



The Franciscan



Volume XXXX, Issue I

St. Francis by the Lake
Canyon Lake, Texas

January 2019



At the altar Fr. Gordon looked on as the Nativity play was shown to the congregation at the 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service. (In front of the altar, L to R): Bella Huneau as Mary; Fr. David as Joseph; and Anne Cain, Mary Barker, Ray Ferguson, and Don Stackhouse, as the wise men and shepherds.



Tea and a light luncheon

By Diane LaCombe, Daughter of the King member

A cordial invitation is extended to all women of the church. Please join us in the parish hall for tea and a light luncheon on Sunday, Jan. 20, at 1:00 p.m. given by the Order of the Daughters of the King. Come get acquainted with us, learn a little about what we do, and let us know a bit about you. (And ladies, this is not *High Tea*. Come as you are. No

hats or gloves required.) Please RSVP to Brenda Amos at (830) 964-3439, or Carol Glasby at (210) 260-5645.



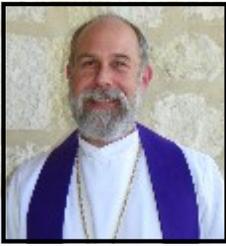
Hot potato news...

By [Tricia Jones](#), ECW President

Back by popular demand, Sunday, Feb. 17, at 12:15 p.m. in the parish hall, is the Taters-N-Treasures ECW

FUNd-raiser! ECW will pre-sell \$10 tickets for a hot baked potato with the fixings, salad, dessert and beverage. Tickets will be sold the first two weeks of February. Awesome prizes are being collected for the Silent Auction, so set aside that Christmas money so you can bid on the treasures!

Volunteers are needed to help with Food, Auction and Promotion committees. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Tricia Jones at (512) 497-2297 or gabe.triciajones@gmail.com.



Dear friends,

I can't recall the origins of this piece. It has been cobbled together from different sources and edited over much time. And yet the message is quite current...

There are two ways to tell the story of the magi and Jesus' birth; one is shaped for the ears, hearts, and minds of children, and one for adults. I'm going to talk a little bit about each.

Truth be told, we're better prepared to talk to kids about the story of the magi who came from afar bearing gifts for the newborn king. There's wonder and magic in this story of wondering magi led to Jesus from the distant East by a star. It testifies to the global, cosmic even, implications of Jesus' birth. Even more, it witnesses to God's commitment to reach the whole world with His redeeming love.

We love this story - and it's good to hear it over and over; in part because the mystery these three exotic guests introduce into the story is captivating. In part, because of the extravagance their gifts model for us, the prototype of all gift-giving at Christmas. It's led to wonderful carols like "We Three Kings," and "spin-off" carols, and stories like "The Little Drummer Boy" which remind us that we all have something to give.

And so we could easily focus our attention on the gifts and ponder what we have to offer as well. What talents, interests, passions do we see as gifts from God that we might offer to Jesus, by giving them to those all around us and especially to those in need? The last verse of Christina Rossetti's "In the Bleak Mid-Winter" is an excellent example of this kind of thinking—and why we've used it as our fraction anthem.

So, that's the version of the story that appeals to everyone and we can let the kids hear. But happy tales and gift giving aren't all that there is to the Faith. Christianity isn't a feel-good fairy tale. There's another element, a very adult element to Jesus' birth and the magi's visit that gets overlooked; and that's the note of danger, death, and fear: there's the opposition that Jesus' birth causes right from the start. Herod doesn't greet the news of a newborn king with joy; and he doesn't go shopping for a gift for Jesus. Herod is afraid, and he doesn't keep it to himself. When Herod is afraid "all Jerusalem [is afraid] with him" (v.3.)

"But happy tales and gift giving aren't all that there is to the Faith. Christianity isn't a feel-good fairy tale."

Why? Probably because the one thing the powerful seek more than anything else is to remain in power. Herod and Israel's leaders didn't remember the servant-leadership Israel's prophets told them God asked of them. They forgot that God put them in their positions to serve and to care, rather than be served and catered to. Herod seeks his own satisfaction, and so is immediately threatened by the mention of another king.

It's also because the presence of these three (?) magi and their quest for God's Anointed announced that the world was changing: God is approaching, and nothing will remain the same. The arrival of these wondering astronomers signals that God's embrace was expanding considerably; outsiders are being brought in; there's room in God's plan of salvation for everyone. This isn't a new theme in Scripture.

