francis,

Ken and I have recently moved to California to be closer to our children and grandchildren. We are in Madera, CA, which is about 10 miles north of Fresno, and 50 miles South of Yosemite. We did want to say goodbye to each of you, but as the times call for distancing, that wasn't possible and this is our best way of doing so. We will miss our friendships with you and certainly wish each of you the very best, always. There could not be a better group of parishioners anywhere!

God Bless,  
Ann Patla

## 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](mailto:francis@gvtc.com)  
[www.saintfrancisbythelake.org](http://www.saintfrancisbythelake.org)

## December anniversaries

Bob and Jeanne Slupik 12/19

## December birthdays

Dan Blanchard 12/1  
Joan Blankenbeker 12/4  
Lynda Duncan 12/4  
Phil Hopkins 12/4  
Kay Blanchard 12/12  
Brad Mount 12/12  
Fr. Gordon Scheible 12/13  
Mary K. Chittenden 12/15  
Becky Averyt 12/18  
Lynda Middleton 12/18  
Joy Ellwood 12/23  
Linda Hillin 12/25  
Carlie Maciejewski 12/25  
Brenda Amos 12/26  
Russell Cowan 12/26



## CRRC Needs

The pantry is in need of:  
canned green beans;  
stuffing mix (box or bag);  
canned applesauce;  
canned chicken noodle soup;  
Progresso soups (our elderly would love to just open a can and heat to eat!);  
and paper towels.

*All contributions are appreciated.*

## The Franciscan

A mostly-monthly publication of  
St. Francis by the Lake  
Canyon Lake, Texas  
The Rev. David Chalk, Rector

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Sr. Warden (Cont'd from page 1)

English accent.) It will take approximately 60 days for the sign to be fabricated and shipped to us. In the mean time, while the sign's cost is covered by designated gifts (once again: thank you!), the cost of the electrician and landscaping are not in our budget. And so any contributions to help in this way will be greatly appreciated. St. Francis by the Lake will be known! It's a sign!



ECW (Cont'd from pg. 3)

*the Holy 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.*

The purpose 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. For more information please call Ronnie Harper-Schwakhofer at (210) 885-6886, or email: [ronnie78133@gmail.com](mailto:ronnie78133@gmail.com).

Hope you have a blessed Advent, Christmas, and New Year!

**“Chef Robert’s Remedies and Recipes”**

By Tricia Jones

Thanks to our relationships with Wildflour, CRRC, and Family Promise, and our shared mission of loving, helping, and feeding our neighbors, St. Francis is excited to be part of a collaborative new ministry called “Chef Robert’s Remedies and Recipes.”

St. Francis and our three partners are pooling expertise and resources to provide professional chef-led cooking classes to low-income families, primarily using food from the CRRC food pantry and federal SNAP (food stamp) eligible foods.

Chef Robert Hicks, Head Chef at Wildflour Artisan Bakery and Grill, is leading a series of six sessions using demonstration and hands-on techniques. The participants are families active in the CRRC Food Pantry Program. The knowledge and skills the participants learn are intended to improve food safety, save time and money, improve nutrition, and avoid unhealthy fast-food choices, all the while hopefully bringing joy into preparing tasty and creative recipes for themselves and their families.

Two times a month in November, December, and January the class will meet in St. Francis’ Great Hall on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Guidelines on coronavirus will be followed. We plan to repeat

the classes to a new group each quarter. At a future date, Family Promise families will be offered opportunities to participate.

To volunteer or find out more, please contact Tricia Jones at (512) 497-2297, or [gabe.triciajones@gmail.com](mailto:gabe.triciajones@gmail.com); or Maury Meyer at (830) 708-3133, or [maurymeyer@gmail.com](mailto:maurymeyer@gmail.com).



**(above) Chef Robert Hicks from Wildflour Artisan Bakery & Grill**

**(below) Some of Chef’s delicious delicacies**



## The Privilege of Stewardship

Reminder: Pledge Sunday is December 6  
By Tim Ellwood

A true story:

About a month ago, I was sitting in my den thinking about stewardship and thought to myself: “Self, you really need to think about stepping up your involvement in stewardship this year, given what you’ve been through and how important faith has been to you during this journey. You really do.” Literally *moments* after that thought, Fr. David reached out to me and asked if I would be willing to help with stewardship this year. What do they say about “coincidences” when God is at work? Oh, right: there are none. I looked over at Joy in the chair next to me and said “You won’t believe what just happened.” And so here I am typing this piece.

