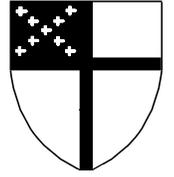




The Franciscan



Volume XXXVIII, Issue II

St. Francis by the Lake Episcopal Church
Canyon Lake, Texas

February 2017

Training day for current and future lectors, LEMs, acolytes, and eucharistic visitors

By [Betty Morris](#)

On Saturday, Apr. 1, training will be held in the nave for everyone who currently serves at the altar and those who would like to participate in one or more of those ministries. All altar servers are licensed by the Diocese and training is one of the requirements for that license.

At 9:00 a.m., lectors will be trained and this will last about one hour. It will provide assistance in making the scriptures clear to the congregation through suggestions for vocal improvement and use of the microphone.

At 10:00 a.m., the acolytes will receive training in the many duties they perform during the service. At 10:30 a.m. the lay eucharistic ministers who serve during worship will have training, and at 11:00 a.m. the lay eucharistic visitors will have their training.

This schedule means that some will have to stay most of the morning, but it is very important that this training take place. If you are not currently serving during worship in one of these ministries, this would

be an excellent time to learn more about what is expected of each ministry. In praying about whether to become involved, ask "Lord, what can you do through me?"

We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, Apr. 1. Everyone will be well-trained and ready for Bishop Reed's visit on Apr. 2. Contact Fr. David, Libby Templeton, or Betty Morris if you have any questions.



**The 113th
Diocesan Council
Feb. 23-25
Corpus Christi**



(L to R): Fr. David, Patricia Perea, and Mo and Harold Simmons, were commissioned at the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, Jan. 8, for the Honduras Mission trip scheduled Jan. 12 - 19.



Dear friends,

What follows is from my oral contribution to our Annual Meeting of Jan 29th. It

speaks to our focus and programmatic emphasis of the coming year.

Dr. Valerie Kirk, Kaitlyn Reed, and I were visiting India last March and I saw a sign on a wall in a church in Durgapur, West Bengal, India. It spoke to me about what we're hearing the Lord calling out to us and what we want our building project to be *about* and *for*. The sign read:

Let us build the Northern side with Love to block the wind of doubt.

Let us build the Southern side with Patience to destroy hatred.

Let us raise the Eastern side with the daily rising of rays of Faith.

Let us build the Western side with Beauty and enchanting Hope.

Let our roof be Eternal Life and our floor be Humility.

“As the sign said, it is love, patience, faith, beauty, hope, humility, and Eternal Life that motivate us and inspire us to reach up and reach out in order to bless others.”

The fact that our gospel lesson today is the Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount is providential. I believe that it expresses very well our ministry of presence and healing in Canyon Lake, in the diocese, in Southeast Mexico, in Honduras, and wherever the Holy Spirit sends us to serve. As the sign said, it is love, patience, faith, beauty, hope, humility, and Eternal Life that motivate us and inspire us to reach up and reach out in order to bless others.

St. Francis by the Lake is

blessed. But when are we blessed? How are we blessed? We are blessed *as and when* we minister and *as and when* we offer a place of healing to others. We who are not necessarily poor in spirit, who are not mourning, who are not meek, who don't hunger or thirst, who aren't always merciful, who aren't exactly pure in heart or peacemakers, who aren't reviled and persecuted, when we minister to those who are or do, *we are blessed*. Why? because we pity them and spout that old heresy of “there, but for the grace of God, go I”? No. We are blessed *as and when* we seek and serve Christ in the weak, the last, the lost, the lonely, the least of these, the unloved and the unlovable, so we say “*there, by the grace of God, do I go.*” We are blessed when we walk in another's shoes; we're blessed when we seek to understand our enemies and those with whom we disagree; we're blessed even as Jesus said “*inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these, you have done it unto me.*”

“We are blessed as and when we minister and as and when we offer a place of healing to others.”

And so, capitalizing on the faithfulness of our two financial campaigns, I propose a Big, Holy, Audacious Goal for St. Francis: this is to be **A YEAR OF GROWTH**. Why should we grow, because we're scared of dying? Because we need more pledging units? Those aren't bad reasons, but they're not *good enough* reasons. We need to grow, because “the harvest is plentiful and the laborers are so few”: we will grow because we want others to join us in our efforts to be the presence of God and to offer healing, help, and hope. We will want to grow because that's what faithful,

mission-minded, enthusiastic Christians do. And we begin now, so that when the outreach and ministry center is finished we will have *much* to move into it.

“...we will grow because we want others to join us in our efforts to be the presence of God and to offer healing, help, and hope.

Our ministry and hospitality are become increasingly well-known in the local community and throughout the diocese. Now it's time to branch out and develop ourselves into a community that seeks out others to draw them in. May God bless us in this, even as He has blessed us in so much else.