In the beginning God promised to bless Abraham. Why? So that he, in turn, would be a blessing to the world. But rather than signal their special chosen status as the means of drawing

others to God, false conclusions about purity and separation had become the means of exclusion... until the magi. In the story of the Three Kings, distinctions between different ethnicities and religions are being overcome once again. All come to Christ to become one.

Whatever its causes, fear is a powerful thing. In response to his fear, Herod also wants to find the "newborn king": to kill him. In their fear, the religious leaders conspire to help. They don't succeed this time; but, later in the Gospel, fear will again create an unholy union between the political and religious leaders. They'll conspire, capture, and crucify Him.

What about us? What does fear make us do? Security systems, fences, more stuff: do we worry we won't have enough; do we shut out or become suspicious of those who are different?

The adult version of Jesus' birth moves quickly from adoration and gifts, to the ambivalent, dark world of politics, anxiety, deception, and fear-induced violence. And this is not unhelpful. We live in a world rotting in fear. Super-storms, school, church, and synagogue massacres: we live in a world where innocent people die every day. The visit of the three magi - and I'm editing this on the Feast of (the slaughter of) the Holy Innocents - Scripture tells it like it is: life is hard. The world is a difficult place to live. Because of sin, we suffer. But there is hope.

Hope is what's at the heart of the darker, adult-oriented story of Jesus' birth. Ours is the world that God came into. God loves us, even when we are fearful. Jesus is Immanuel - God with us - the living, breathing, vulnerable, fulfillment of Promise. God chose to be born, to live and die with us, as we are, so that in Jesus' Resurrection we, too, will experience eternal life without fear.





Treasurer's report

By [Robert Amos](#)

Email:

treasure@gvvc.com

Greetings All,

I hope you all had a safe, merry and Christ filled Christmas. Here is wishing the best to each of you during 2019. Thank you for your response to the pledge drive and for your faithfulness during 2018.

Here is a summary of our financial condition through November 30, 2018. I will report on our full 2018 results during the Annual Parish Meeting and in the

next Franciscan.

General Operations continue to run a deficit. Year to date is higher (worse) than budget but improved from last month.

The Capital Campaign continues to do very well. Contributions continue ahead of plan.

Debt Retirement is also doing very well and is ahead of plan.

Endowment Fund is continuing to grow.

Year to dated details through November 30.

Operations:

Revenues: Contributions to the General Fund are \$224,411.49, which is \$12,115.51 less than expected. Operations pledges have caught up somewhat but are still \$2,643.67 behind. Regular giving is behind \$13,546.00. Other categories are slightly ahead.

Expenditures: Expenditures were \$247,247.06 which is lower (better) than expected by \$5,713.94.

Balance (Revenue minus Expenditures): The resulting deficit is \$22,835.57. This deficit is better than last month, but continues higher (worse) than budget by \$6,401.57. We expected a deficit of \$16,434.00 through November 30.

Capital:

Capital Campaign: The Capital Campaign continues to do very well. Contributions are \$134,756.58 through November 30, with total contributions of \$385,418.14. Expenditures year to date are \$57,056.60. Fund balance as of November 30, is \$328,361.54.

Debt Retirement: Debt retirement contributions are \$22,081.00 year to date and is ahead of plan by \$3,976.00. The Debt Retirement Fund contains a total of \$4,008.62, after paying off the Crump note on the church building.

Endowment Fund: The balance is \$52,959.86 as of November 30, which represents an increase of \$1,332.47 so far in 2018.

Our **funds** as of November 30, 2018:

General Operating:	\$	9,064.21
Debt Retirement:	\$	4,008.62
Building Fund:	\$	46,979.27
Capital Campaign Fund:	\$	328,361.54
Endowment Fund:	\$	52,959.86
Debt	\$	0.00

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@gvvc.com.

Inquirers classes are starting in January.

The Bishop David Reed will visit St. Francis on Sunday, Feb. 3. He

will be our celebrant for the day.

Fr. David will have classes for those seeking answers about Christianity or about St. Francis, and those interested in renewing their understanding are invited to Inquirers Classes. Inquirers may join at

any time; information missed will be presented again as needed.

As of this newsletter being sent out, the specific dates and times are not ready, but we will let you know as soon as possible.



Episcopal Church Women update

By [Tricia Jones](#), ECW President

Alleluia to our King; Christ the Savior is born!

The month of December was filled with fun activities along with reflective and somber times. I hope and pray that each of you had many joyous moments during the seasons of Advent and Christmas. I found following the “Way of Love” Advent Calendar helped me to focus on the true gifts of Christmas.