Our faith gives us the ability to see, appreciate, and be grateful for God’s work in our lives.

Sometimes we don’t see His involvement until years after the fact. But with the gift of faith, hindsight is 20/20 (no pun intended for this challenging year.)

Sitting here in November 2020, I have eagle-eyed clarity of hindsight regarding His work in my life over the last 18 months. I know that many others in our parish have faced cancer or other serious health conditions in their lives. My journey is not unique. I share it only to highlight how our Lord works in our lives.

My cancer diagnosis last year stopped me in my tracks. Naturally, I fretted over the “what might happen.” My brain and emotions were running amok. How can this be?

As I struggled to wrap my head around all of it, my heart “heard” a whisper and felt His presence: “Don’t worry. I am with you.” Not a burning bush, but a calm, loving nudge.

That’s the moment when my faith lifted me up—no bootstraps needed. As the song goes, “Jesus took the wheel.” He led me down the path toward and through treatment. Others might not see God at work here, but I surely do.

I found myself speaking with friends and strangers who had gone through what I was facing, including friends at St. Francis by the Lake (to whom I will always be grateful—you know who you are.) They gave me the courage to face the disease. I found myself speaking with physicians who had God-given medical talents. They gave me the courage to treat the disease. I found myself speaking to priests with God-given talents to provide spiritual support and I found myself on prayer lists, including at St. Francis by the Lake, organized and maintained by people with God-given gifts of managing those ministries. They gave me the courage to continue to pray for His wisdom, support, guidance, and healing powers as I dealt with the disease. I found myself surrounded by my family and friends who supported me as I faced decisions that only I could make for myself. They gave me the courage to make the decision. And I found myself supported by Joy, my wife and soulmate of 30-plus years. She gave me the courage to act on that decision. With God’s help, Who in my mind was clearly working through all these people, I made the decision. And then I felt at peace.

As my grandma used to say: “My word!”

God was all over this!! I was and continue to be overwhelmed by His love. How could I not want to “step it up” this year? And I want others to feel the peace that I felt by His presence. I want others to bask in our Lord’s love. I want others to hear *The Good News*.

I think the implantation of that “want” is sometimes referred to as a “calling.” I think the implementation

of that “want” is called stewardship.

Traditionally, stewardship is described as giving one’s time, talents, and treasure to God. Fr. David spoke about stewardship of time on Nov. 22, when he pointed out how we use our time—moment by moment—is a reflection of whether, and for how long each day, Jesus is the King sitting on the throne of our hearts. Fr. Gordon addressed the stewardship of talents on Nov. 15, when he pointed out that each of us is blessed with different types of talents that can be used for God’s work.

That leaves me to address money. Stewardship is our opportunity to provide financial support for His Work. Stewardship is not just about contributing to a fund to keep the lights on and to support ministries that provide food and shelter, although all of those things are critically important.

Stewardship is also about those mustard seeds that Christ tells us about. Giving money to the Church is an *investment* in mustard seeds, so that they can be planted in other people. Faith germinates and then sprouts from those seeds. In essence, St. Francis by the Lake is a spiritual nursery. Our beloved parish, and all the ministries supported by our parishioners, provide an opportunity for all people to find Him and grow in their own Faith.

Knowing Christ has changed my life. Has He changed yours?

Accepting His Message and carrying it to others is what it means to be a Christian. Giving of our time, talents, and treasure to further His work is the best investment we can ever make.

On Dec. 6, we will have the opportunity of “paying forward” *The Good News*—that’s what I call a privilege.



## Spreading Our Branches through our Ministries

By Libby Templeton

We're so blessed at St. Francis by the Lake! Depending on how one counts, we have over 70 ministries that are involved in "Spreading Our Branches." Reaching up and reaching out to those in our community stretches from those closest to us at St. Francis out into the world! Throughout 2020, there have been significant challenges due to COVID-19 and all its consequences, and yet this has enabled us to **s t r e t c h** in new ways: ways we never planned or imagined possible. Our ministries – a reflection of our Mission – have continued in myriad ways. The following are merely a few examples of how we've responded, how we've grown, and how we continue to spread our branches:

### Daughters of the King (DOK)

Have continued to "pray without ceasing"! Using Zoom, they've continued to gather monthly and attendance has been steady. They've been "Deepening Our Roots," spending even more time in communication with one another in prayer and thanksgiving.