Faithfully,
Fr. David



DOK
A Rule of Life
A Rule of Prayer
Join Us

Upcoming events:

Mar. 9-12, 2017: Cursillo weekend #274 at Camp Capers.

May 4-7, 2017: Cursillo weekend #275 at Mustang Island Conference Center.





Treasurer's report

By [Micheline Ellas](#)
 Email: treasure@gvtc.com

Financial activities through the year ending 2016 continue showed mixed results in the management of expected revenues and expenditures. As previously reported in the January 2016 Franciscan, the Vestry approved a 2016 budget which reflected needs in excess of expected total revenues of \$47,085. The December 2016 month-end actual revenues for the General Fund exceeded the budgeted projection by \$7,039 but were 34% less than in the same period in 2015. Year-to-Date revenues in the General Fund of \$241,468 exceeded the budgeted projection by \$553 but were 16% less than in the same period in 2015. The December 2016 month-end expenditures for the General Fund of \$24,176 exceeded the budgeted projection by \$834 and were 12% higher than in the same period in 2015. Year-to-Date expenditures for the General Fund of \$274,242 were less than the budgeted projection by \$13,758 but were 3% higher than in the same period in 2015.

Activities to help increase revenues continue. As previously reported, cash assets supporting the St. Francis and the Honduras Ministry are now invested with two financial institutions, Capital One and EverBank, where the interest rate environment is much more favorable to the church. Interest income from the EverBank relationship is used to support the Honduras Ministry. A program of laddering of certificates of deposit is now in place which is designed to bring more income to the Honduras Ministry. Interest in-

come from the Capital One relationship is credited monthly to the Church's new building project fund. Cash assets at Prosperity Bank and Security State continue to be managed much more tightly as targeted balances are in place and requests for checks are processed by close of business only on Tuesdays and Fridays each week. This process allows for excess funds to be invested for longer periods of time before being used to fund the various operating needs of St. Francis and its ministries.

We continue to seek opportunities to reduce expenses. The process for managing the funds dedicated to the non U.S. based ministries are under review for cost reduction opportunities with input provided by the Diocese. Any parishioner who has a cost savings idea is encouraged to contact the St. Francis Treasurer at www.treasurer@gvtc.com.

Also, I would like to thank Larry Bosenbark for his contribution to reconciling the bank accounts owned by St. Francis for the past six years. Larry will no longer be performing this function during 2017. Please contact the St. Francis Treasurer if you have any interest in performing this function.

Our available **Funds** as of December 31, 2016:

St. Francis Available Cash	\$ 187,946
St. Francis Foreign Ministries Cash	\$ 212,892
General Operating:	\$ 44,011
Debt Retirement:	\$ 10,187
Building (New Bldg.):	\$ 29,129

Our **Debts** as of December 31, 2016:

Crump Note:	\$ 40,000
-------------	-----------



Our Blue Star Mothers

By [Betty Morris](#),
 ECW President



In our bulletin each Sunday, we list those women and men who are serving in our military and we remember them in our prayers. On Thursday, Feb. 9, at our ECW (Episcopal Church Women) meeting, our own Judy Frey will tell us more about the Blue Star Mothers. She became involved when their daughter was serving in the military.

During WWII, in the window of each home that had someone serving in the military, there was a small banner with one or more blue stars to represent those serving and when a service man or woman was killed in action, those stars changed to gold. Come and learn more about this organization that supports mothers of service men and women, active or retired, and their work in the Canyon Lake community.

The meeting will be held at the home of Lin Boudreaux and all women are invited to attend. The hostesses will be Ronnie Schwakhofer and Carol Glasby. Bring a sack lunch and plan to stay and visit after the program. There will be cake to celebrate February birthdays. Friends and visitors are welcome.





Prayer shawls at St. Francis

By [Linda Hillin](#)

Our prayer shawl group of ten ladies meets monthly to create beautiful shawls and lap robes. The finished items are blessed and hung on the rack in the parish hall where parishioners are welcome to take them to those who are ill or going thru a difficult time, or to commemorate a special occasion such as a birth or baptism. This is a meaningful ministry for those creating the needlework as well as those giving and receiving the items.

If you would like to share a prayer shawl with someone, just take it from the rack in the parish hall, fill out the information card attached and put the card in the box on the wall.

If you knit or crochet, we welcome new hands to help in this meaningful ministry. If you would like to learn how, we have willing members to teach you and supplies on hand to get you started. Contact Linda Hillin at (210) 422-1751, if you are interested or just have questions.

Building Committee report

By [Maury Meyer](#), Chairperson

After the floor plan was published in the December 2016 *Franciscan*, I continued to get feedback from various ministry leaders and parishioners, and we will try to accommodate those comments as we move towards the Building Phase, although it may not be possible to achieve all of them.

