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St. Francis by the Lake, Canyon Lake, Texas

Volume XLIV, Issue II

## The Reverend Mother Nancy A. Springer



Mother Nancy

Hi Y'all! When I was a teenager and an active part of the youth group of my childhood church, one of the many duties we were held accountable for was reading our Bible each day. That's a good thing. But the irony of the situation is that when we would meet together we weren't asked about what we read through the week, we were told what we should have gotten out of it and what it 'really' meant. So, true confession, I just stopped trying to get anything out of it because if I paid too close attention and actually had questions and thoughts, I'd risk being shut down by the Bible trained adults in the room.

Now fast forward several years as I'm discovering the Episcopal Church; you can imagine my surprise when in Bible Study, we actually had conversations about scripture and were asked what we thought! And in Seminary, we weren't told what the Bible *said*, but given tools and methods for, not just reading, but diving deep into scripture so we could be shaped and transformed by the Story.

Upon graduation, in a conversation with Bishop Gary Lillibridge, he pointed out that he had been through the Lectionary (where we get the Sunday readings if you're un-familiar) 10 times since his ordination and that he'd never

preached the same sermon twice. He shared with us the joy of finding something new each cycle through the Lectionary and to let ourselves experience the living nature of God's word. I've now been through the Lectionary 3 times and I can say wholeheartedly and whole-soul-edly (I just made that word up) that it's true.

All of this background is to tell you how excited I am about the upcoming St. Francis BibleProject! I've been listening to the BibleProject's podcast and using their resources for a couple years now and it's top-notch stuff! The Bible--Project is a non-affiliated foundation whose purpose is to make the study of scripture accessible to everyone. They present the Bible as a unified story that leads to Jesus. The Bible is God's Story, and we discover our identity as God's children through the Story. And since the very best way to take a deeper dive into scripture is in community, we are going to kick-off a parish wide, well, dive. I don't really want to call it 'study,' because it's so much more than book knowledge. It is the Story that enables us to live the life God created us for.

Does 'Formation Groups' sound too stuffy? Guided conversations? Stealthy Discipleship? (And if I use *stealthy* does that take away from the stealthy nature of it?)

Anyway ... You are all invited to come learn more about it on Wednesday, Feb. 2 (that's just a few days

away, I know) at 6:00 p.m. in the Great Hall. We'll eat a great meal, enjoy each other's company, have some fun, and learn about how we can use the BibleProject resources in small groups\* to deepen our ongoing, life-long, transformation as God's beloved children. Please make plans to come and check it out. I look forward to seeing all y'all at the Kick-off. Invite your friends and neighbors!

God's peace,  
Mtr. Nancy+

*\*If you think you might be interested in hosting a small group, please let me (Mtr Nancy) know. The materials from BibleProject, plus what we will send out each week to keep everyone on track, will make it manageable for anyone willing to host a group.*

### "small things..."

Dear Friends,

All of us—as a direct consequence of our faith—reach out to others. We help the materially poor, and we help the spiritually poor. We tell those who do not know Jesus about the salvation God offers through His Son. We aid and comfort those in need—any need. And we grow, becoming greater in numbers and deeper in faith.

We belong to the Body of Christ. We aren't some loose collective of humanity who can come be part when it suits us. We don't *go* to church; we **are** the church-when we're together, in common mission & ministry. As a parish family, what would happen if we were as excited about what we *bring* to worship, as we are about what we *get out of it*. The measure which we participate in the liturgy (which *Continued on pg 3*



Treasurer,  
Mr. Robert  
Amos

Greetings all,

## Treasurer's Report

Overall 2021 was a very good year for our financial position at St. Francis by the Lake. We had a number of financial challenges which we met with your generous contributions, diligent attention to spending, and forgiveness of our Payroll Protection Plan loan. We moved many of our investments to DWTX mutual funds which were higher yielding than the CD funds. The resulting General Fund (Operations) was much better than expected, showing a substantial surplus. Debt retirement, Capital Campaign and Endowment funds all did well. We also significantly reduced our debt. Thank you so much for your continuing generosity and dedication to our mission at St. Francis by the Lake.