### Ushers & Greeters

Welcoming people to our parish on Sundays is very different today than pre-COVID-19, perhaps even more important. Some new steps include:

- Counting and recording who is in attendance each Sunday (this is our ongoing "contact list," just in case).
- Ensuring our protocols are observed, which includes masks and hand sanitizing.
- Directing people to pews and then ensuring proper distancing protocols.

Our ushers & greeters play a vital role in assuring safety and health and have been tireless in their efforts to serve all who come: visitors, guests, and our parish family.

### Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

The women of our parish reach out to touch parishioners and our community. They've been creative in a number of ways – here are a few:

- Working with a local consignment organization, The Pink Elephant, instead of our annual Rummage Sale.
- Providing financial support for local organizations (e.g., CRRC, CIS).
- Developing a connections ministry to augment the work of the Vestry and Community of Hope *via* letters, phone calls, text messages, and email.

### Community of Hope

The shut-down hasn't stopped the work of the lay chaplains; it's only changed the manner in which they serve. They've continued to:

- Check-in, encourage, and spiritually lift members of the parish (and many beyond the parish) through telephone calls, texts, cards, emails, and drive-by physically-distant porch visits.
- Support members of the parish and families of those who've had loved ones die.
- Conduct monthly "Circle of Care" gatherings *via* Zoom - these are regular opportunities to continue learning, sharing, and supporting each other, while our studies, discussions, and prayers encourage us to remain faithful, patient, hopeful, and loving especially during challenging times.
- Hold sessions for Training Class #3 and plan the commissioning of the new lay chaplains.

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## Daughters of the King

By Susan Kelch,  
Chapter President



The mission of The Order of the Daughters of the King is the extension of Christ's Kingdom through prayer, service, and evangelism. This year, we have taken on a study of the strategic plan of The Order for the years 2018-2024. The first goal set

forth is to inspire spiritual growth and development.

In an effort to ensure that our chapter is a sacred place, we have talked about and decided that as part of this venture, we want to reach out to the women in the congregation and seek out new members. Brenda Amos has volunteered to provide the training support in the spring for anyone who is interested in becoming a Daughter of the King. If you are in-

terested in learning more about The Order, please reach out to me or one of the other Daughters. We would love to share our experiences, focus, and practices. We can tell you what it is all about!

This year has been a different one for all of us but the Daughters of the King have found time to meet together monthly, whether in person or on Zoom. The fellowship and prayer continues to be important to all of us.

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## Responding to the Navajo plea

By Fr. David

The Executive Director of the Texas Water Mission called me to report that the Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health (the Shiprock, NM, office) had reached out to her, asking for help. From JHC’s website, here is their description of the situation:

*COVID-19 has had a major impact on Native Americans. [Recently] the Navajo Nation had the highest COVID-19 infection rate in the US, and Native Americans have endured higher rates of severe disease and death from COVID-19. While we have flattened the curve, Native people continue to experience the burden of COVID-19 at disproportionate rates.*

*[The Center’s teams] have been deep in the trenches helping our tribal partners mount effective responses to the pandemic when they have so few resources and such high rates of disease and death, including providing emergency food and water, hygiene supplies, handwashing stations for homes that lack running water... We are now in the next phase of our COVID response... tending to... behavioral and mental health problems...*

The Water director asked if I could assemble a team to respond to this “emergency.” We had 3 weeks notice to reply, prepare, and respond. The schedule and plans were “fluid.” Due to flying risks, and because of equipment we were asked to take, we opted to drive.

We were a team of three: Samantha from the Water Mission, Deacon John (St. Christopher’s, Portland) and me. We tested for Covid-19 before leaving to ensure we weren’t bringing anything unwanted to the Reservation.