On Monday, Jan. 30, Tom and I met at the church with Bob Wunderlich, our builder, to talk about site preparation for the new Ministry and Outreach Center, including moving the Davenport memorial tree and the memorial fig bush, rocks, and sculptures from the Memorial Garden to a different part of our campus, and removal of the remaining trees and their roots from the garden. Bob's men conducted a topographic survey, and Tom showed Bob the location of water pipes and septic systems.

We are waiting for a set of specifications and itemized costs from the builder. Bob said he would get those to me the first or second week of February. Then Fr. David and I will provide them to the Diocese for final review. Assuming the Diocese gives us permission to proceed, we will then sign a contract with the builder that also includes the architect's work. The Diocese will also give us advice and aid in obtaining a mortgage to pay for building the Ministry and Outreach Center.



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.

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



Needs for CRRC food pantry

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

toilet paper,
laundry detergent,
shampoo,
conditioner,
shower gels,
dish soap,
hand soap, and

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

All contributions are appreciated.

What's happening

Daughters of the King (DOK) is on the 4th Wednesday of every month (Feb. 22) at 12:30 p.m. The group will meet in the parish hall after the 11:30 a.m. Eucharist.

Episcopal Church Women (ECW) meet on Thursday, Feb. 9, at 10:30 a.m., at Lin Boudreaux's home. [\(See article, p. 3.\)](#)

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 (Feb. 12) 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 at 10:00 a.m. on the third Saturday of each month (Feb. 18.) This month the group will meet at Linda Hillin's home.

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.

Circle of Care meets on Feb. 5 at 12:15 p.m. in the parish hall.

Community of Hope (COH) training classes are on Mondays, Feb. 6, 13, and 27 at 6:00 p.m. The COH Retreat is on Saturday, Feb. 18, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



Brenda Klaftenegger and her granddaughter Haley. Haley sang a solo in choir on Sunday, Jan. 22.

February anniversaries

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

February birthdays

Sandra Goad	2/1
T.W. Jackson	2/1
Andy Scheible	2/2
Robbie White	2/2
Brenda Smith	2/4
Nancy Braunig	2/11
Valerie Kirk	2/12
Marcel Klaftenegger	2/14
Art Hoecker	2/18
Robert McNab	2/18
Jay Hillin	2/20
Jo Conchado	2/21
Connor Brian	2/24

Mark your calendars

Feb. 6, 13, & 27 - 6:00 p.m. - Community of Hope training in the parish hall

Feb. 23-25 - The 113th Annual Diocesan Council in Corpus Christi

Feb. 28 - Shrove Tuesday - 6:30 p.m. - Pancake Supper in the parish hall

Mar. 1 - Ash Wednesday - 6:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., & 7:00 p.m. - Holy Eucharist

Mar. 4 - DOK/ECW Quiet Day - 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Mar. 11 - Crop Walk

Apr. 2 - St. Francis visitation with Bishop David Reed

The Franciscan

A monthly publication of
St. Francis by the Lake
Episcopal Church

The Rev. David Chalk, Rector
Editors

Maury Meyer: Editor in Chief
maurymeyer@gmail.com

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

Linda Hillin: Asst., & Photographer
hillins2@gvvc.com



Gentle
Exercise Class
At
Saint Francis by the Lake

Class instruction will focus 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. *Start date was Jan. 13!

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!

Reaching refugees in Kurdistan

By Marthe Curry and the Department of World Mission

To respond to the atrocities occurring every day in northern Iraq, the Diocese of West Texas (DWTX) searched for and found a ministry with “boots on the ground” in that particular location. This past spring

we established a relationship with Love 4 the Least (L4L) whose Executive Director, **Fr. Andrew Sloane, will be our special guest at Council and for the month of February (2017.)**

Andrew has first-hand knowledge of the people and their challenges as they struggle from day to day with life in a War Zone. Throughout the month of February, he will be available to address DWTX congregations, study groups, and home fellowships.

If you would like to have Fr. Andrew speak to your congregation/group, please contact Marthe Curry (mcurry09@sbcglobal.net) or (888)/(210) 824-5387. Reservations will be made on a first come, first served basis. Fr. Andrew’s stories are gripping and will be helpful in informing your prayers for our persecuted brothers and sisters.

About The Rev. Andrew Sloane

Andrew is from Yorkshire (England) and was sponsored for ordination by Abp. Michael Ramsey. He has served congregations in Schenectady, New York City, Wisconsin, and Washington D.C. prior to returning to Leeds, where he accepted a call to head up L4L whose sole focus is Iraqi Kurdistan.

