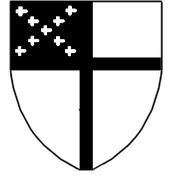




The Franciscan



Volume XXXVIII, Issue I

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

January 2017



January Crafts Retreat at Camp Capers

*Weekly ENEWS from The Diocese of
West Texas*

The Crafts Retreat will be held at
Camp Capers Friday through Sun-
day, Jan. 27 - 29. Bring your craft

projects, on-going or brand new,
and create together with others
from around the diocese. The re-
treat begins with a dinner at 6:30
p.m. on Friday, and ends following
lunch on Sunday. The group will
stay in the Meadow Cross and River
Bluff lodges, with rooms opening
for check-in after 1:00 p.m. Friday.

The retreat is led by Sue Harda-
way. Register at [www.dwtx.org/
events](http://www.dwtx.org/events), then email Sue at
suegroovy@hotmail.com with
your project plans and table re-
quests. The cost per person is \$200.
The retreat is for adult women, ages
18+. All crafters are welcome.

Packing list:

Weather appropriate attire for
two days, sturdy shoes, jacket,
toiletries, and craft supplies.

Contact person:

Frankee Garcia,
(210) 773-7425,
camp.capers@dwtx.org

Location:

Camp Capers,
418 FM 1621,
Waring, TX 78074

CRRC's Rockin' New Year's Eve Dance

**Saturday, Dec. 31
8:00 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.**



St. Francis parishioners voted between the services on Dec. 18 for delegates and alternates going to council in Corpus Christi in February 2017. Thank you for your participation.



Dear friends,

We have so much for which to be thankful! Our history is rich in tradition and the

Faith teaches us to hope: hope in the Lord, and hope for the best for each other. We're about to celebrate another New Year in the hope and anticipation for a better tomorrow. In the South there is a very old tradition of eating black-eyed peas, which many consider "bring good luck." Some may have forgotten from whence this tradition comes.

"We're about to celebrate another New Year in the hope and anticipation for a better tomorrow."

It's from the Civil War. It's a long story, but the short version is that, in 1864, Sherman was marching to the sea. His plan was to destroy Atlanta in order to prevent Lee from getting supplies. Sherman succeeded and was then ordered to

move swiftly to the sea; he instructed his troops to live off the land, confiscate what they needed, and destroy everything in order to leave nothing behind.

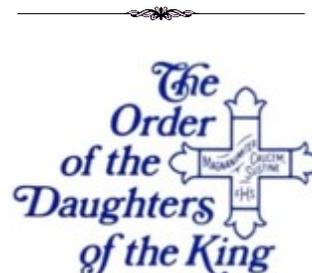
"Any and all of our actions, no matter how insignificant, can result in tremendous benefit to others."

The story continues that the northern Army had commanded a regiment of African-American soldiers to destroy all the fields in one community. They burned the fields of wheat, barley, and corn; but when they approached a valley of black-eyed peas, they stopped and turned away. The soldiers had families and understood the lives of innocents were at stake. They felt compassion and a moral obligation. When the commanding officer asked why the valley hadn't been burned, the soldiers responded saying the unplowed valley was filled just with weeds, not with food. The soldiers moved on, and the locals were spared.

I aspire to be as strong and compassionate. As disciples (i.e., followers of Christ) we vowed in our baptism to seek and serve Christ in all persons and to respect the dignity of every human being. In these turbulent and troubled times—which often resemble that earlier time of civil unrest—we need to follow the example of those northern African-American soldiers, and conduct ourselves honorably.

Any and all of our actions, no matter how insignificant, can result in tremendous benefit to others. It's my hope that together each of us and all of us who claim to be St. Francis by the Lake will choose to offer hope where there seems to be none, companionship to those who are in need, and love for the world.

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.



Fr. Jerry (left) and Fr. David were two of many who ran for the Race to the Pantry for CRRC (Canyon Lake Resource and Recreation Center) on Saturday, Dec. 17. All the proceeds benefit the CRRC Food Pantry.