The project was a success. Partnering with Johns Hopkins, the Texas Water Mission, and the Utah Nurses Health Services, we assembled and provided “sanitation stations” and “wellness boxes.” The community (mostly veterans, living near St Mary’s of the Moonlight, near Oljeto-Monument Valley) is pretty much without running water. Many have electricity, but potable water is not available. And so the spike in virus cases has been very high here on the Reservation.

In spite of our efforts, my thoughts on how this parallels Don Quixote’s mission

are magnified. What we provided was, at best, a small band-aid on a vast deep wound.

Please add our brothers and sisters, the Diné, to your prayers. Their government (it’s a long story) and the US government (an even longer story) seem to have forgotten them...

And then there are the serendipitous moments on our trips. Here’s one from the most recent visit:

Today a stranger knocked on our door and peered in. I called out “Ya’at’eeh! Come in!”

A masked man entered and said “I’m Robert,” and told me his last name. I said, “I’ve always wanted to meet someone from your family!” Then I asked, “would you like a cup of coffee?” He said, “O! (Navajo for ‘yes’) Let me go get my brother.”

[\(Continued on page 8\)](#)

## St Francis’ Wish List: Progress Report

By Tricia Jones

We are **thankful and blessed** for the generous donations that have been made for things on our Wish List. We have reached goals for the rectory flooring and for new communion rail kneelers! Shelving in all the storage rooms in the MOC has been funded and installed. A very special **THANK YOU** to Tamara Huneau and Ray Ferguson for their hard work on the shelving.

Significant donations have been made toward a large sign to be placed on FM306; however we shall be needing a bit more for landscaping it. Below is a brief progress report on these two items. It is very exciting to have many of our “wishes” fully funded and for work to begin soon. Thank you!

### How do I make a monetary donation towards an item on the Wish List?

You may write a check to St Francis by the Lake or you may use the online giving feature.

Description	Estimated Amount Needed	Donations Received as of 11/2020
Large Outdoor Sign	\$17,500	\$18,000
Landscaping around Large Outdoor Sign	\$1,000	0

- If you write a check, please be sure to write in the memo line: “Wish List - and a brief description of the item (e.g., “Wish List - Sign,” etc.) Checks should be mailed to St Francis by the Lake, P.O. Box 2031, Canyon Lake, TX 78133, or brought to the parish office.
- To use our online giving feature, please review the instructions in the Good News, the electronic Worship Bulletin “giving” link, or contact Bob Amos, our treasurer, at [treasure@gvtc.com](mailto:treasure@gvtc.com) or (512) 965-2632.

### Who do I contact if I have a question about the Wish List or the Gift Committee?

Please feel free to contact any member of the Gift Committee for guidance or with question. For information on monetary donations, please contact Bob Amos, Treasurer.

#### The Gift Committee

- |                           |               |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Linda Bosenbark, Chair    | Tricia Jones  |
| Bob Amos, Treasurer       | Betty Morris  |
| Fr David Chalk, Rector    | Ginger Rose   |
| Brian Freiberger          | Frank Smith   |
| Tamara Huneau, Jr. Warden | Nancy Summers |

Responding... (Cont'd from page 7)

The two came in, happy and cheerful, accepted the coffee, and we talked for nearly an hour. Then Robert asked if we'd like to see some Anasazi ruins they knew about, across the (San Juan) river. We excitedly said yes.

They first took us to Robert's house where he showed us some treasures; then his brother's house to meet their aunt. We left the brother at the house and drove to the ruins.

We climbed and were blessed with amazing vistas, incredible ruins, and beautiful smells. After carefully exploring the ancient ruins, we scrambled back down the scree to drive to the aunt's house; and we discovered she had made fry bread for us. Holding huge, round, puffy bread on paper towels, with drizzled honey, we ate delicious goodness.

Ann, the aunt, shared some of her woes and spoke about ailments she had, and before we left, I asked if we might pray with and for her. In English she said, "I'd like that." Laying hands on her, we prayed and prayed, thanking God for welcome and hospitality and gifts shared. Then we prayed for healing, health, harmony, and *bózhó*. When we said Amen, she exclaimed "Amen! Thank you, Jesus!" And she blessed us as we left.

I'm still processing this serendipitous event... But I know enough to be grateful.



*Robert M. climbed as far up to the Anasazi ruins as he dared...*

### Spreading Our Branches through Our Ministries

(See article on page 6.)