The work in Kurdistan is done

alongside a local team of Christians who serve about 1,400 Christian families in camps and makeshift homes in villages. While L4L cares for persecuted and beleaguered Christians, they also reach out to Yazidis, Muslims, and Turkmen, providing food and cleaning materials, clothing, sports items, toys, and school supplies. DWTX has provided a mobile medical clinic that visits camps and villages where no other medical care is available. In December, Christmas packages of food, basics, toys, and treats were delivered to each of the families.

L4L is currently a leader in a unique initiative to support those Christians who wish to remain in their homeland. In partnership with the newly formed ecumenical Dohuk Church Council, they are looking to build a prototype village near Dohuk to provide safe, permanent housing for 100 families (initially) and to empower sustainable family living through job training and employment as well as a school, medical clinic, community/culture center, and more. This will be served by clergy and lay teams trained and equipped in pastoral care and counselors for expert treatment in Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

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

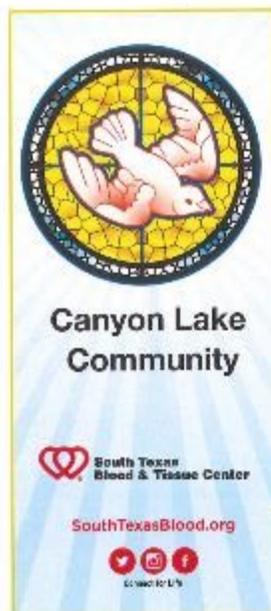


The recommissioning of the Community of Hope took place at the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, Jan. 26.

Win a trip with World Mission

Weekly Enews from The Episcopal Diocese of West Texas

At Diocesan Council this year, scheduled for Feb. 23-25 in Corpus Christi, the World Mission Department will again hold a raffle to select one person who has never been on a mission trip for an all-expense paid mission to any place the department currently works. Applicants must be at least 21 years of age and in good health. Interested applicants can fill out this form (which can also be found in your church office) and mail it to DWTX World Mission, P.O. Box 6885, San Antonio, TX 78209 by Feb. 17.



Save a Life. Donate Blood

Mark your 2017 calendar for the following blood drives ...

Saturday, Feb. 4	8:30-1:30
Saturday, May 6	8:30-1:30
Saturday, Aug. 5	8:30-1:30
Saturday, Nov. 4	8:30-1:30

In Sattler: Ace Hardware on FM 2673
In Startzville: Lowe's on FM 2673

For further information, please contact
Beth Lowrie at 214-552-2937

Highway cleanup in February

By [Bernie Frey](#), Outreach Chair

Our first quarter highway cleanup will be held on Saturday, Feb. 18. We will meet at the Community Resource and Recreation Center (more known as CRRC) office in Sattler at 8:00 a.m. before taking on the challenge of doing our eco-effort on the designated stretch of FM 2673 through Sattler. We will initiate our brand new vests that day so come early to make sure you get one.

Any questions, call Bernie at (210) 863-7866.



The current diocesan build of a Habitat home in Kerrville is almost complete.

Habitat build in Kerrville

From Laura Shaver, Communications Officer at The Episcopal Diocese of West Texas

The current diocesan build of a Habitat home in Kerrville is moving along steadily and is nearing completion. Volunteers are still encouraged to come and join the efforts. This Saturday, Feb. 5, the tasks will include hanging sheet rock inside

the home and beginning to prime the trim on the exterior.

The gracious people of St. Peter's, Kerrville, continue to serve as hosts and will provide lunch. But numbers are needed to plan, so if you'd like to come out on Saturday (or a Saturday soon), sign by following this link: <http://habitatkerr.org/st-peters-episcopal-diocesan-home-build/>.

Blessings,
Laura Shaver

Delegates and Alternates going to the 113th Diocesan Council in Corpus Christi

Our parish elected the following delegates and alternates:

Delegates: Bob Amos, Julie Chalk, and Maury and Tom Meyer; **Alternates:** Brenda Amos, Valerie Kirk, Betty Morris, and Libby Templeton.



Betty Morris welcomed those in her FEAST group to her home. If you would like to be a part of this fellowship, contact Betty at (830) 515-8659 or at bmorris@gvtc.com.

Reaching ... (Cont'd from page 6)

Andrew spends much of his time in northern Iraq addressing the urgent needs on the ground, supporting local partners, developing relationships, and supporting refugees. He also spends time in the US raising awareness of the forgotten plight of Christians in northern Iraq and fund raising to enable the relief and long-term development to those who want to remain in their homeland (originally evangelized by St. Thomas.)

We assure you that Andrew's presentations are spell-binding.

***Fr. Andrew Sloane will be at St. Francis by the Lake on Sunday, Feb. 19.** He will be saying the Homily at both 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services. He also will talk with us at the 9:15 a.m. Adult Education between the services. All are invited, bring a friend. You don't want to miss him.

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

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.

113th Diocesan Council
Feb. 23 - 25
Corpus Christi

