



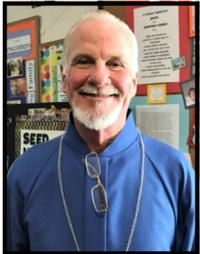
The Franciscan



Volume XLII, Issue I

St. Francis by the Lake
Canyon Lake, Texas

January 2021



Sr. Warden

Jim Kelch

james.r.kelch@gmail.com

While contemplating what to write for my final submission as Senior Warden, I almost wrote “Emeritus.” That is a title we use in education which denotes a state between employment and death. We just keep on teaching. The position of Senior Warden is also called the Rector’s Warden. He or She (i.e., the Rector) chooses this person as one who complements their abilities and works with them (mostly) in harmony. The term is for one year, extended to two in some cases, in times of need.

I was fortunate to be allowed to serve for two years. I learned a lot during these times: building a new MOC building, paying off old debts, and taking on new ones. It has been a pleasure to work so closely with Bob Amos, our Treasurer, during this time. He has amazing talent and financial knowledge and has worked hard behind the scenes to keep us not only “afloat” during the pandemic, but prosperous.

Working with our three new Vestry members, Brenda, Dusty, and Teresa, has been wonderful, too! They complement the make-up of the Vestry and have made a truly smooth transition. The three of us leaving the Vestry (Mike, Debbie, and I) will all admit to ups and downs, but mostly ups. We were all given tasks to complete and duties to do, some done well, others not quite. The pandemic caused some problems we were especially worried about. But, with guidance from the Bishop’s office, we successfully completed this difficult year of in-person

and virtual service to our community. To think a year ago, I didn’t know that Zoom was something other than the sound Superman made when he flew by!

We leave behind our Junior Warden (no one can outwork her!) Tamara; our note taking, hard working Betty; [\(Continued on page 4\)](#)

Rector’s Reflections

Fr. David Chalk
(This bears repeating...)

Psalm 46.10 *Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth!*

A simple word study on this profound verse yields *treasure*. When I’m in the midst of ministry (i.e., when whatever I’m doing is with the LORD’s will fixed in my sights and mind), and whether things are going exactly as planned, or whether the group I’m with is coping with details and particulars that weren’t part of the plan, stress and frustration (masked as “concern,” of course) often arise from my heart and lodge in my brain, and very often threaten to derail... *everything*. (So my fear-mongering, catastrophizing brain tells me!) And so, this verse [Psalm 46.10] becomes key to faithful ministry. It’s the first and last direction from the LORD God: “Relax! **Do you perceive that I AM: God?**”

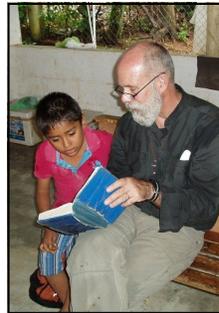
Whether we’re far from home or in the driveway, and we don’t sense that wonderful net of support and encouragement from others, whether we’re exercising leadership or ‘followship’: we must relax. We need to be still. We need to let go and drop the expectations, the

anticipations, the doubt, and the *fear* of not being in control.

A long time ago, when my son was in Boy Scouts, the leader was teaching about wilderness hiking. He asked the boys, “Ok, so you’re completely lost. What’s the first thing you should do?” He received all kinds of answers like “check your map; check your compass; walk in a straight line until you run into something...” and so forth and so on. He let this line of reasoning exhaust itself and then he said, quietly, “Nope. Sorry. None of those answers is correct. The first thing you should do is this: sit down and relax.”

In his book *Deep Survival: Who Lives, Dies, and Why* (W. W. Norton & Company, 2003), Laurence Gonzales writes, “A little humility is a good thing. And if [being lost] does happen to you,” he recommends relying on the acronym STOP: “Stop, Think, Observe, and Plan.” This is the same thing taught to Scouts for their Tenderfoot rank. “The most important thing is to stop and stay calm.” (By the way, I suggest misspelling that acronym **STOPP**: stop, think, observe, **pray**, and plan.)

The Psalmist understood this as “Be still. Know. I AM: God.” This is the beginning and the end of a Christian’s ministry, a Christian’s job/work, a Christian’s life. Christian life doesn’t revolve around *us*, nor *me*. Christian life revolves around **the LORD**. When this becomes our calming, relaxing *center*, then the nations and the whole earth will see and know too: it’s all about the LORD.





Treasurer's report

By [Robert Amos](#)

treasure@gvvc.com

Greetings all,

As you know, this has been a difficult year for many of our parish and beyond. I pray for all who have experienced loss or are suffering illness or any other difficulty. I thank God daily for the many blessings we have received. I especially thank you all for your continued generosity and commitment. I pray that all of you are having a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Overall our finances at St. Francis by the Lake through November 2020 are mixed. However, I am optimistic that we will finish 2020 in good shape.

Operations - less than expected.