The season started with the altar guild decorating the beautiful Christmas tree. The ECW Advent party hosted by Maury and Tom Meyer, was a fabulous time of fellowship. Many thanks to the Meyers and all who attended. The Gathering of Men assembled the beautiful Nativity scene closer to FM 306 where it was much more visible to the community. The North Pole Village was magical again this year, thanks to CRRC employees and the myriad volunteers who organized, set-up and staffed the village. St Francis had the privilege of performing the Nativity play one clear, chilly night. And, as you might have heard, Fr. David won first place in his age group at the CRRC “Race to the Pantry.” The event was successful in raising funds for the food pantry and awareness of the needs in our county. Several St. Francis members ran and walked the courses. Many folks participated in giving meal bags for Good Samaritan families and in buying presents for the Angel Tree children of Mountain Valley Elementary School. Dec. 19 the campus was declared a “quiet zone” for prayer, reflection, and time away from the busy-ness. It was a

warm day to sit outside and watch the amazing progress of the new building. That evening COH hosted a soup supper and beautiful Taizé worship service. St. Francis honored and celebrated the lives of Lois Jones and Betty Look, two of our elders, who were faithful and active in the life and ministries of St. Francis by the Lake. As always, members of Daughters of the King were attentive to the needs of the two families and provided lovely receptions. Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship services, special decorations and music heralded the good news of the birth of Jesus! A sincere thank you to Fr. David, Julie, Janet, the altar guild, worship teams, choir and flower guild for the extra hours this month. Thanks also to Linda Hillin for capturing and publishing pictures of so many events. It has been a wonderful season of preparation and celebration of our new born King.

All women are invited to the ECW monthly general membership meeting on Jan. 10. This month we will gather at the Tye Preston Memorial Library in honor of our guest speaker, author and St. Francis

[\(Continued on page 6\)](#)



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.



Practical 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:

- green beans (frozen or canned);
 - carrots (frozen or canned);
 - mixed vegetables (frozen or canned);
 - canned beans - assorted;
 - assorted soups;
 - cereal;
 - grape jelly;
 - spaghetti;
 - plastic grocery bags;
 - toilet paper;
 - 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)

will meet at 12:30 p.m. in the parish hall on Jan. 23 after the 11:30 a.m. Eucharist.

Episcopal Church Women

(ECW) meet on Thursday, Jan. 10 at 11:00 a.m. at the Tye Preston Memorial Library. Our guest speaker is Betty Colley. ([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 Jan. 13 at 12:15 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.

Breathing Under Water: Spirituality & the Twelve Steps is Fr. Gordon's book study on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m., unless there is a potluck supper.

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

NA (Narcotics Anonymous) meets every Sunday at 7:00 p.m. in Jones Hall.

Caregiver Support Group meets every third Monday (Jan. 21) of the month at 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the parish hall.

COH Circle of Care will meet at Libby Templeton's home for an Epiphany Party on Sunday, Jan. 6, from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m..

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.)

January anniversaries

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

January birthdays

Pam Scheible	1/1
Cary Corbin	1/4
Cindy Smith	1/7
Naomi Chalk	1/10
Ann Freiburger	1/14
Ray Ferguson	1/15
Brenda Klaftenegger	1/19
Tamara Huneau	1/22
Ray Thompsett	1/22
Alejandra Black	1/24
Nanette Callahan	1/26
Cindy McBride	1/27
Abel Villarreal	1/28

Mark your calendars

Jan. 5 - 9:45 a.m. - Manos Packing in parish hall.

Jan. 6 - 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. - COH/Epiphany Party at Libby Templeton's home.

Jan. 15-22 - Honduras Mission Trip.

Jan. 25-27 - Craft Retreat at Camp Capers.

Jan. 27 - 9:15 a.m. - Annual Parish Meeting in the parish hall.

Looking Ahead

Feb. 3 - The Bishop David Reed's visitation takes place at both services. (Dates for the inquirer's class will be forthcoming.)

Feb. 17 - 12:15 p.m. - Taters-N-Treasures - an ECW FUNd-raiser. ([See article on p. 1.](#))

Feb. 21-23 - 115th Diocesan Council in McAllen.

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

Episcopal ... (Cont'd from page 4)

member, Betty Colley. While teaching and as a school board member, Betty became aware of the absence of information, in the Texas historical record, on the contributions of minority groups. Betty has collaborated with colleagues to write on the history of the Vaquero families of the King and Kenedy Ranches of South Texas. Come to the Library at 11:00 a.m. for a brunch provided by our hostesses; the program (Ms. Betty) and business meeting start at 11:30 a.m.