Treasurer's report

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

Financial activities through the first eleven months of 2016 continue to show 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 November 2016 month-end actual revenues for the General Fund exceeded the budgeted projection by \$5,419 but were 8% less than in the same period in 2015. Year-to-Date revenues in the General Fund of \$215,958 fell short of the budgeted projection by \$6,486 and were 14% less than in the same period in 2015. The November 2016 month-end expenditures for the General Fund of \$22,427 were less than the budgeted projection by \$895 but were 2% higher than in the same period in 2015. Year-to-Date expenditures for the General Fund of \$250,065 were less than the budgeted projection by \$14,591 but were 2% 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 will be processed by close of business only on Tuesdays and Fridays of 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. Any parishioner who has a cost savings idea is encouraged to contact the St. Francis Treasurer at www.treasurer@gvtc.com.

Our available **Funds** as of November 30, 2016:

St. Francis Available Cash (All Funds)	\$213,151
St. Francis Foreign Ministries Cash	\$182,637
General Operating:	\$ 42,679
Debt Retirement:	\$ 5,249
Building (New Bldg.):	\$ 30,124

Our **Debts** as of November 30, 2016:

Crump Note:	\$ 40,000
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Looking back, looking forward

By [Betty Morris](#),
 ECW President

To begin the New Year, we will journey with Linda Hillin and her photographs through the history of St. Francis Church and the Episcopal Church Women (ECW.) Linda Has graciously agreed to have us in her home for this meeting. She has a large TV that will enable everyone to see the pictures clearly. We will meet at 10:30 a.m., and don't forget to bring a sack lunch so we can have time to visit and share memories. January birthdays will be celebrated.

The time to select new officers will soon be here. We have many women with gifts that would benefit the ECW. Be praying about how you will share those gifts and, if you would like to serve in the ECW next year, please let Tricia Jones know. This a wonderful organization that has been an important part of St. Francis Church and its ministries from the beginning. Won't you share your talents and abilities to continue this ministry?

Have a blessed 2017.
 Betty





The 113th Diocesan Council is in Corpus Christi

Weekly ENEWS from The Diocese of West Texas

The 113th Diocesan Council will convene on Thursday, Feb. 23, at the AmericanBank Center in Corpus Christi. The host church is Good Shepherd, Corpus Christi.

Plans are underway, and events include Council worship on Thursday evening, the Bishop's Luncheon (with Bishop Gary Lillibridge as the speaker) on Friday, and a Council Banquet Friday evening to celebrate the ministry of Bishop Gary and Catherine Lillibridge. The business session on Saturday will consist solely of the election of a Bishop Suffragan. Visit the [Council web-site](#) for more details.

Pre-Council meetings, Jan. 28 & 29

Weekly ENEWS from The Diocese of West Texas

There will be only three Pre-Council meetings in January of 2017, Jan. 28 and 29. These three meetings will focus on *Discernment Forums* to afford voting delegates and clergy the opportunity to hear from the potential nominees for Bishop Suffragan

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



On Dec. 19, St. Francis carolers went to different locations to spread the joy of the Christmas season.



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 is available in the Narthex.



Needs for CRRC food pantry

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

- 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 (Jan. 25) 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, Jan. 12, at 10:30 a.m., at Linda Hillin'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 (Jan. 8) at 12:30 p.m. in the parish hall.

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

Annual Parish Meeting is in the parish hall after the 10:30 a.m. service on Jan. 29. A potluck brunch is included during the meeting.

Prayer Shawl Ministry meets at 10:00 a.m. on the third Saturday of each month (Jan. 21.) This month the group will meet at Velda Vukoder'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 Jan. 6 for an information meeting at 12:15 p.m. in the church sanctuary. The group will have its existing officers commissioned at the 10:30 a.m. service on Jan. 22, and the group will have its first training session on Monday, Jan. 23.