### Our Financial Position

We expect 2022 to be an equally challenging year. Operations and Capital spending will be much higher than 2021. Our pledges on par with 2021. We expect lower revenue from our investments during 2022, as growth in overall financial markets are expected to be lower than 2021. We are starting off the year with a strong balance sheet which will help.

Details of 2021 are in the annual report.

### Financial Summary as of December 31, 2021

#### Operations - significantly better than planned.

**Revenues:** Total revenue is \$303,140.86 which are better than planned by \$109,853.52.

**Expenditures:** Expenditures were \$295,469.52 which was slightly higher (worse) than planned by \$13,116.52.

**Balance (R minus E):** Balance is surplus of \$35,251.00 which is better than planned by \$96,737.00.

#### Capital - did well.

**Capital Campaign 2020 – 2022** contributions were \$52,708.52, with a balance of \$80,640.22.

**Debt Retirement:** Contributions were \$40,682.00, with a balance of \$67,889.28.

#### Endowment Fund - did well.

Total in the fund is \$148,555.44.

#### Our funds, as of December 31, 2021:

- General Operating \$ 73,912.95
- Debt Retirement \$ 64,889.28
- Capital Campaign Fund \$ 80,640.22
- Endowment Fund \$ 148,555.44

#### Debt: We paid down our total debt by \$95,220.00.

- Frost Bank - Line of Credit: \$ 36,358.38
- Crump Foundation: \$ 405,000.00

*If you have any comments or questions, or if you would like to discuss your pledge or make another contribution, please feel free to contact me at [treasure@gvtc.com](mailto:treasure@gvtc.com).*



## CRRC's Pantry Needs

For February:

If you would like to contribute, please put your contributions in the "CRRC Box"

in the Ministry & Outreach Center

Bread (sliced bread, rolls, loaves)

Toilet paper

Toothpaste & Toothbrushes

Shampoo & Body wash

Applesauce (canned or bottled)

Canned fruit of any kind

Canned Ravioli-type items

Canned Chicken & Canned Tuna

Oatmeal & hot cereal (canisters preferred)

Spaghetti sauce (canned or bottled)

Hamburger (1 lb. "chubs" - i.e., wrapped in plastic tube)

"Hamburger Helper" & other type boxed foods.

## Save the Date

Feb 2, 6:00 p.m., All Parish

BibleProject Launch Party

Feb 5: 9:00 a.m. Highway cleanup

Feb 11—Mar 1: Voting

Feb 13: 11: 45 a.m.: Vestry

Feb 16: 6:30 p.m. Monthly potluck

Feb 19: 9-4: "Coming Home: Discovering the Image of God in Us"

Feb 24-25: DWTX Council

## Looking Ahead

Mar 1: Shrove Tuesday

Mar 2: Ash Wed.

## St. Francis by the Lake

121 Spring Mountain Drive  
Canyon Lake, Texas 78133  
USA

Office Phone: 830-964-3820

Parish Email: [francis@gvvc.com](mailto:francis@gvvc.com)

Ms. Janet C. Pollock, Administrative Asst.

Mr. John Stump, Parish Musician

### Priests

Father David P. Chalk 830.719.2442

[dpchalk@gmail.com](mailto:dpchalk@gmail.com)

Mother Nancy A. Springer 210.382.1195

[naspringer529@gmail.com](mailto:naspringer529@gmail.com)

Diocese of West Texas  
"We are a Missionary People"



"Reaching up Reaching out"  
Growing Something Eternal!