Revenues: Total revenue year to date is \$229,862.47, which is less than planned by \$13,430.53.

Expenditures: Expenditures are \$257,180.46, which is lower (better) than planned by \$11,128.54.

Balance (Revenue minus Expenditures): Balance is a deficit of \$27,317.99, which is worse than planned by \$2,301.99
Reminder: This does not include the Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) loan proceeds.

We were notified last week that our PPP Loan forgiveness was approved. That means we do not have to pay it back and it becomes a grant. It will more than balance our deficit for 2020. That will be shown in our full year report next month and at the annual meeting.

Capital - doing well.

Capital Campaign 2020 – 2022: Total contributions are \$76,777.84. Combined balance of Capital Campaign and Capital Campaign 2020 – 2022 Fund is \$104,868.94. We are continuing making monthly principal payments of \$6,060.00 to the Frost Line of Credit.

Debt Retirement: Contributions are \$43,501.00. The Debt Retirement Fund contains a balance of \$52,712.74.

Endowment Fund - doing well.

Total in the fund is \$126,131.98 which is an increase of \$11,727.71 so far this year.

Our funds as of November 30, 2020:

General Operating	\$	(2,301.99)
Debt Retirement	\$	52,712.74
Capital Campaign Fund	\$	104,868.94
Endowment Fund	\$	126,131.98

Debt:

Frost Bank - Line of Credit:	\$	115,138.38
Crump Foundation:	\$	427,500.00
Payroll Protection Plan Loan:	\$	35,000.00

The General Fund being negative is not a concern. It moves up and down throughout the year. Since the PPP loan was forgiven, we should show a positive General Fund balance at year end.

As a reminder, you have the ability to contribute on-line. Go to our website, 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@gvvc.com.



Episcopal Church Women

By [Ronnie Harper-Schwakhofer](#),

We regret we could not have our annual Christmas Party in December due to the usage restrictions of the Ministry and Outreach Center and limitation on number of participants at social gatherings. We are hopefully we can gather again soon in our beautiful new Center.

Wow, so far, we have received a total of \$1,400 (through Nov. 30) in donations from our parishioners!! Thank you so much for your generosity. These funds will help us make contributions to local organizations in May. If you still have items you would like to donate, please consider giving them to the Pink Elephant in Startzville as they give St. Francis a larger than normal percentage of the proceeds for items donated by St. Francis people. Be sure and tell the manager at the Pink Elephant your donation is for St. Francis.

Hope you will join us for our January meeting on Thursday the 14th at 11:00 a.m. Our meeting will be in the MOC, as well as on Zoom. Our guest speaker will be Tom Meyer: a St. Francis parishioner, and member of the Canyon Lake Noon Lions Club. Tom will give us an overview of the Lions' service projects and describe their fundraising events.

Good news: our communication efforts to parishioners are going well: so far over 30 people have been contacted via phone, personal notes/cards, and email. One of the team members shared a comment from a person she had called, "she really appreciated the conversation and thoughtfulness!"

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, email: ronnie78133@gmail.com.

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021 - Approach the New Year with resolve to find opportunities hidden in each new day.



*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
www.saintfrancisbythelake.org*



January anniversaries

Jay and Linda Hillin	1/1
Harold and Mo Simmons	1/4
Doug and Susan Carvel	1/20

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
Cindy McBride	1/27



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
Editors

Maury Meyer: Editor in Chief
maurymeyer@gmail.com

Janet Pollock: Layout, & Design
francis@gvtc.com

Linda Hillin: Photographer
lindahillin@gmail.com

Congratulations! Happy 5th Anniversary Community of Hope



It's hard to believe, but St. Francis by the Lake became a member of the Community of Hope International community in 2015 and commissioned its first class in November 2015. The first Circle of Care was held in January 2016. A second class was commissioned in April 2017 and the third class, our "COVID class," completed the training and was commissioned in December 2020. Congratulations and Happy Anniversary to all!

The members of Community of Hope go through a licensed training program in preparation to be lay chaplains (also known as lay pastoral caregivers.) Those who have been trained make an annual covenant to serve St. Francis by the Lake and the world through our personal ministries and gifts. Pictures of those who were newly commissioned or renewed their covenant during the December 6, 2020, service are found in this issue.

Foremost in ministry is being a listening, non-judging presence, who respects confidences and strives to see the face of Christ in everyone and bring the light of Christ to the world. At St. Francis, we are blessed to have 19 active lay chaplains who serve in a wide variety of situations and ministries.

On December 6, 2020, Fr David commissioned six new members to the Community of Hope. (An asterisk by a name above the photo indicates the newly commissioned lay chaplains.)

If you would like to visit with a lay chaplain, please contact Tricia Jones, Julie Chalk, or Fr David.