Almighty God, Let us not forget the lessons from the past nor fear the challenges of the future. Amen. Excerpted from the ECW Prayer



Camp Capers mid-winter in 2019

From *the desk of* Laura Kean McGrew, Communications Manager Episcopal Diocese of West Texas, (210) 824-5387

There are still a few days until the start of our Mid-Winter Camp season, and we would like to invite the youth in your congregation and

communities to sign up for a Mid-Winter Camp session, which fits all the fun of a week at Summer Camp into a weekend in January. Each session begins with Check-In at 5:30 p.m. on Friday and ends after a closing service, which you are welcome to attend, starting at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday.

Camper families can [click here](#) to sign up today, or visit the Mid-Winter Camps' web-page dwtx.org/capers/mid-winter-camp for a link to sign up and more information. Listed below are the dates for each session, with the campers who are eligible to attend based on their current grade in school.

Mid-Winter Camp I (Jan. 4-6) is for senior high campers currently in 9th through 12th grade.

Mid-Winter Camp II (Jan. 11-13) is for junior high campers currently in 6th through 8th grade.

Mid-Winter Camp III (Jan. 18-20) is for primary campers currently in 3rd through 5th grade.

The registration cost for Mid-Winter Camp 2019 is \$165. Scholarships are available, with step-by-step instructions and forms online at dwtx.org/camp-scholarships.

If you have other questions about Mid-Winter Camp (or Summer Camp!), please email or call Camp Capers at (camp.capers@dwtx.org; (830) 995-3966,) or visit our Mid-Winter Camps' web page at dwtx.org/capers/mid-winter-camp for information and a link to sign up.

Thank you for sharing this invitation,

Alida Garcia,
Program Director, Camp Capers,
alida.garcia@dwtx.org,
www.dwtx.org/capers.



Magdalena House in San Antonio is looking for help.

From *Weekly* ENEWS from *The Episcopal Diocese of West Texas*

Magdalena House in San Antonio is looking for help putting together Ikea furniture for new residents. This transitional home in San Antonio serves mothers and children who have fled dangerous and abusive lives. The ministry provides transformation through education, nurturing community, and programming. The staff and volunteers will be assembling and arranging IKEA furniture throughout the month, **especially on Jan. 21, Martin Luther King Day.** If you'd like to assist with this vital step in preparing for families, contact Mary Sanders at msanders@maghouse.org.



2019 Upcoming events:

Mar. 14-17: Cursillo weekend #281 at Camp Capers.

May 2-5: Cursillo weekend #282 at Mustang Island Conference Center.

Sep. 26-29: Cursillo weekend #283 at Mustang Island Conference Center.

Nov. 7-10: Cursillo weekend #284 at Camp Capers.

Note:
Bishop David
Reed's visit to
St. Francis is now
on Feb. 3.

(This is updated from a previously given date of Feb. 10.)



115th Diocesan
Council in McAllen

The 115th Diocesan Council in McAllen is Feb. 21-23, 2019. Council will be hosted by the Upper Valley Episcopal Churches: St. John's, McAllen; St. Peter & St. Paul, Mission; Grace, Weslaco; Trinity, Pharr, and St. Matthew's, Edinburg. The

theme for 2019 is "Walk in Love" from *Ephesians 5:2*.

Diocesan Council, the annual gathering of the diocese, is held every February at alternating locations within the diocese, the main locations being San Antonio, Corpus Christi, McAllen, and San Marcos. A church within the diocese "hosts" Council, and the congregation facilitates volunteers to work closely with the diocesan office to pull all the details together. For more information as each Council is planned, visit the official Council website at <http://council-dwtx.org>.



The concrete at the new Ministry and Outreach Center was poured. The workers use their riding-flattening machines to make a smooth, flat finish to the concrete. (Almost ready for the steel!!) You can see more recent pictures on the St. Francis website.

❦

In loving memory

Betty E. Look
May 14, 1924 - December 5, 2018

❦

In loving memory

Lois Elaine Jones
Oct. 21, 1930 - December 13, 2018



An evening worship in the style of Taizé was held on Dec. 19. Preceding the service was a supper in the parish hall provided by the COH (Community of Hope.) The COH members talked about what their group does.



After the supper in the parish hall, Fr. Gordon was one of the members who read about the COH group. Thank you COH for providing a meal, and conversation about what your group does and what it means to you.

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.



115th Diocesan Council
Feb. 21 - 23,
in McAllen