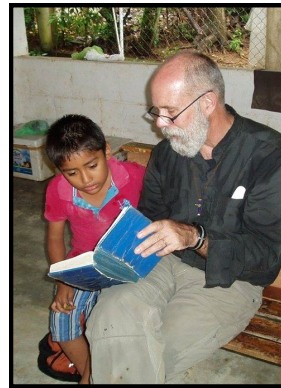
Our mission is to learn all we can, in order to live as best we can, that we might share the love of God the Father, revealed through the Word of God the Son, by the power of God the Holy Spirit with... everyone! We strive to be welcoming, hospitable, and we hope you will consider making St. Francis by the Lake your parish and your spiritual home. Please take time to browse through our website for information about our parish family, as well as about the Episcopal Church. We'd like to extend our invitation to you: "Come as you are; leave better." Also, if you encounter something that's not clear, please give us a call and allow us to try and explain. Many thanks!

fr. davið

We're on the Web!!  
[www.saintfrancisbythelake.org](http://www.saintfrancisbythelake.org)

## Small things, cont from page 1

means "the work of the people"), when we respond with vitality, and with energy, and with meaning: that is the measure which we will be able to receive. We "lift up our hearts" in our sacrifice of "praise and thanksgiving." Did we let our children mumble when we taught them to thank hosts at parties or respond to questions asked of them? Would you like rote recitation from actors in movies or at plays—how dare we offer that kind of behavior to the Lord?



with which the Lord God is blessing us. May we move forward, in faith, to His glory. Amen.

### A few of our Accomplishments in 2021:

New Computer for Admin Assistant

New sexton: Gorgina Colin

Helped **many** organizations stay open and continue their work

Conducted three parish retreats to discern the Holy Spirit's direction for us

Hosted a visit from Walter Shorty from Navajoland

Responded affirmatively to the "Invitation" Covid-19 gave us, "You're invited to reimagine your work or die!"

Nearly 12 years ago, I cast a vision for St. Francis. It's not my vision anymore: thank God! It has grown and been transformed tremendously. Many have contributed to it and joined in sharing that vision for and with our community. The vision still needs **huge** participation on the part of everyone who count themselves part of us. We are the Body. The Spirit of the Lord **is** upon us. The Spirit begins moving in our worship and fellowship. And the Spirit continues moving through our outreach, our evangelism, our prayers, and as we exercise stewardship over all

## February birthdays

Sandra Goad 2/1  
Andy Scheible 2/2  
Brenda Smith 2/4  
Judy Reese 2/11  
Marcel Klaftenegger 2/14  
Dusty Hoecker 2/18  
Jay Hillin 2/20  
Jo Conchado 2/21

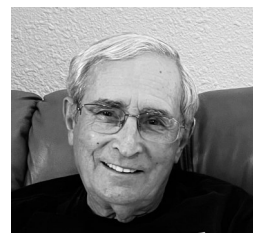
## February anniversaries

Fr. Gordon & Pam Scheible 2/18  
Paul & Judy McClendon 2/21  
Dale & Libby Templeton 2/23  
Brian & Stacey Benham 2/26

## In loving memory

Bernie Frey

Sept. 23, 1938 - Jan. 23, 2022



For more information on what's happening, check out the publication of the *Good News* which is emailed out at the beginning of every week.

And finally, last summer, the Sr. Warden came to me (fr david) with an absurd, and absolutely wonderful idea. With much Grace; deep conversations with wise people; working through my issues of fear and feeling threatened; and finally, through emotional intelligence & discernment: we chose to move forward, rather than merely "maintain" our status as a parish. The result has been... beyond our expectations and hopes; and we are being blessed by the presence and ministry of our Associate Rector: Mtr Nancy Springer.

**Thanks be to God!!**

## Make plans to join us for the All-Parish BibleProject Launch Party!

Wednesday, February 2, 2022  
at 6:00 p.m.  
in the Great Hall

Invite your neighbors and friends to join us! There will be yummy food, fun, and fellowship!

Come learn [first-hand!] about the BibleProject and how we'll use it to deepen our understanding and knowledge of Holy Scriptures. With readings and videos, we'll gather weekly in small groups, to discuss our identity and our purpose in God's story.

To begin discovering BibleProject, check out this page:  
<https://bibleproject.com/about/>

*And then*

Check out [this video](#) from the Story of the Bible series.

All Parish  
  
Bible Study  
with  
BibleProject