Pictured are: Julie Chalk, Beverley Matthewson, Patricia Doyal; Becki Nichols, Dore Jackson*, Libby Templeton; Jay Hillin*, Linda Hillin, Ann Freiberger*, Jo Conchado, Betty Morris, Ronnie Harper-

Schwakhofer, Gloria Glass, Teresa St. John*, Tricia Jones, Debbie Barnwell*, and Lynn Zimmermann. Not pictured are Linda Bosenbark and Jeanne Slupik*.



New flooring installed at rectory

After 25 years with the original carpeting and linoleum, new flooring was purchased and installed at the rectory. The new vinyl planks look like wood, but are more durable and easy to care for. The new flooring was placed in the kitchen, living room, dining room, halls, and bedrooms. The original ceramic tile in the entryway, laundry room, and bathrooms remains in good condition and was not replaced. The new floor is guaranteed for 30 years.

Fr. David and Julie express their gratitude to all who contributed to this project, which will enhance life at the rectory for many years to

come! If you are interested in stopping by to see the new floor, please call or email Julie to set up a time!

Thank you!

Sr. Warden (Cont'd from page 1)

and our super attendance clerk (to steal a school term) Jeri. They will now move up to the senior slots on the Vestry. Who will be the next Senior Warden, I honestly know not! I will be around to give advice on what NOT to do!

Happy New Year to all and many prayers for yet another successful Vestry year. Some important decisions await. God bless you all and thank you for trusting me.

Donation to Canyon Lake Animal Shelter Society (CLASS)

The “St. Francis Bunko Babes” gave CLASS a donation of \$300 for Christmas. For the last few years, until last March when we quit meeting due to COVID-19, the Babes had been putting an extra dollar in our kitty to save up for a future luncheon at a restaurant. As Christmas approached, and it was clear that we would not be meeting for an unknown period, we decided to donate that money to CLASS, which really needs the assistance right now. Brenda Klaftenegger and Maury Meyer presented the contribution and a thank you card for the shelter’s work to CLASS staff on Dec. 23.

In addition to Brenda and Maury, the “St. Francis Bunko Babes” consist of Janis Allen, Beth Coleman, Patricia Doyal, Tricia Jones, Lynda Leadford, Carlie Maciejewski, Valeska McHugh, Betty Morris, Becki Nichols, Brenda Smith, and we have a lot of other St. Francis women on our substitute list. In the future, when we hopefully can meet again, we will welcome any St. Francis women and add their names to the substitute list. If the number of substitutes gets large enough and they would want to start a new group, we will help! We meet once a month, rotating to each member’s home during the year, and share a meal, fun, and fellow (gal) ship.



CLASS staff receive a donation and thank you for the shelter’s work from Brenda Klaftenegger (2nd from the right) and Maury Meyer (in the pink) on Dec. 23. (See article on this page.)

Thank you to all who participated, in front of an audience and behind the scenes, in the 2020 CRRC live Nativity.



Fr. David as the innkeeper.



Tom Meyer as a shepherd.



Maury Meyer played the shepherd.



Nancy McNeely as a shepherd.



A volunteer as Mary, and Fr. Jerry Sneary as Joseph.

Daughters of the King

By Susan Kelch,
Chapter President



Psalm 55:22 “Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall.”

As we move out of 2020 into the new year, The Daughters of the King are focused on prayer, service, and evangelism. 2020 has been one for the record books, but hopefully, 2021 will be a year in which we can come back together. We want to include more women who are interested in learning about The Daughters of the King this next year. We are planning to start a new orientation class at the start of 2021. A few women have indicated their interest, but we would love to include more. Our classes will likely be held *via* Zoom; but as the world opens up, that may change. This is a great way to learn more about your walk in faith, the Church, and The Daughters of the King.

If you are interested in learning more about The Daughters of the King, please contact one of us. We would be glad to answer any questions. (We’re easily identifiable by the Cross each of us wear as a necklace or a pin. It looks like this:)



Magnanimiter Crucem Sustine.

Literally translated
“Courageously Bear the Cross”

*The Daughters understand this to mean
“With heart, mind, and spirit
uphold and bear the cross.”*

FHS:

“For His Sake”



So just what is a sister in Christ?

*“A friend loveth at all times...” Proverbs 17:17
Trying to walk each day as a woman of faith, while facing all this world has to throw at us, is often hard to do. But the Lord has promised He will never leave us or forsake us.*

She is a spiritually mature woman who can offer support and comfort, and is waiting to reach out with encouragement and prayer.

She has a desire within her heart that compels her to reach out to another who is hurting.

She has the love of Jesus within her and it shows. She is like-minded, understanding, a listener, an encourager, and a prayer warrior. There is a special bond between you as sisters in Christ.

She can be relied upon to lift you up in prayer and trusted in confidence. This special sister will tell you the truth, even when it may not be what you want to hear.

The Motto of The Order of the Daughters of the King

For His Sake...

I am but one, but I am one.
I cannot do everything, but I can do something.
What I can do, I ought to do.
What I ought to do, by the grace of God I will do.
Lord, what will You have me do?