(L to R): Tom Meyer, Fr. David, and Bernie Frey sit in the back of Don Stackhouse's van with donated Christmas bags for the Good Sam program. (You can barely see Don waving from the driver's seat.)

January anniversaries

Jay and Linda Hillin	1/1
Harold and Mo Simmons	1/4

January birthdays

Pam Scheible	1/1
Naomi Chalk	1/10
Ann Freiburger	1/13
Ray Ferguson	1/15
Leah Hopkins	1/16
Brenda Klaftenegger	1/19
Tamara Huneau	1/22
Ray Thompsett	1/22
Tommie Woollven	1/23
Alejandra Black	1/24
Harry Cole	1/24
George Witbeck	1/24
Nanette Callahan	1/26
Velda Vukoder	1/26
Cindy McBride	1/27
Abel Villarreal	1/28

Address Updates:

(Cut and paste into your Directory)

Ann Wilson

Legend Oak Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center
2468 FM 1101
New Braunfels, TX 78130

Robert and Lynda McNab

P.O. Box 2076
Canyon Lake, TX 78133

Mark your calendars

Jan. 12 - 19 - Honduras Mission Team leaves for Honduras

Jan. 29 - 9:15 a.m. - Annual Parish Meeting with a Potluck Brunch

Jan. 29 - 6:00 p.m. - Pre-council at TMI (*The Episcopal School of Texas*) in San Antonio

Feb. 23-25, 2017 - The 113th Annual Diocesan Council in Corpus Christi

Mar. 11, 2017 - Crop Walk

Apr. 2, 2017 - St. Francis visitation with Bishop David Reed

The Franciscan

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

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Community of Hope (COH) Classes start Jan. 23

We are very excited to be able to offer the Community of Hope (COH) training series to our St. Francis community again! In 2015, the series trained over 15 participants in pastoral care skills which they have since been using to care for those in need, as well as to enhance their ministries. The purpose of this article is to provide some information about the schedule, structure, and content of the classes, to help you as you pray, discern, and decide whether to participate.

The COH training is a series of modules designed to teach us how to be lay pastoral visitors and/or to use pastoral skills in ministries and activities in which we are already involved. Classes include subjects such as: developing a pastoral identity, listening skills, prayer and meditation as it applies to our ministry, family systems, pastoral care for the grieving and aging, and discerning and using our spiritual gifts. We will also have two half-day retreats at locations away from St. Francis. The classes will consist of speakers and videos on the material as well as class discussion.

Aside from learning about these topics and applying them to our ministries, perhaps the thing that makes COH most unique is its foundation on Benedictine Spirituality, including its focus on community, sharing God's love, and pastoral listening (rather than problem solving or giving advice.) During each session we will read from the Rule of St. Benedict as well as participate in and learn how to use the resources in our own Book of Common Prayer.

We will be holding the classes at St. Francis on **Monday evenings**

from 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 pm, starting Jan. 23 through Mar. 20, 2017.

Our two off-campus retreats will be on Saturday, Feb. 18, and Saturday, Mar. 25. The expectation is that you will attend every session, however, if you have to miss, you will read the material and watch the appropriate video(s) in order to keep up with the class. It is hoped that we will be commissioned into ministry by our priest and church family after the course ends in March. When the course is complete, participants will be able to attend monthly Circle of Care meetings to continue their fellowship and learning as they engage in their ministries.

The COH training requires a \$40 fee to pay for our materials and supplies. Each participant will receive a binder with materials and resources for every module, as well as a copy of *The Rule of Benedict: A Spirituality for the 21st Century* by Joan Chittister. Scholarship assistance will be available if needed, to help cover this cost.

We are very excited for this opportunity at St. Francis by the Lake, and we hope that you will prayerfully consider joining us on this journey! Please feel free to contact any of us by phone or email if you have any questions, or feel free to speak with past participants. If you would like to join us, please let one of us know as soon as possible, so that we can start to assemble our materials and include you in future communications. In addition, there is an application that we will need for you to complete. We look forward to the blessings which God has in store for us as we seek to minister in His love to our broken world.

Julie Chalk (830-226-7273)
Tricia Jones (512-497-2297)
Betty Morris (830-515-8659)

Community of Hope requesting assistance with Meals

As can be read in another article in this issue of the *Franciscan*, Community of Hope is beginning another series of weekly classes beginning Monday, Jan. 23, 2017. Each class will include a simple supper for participants. Some of these meals will be provided by past COH graduates; however there are not enough participants to cover each week of our series. We are asking for help from our St. Francis community to provide a meal, or part of a meal for a Monday evening at 5:45 pm between Jan. 23 and Mar. 20, 2017. This could be as simple as a pot of soup, a large salad, or a tray of sandwiches. You may sign up for the week of your choice by contacting Julie Chalk (830-719-2425) or Tricia Jones (512-497-2297.) Our Community of Hope participants are being trained to take part in the pastoral care ministry of St. Francis by the Lake (as well as their own ministries to our community) and they would be greatly blessed by your generosity. Thank you so much!

Delegates to 113th Diocesan Council elected on Dec. 18

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.

ECW Christmas party took place at the home of Kevin and Valeska McHugh on Saturday, Dec. 10.



Kevin and Valeska McHugh



Marcel Klaftenegger (left) and Chuck Schwakhofer



Mary K. Chittenden (left) and Linda Hillin



Carol Glasby (left) and Tommie Woollven



Brenda Klaftenegger (left) and Julie Chalk



(L to R): Lynda Leadford, and Ann and Brian Freiberger



(L to R): Mary K. Chittenden, Judy McClendon, and Ronnie Schwakhofer painted faces at the CRRC North Pole Village.



Many thanks go to those who helped with *Greening of the Church*, after the 10:30 a.m. service on Dec. 18.

Pre-Council ... *(Cont'd from page 4)*

in person. Don't miss this important event in the life of the diocese. The members of the diocese have the opportunity to submit topics and questions to possibly be addressed by potential nominees during these forums. Email suggestions to laura.woodall@dwtx.org by Dec. 31.

Valley - Saturday, Jan. 28 from 9:00 a.m. to noon at St. Alban's, Harlingen.

Coastal Bend - Saturday, Jan. 28 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Church of the Good Shepherd, Corpus Christi.

Central - Sunday, Jan. 29 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at TMI (The Episcopal School of Texas, San Antonio.)

(Fr. David, Delegates, and Alternates will head to TMI after the 10:30 a.m. service.)

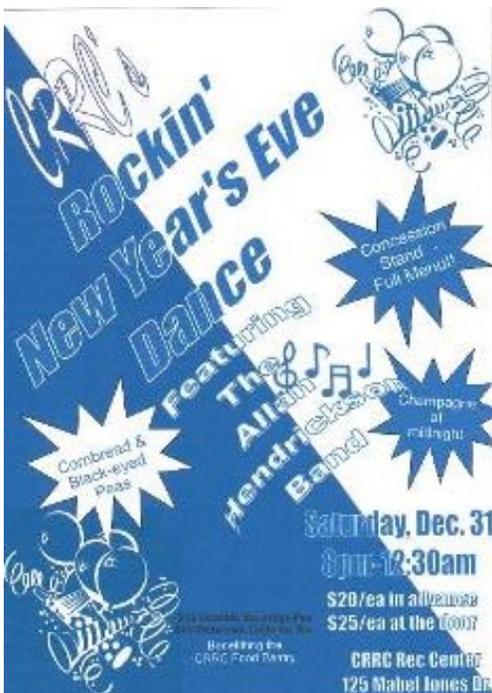


Thank you to all who participated at the North Pole Village at CRRC.

*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

