



January 2022

Points of Special Interest

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- Treasurer's Update
- fr david's "small things"

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St. Francis by the Lake
Canyon Lake, Texas

The Reverend Mother Nancy A. Springer



Mother Nancy

Let's Linger

Way back when, when I was in seminary, the first sermon I had to give for a grade in preaching class was on these verses from Peter's second letter:

Don't let it escape your notice, dear friends, that with the Lord a single day is like a thousand years and a thousand years are like a single day. The Lord isn't slow to keep his promise, as some think of slowness, but he is patient toward you, not wanting anyone to perish but all to change their hearts and lives. (2 Peter 3:8-9, Common English Bible)

If we look at what Peter writes before this section, he is addressing people dear to him whom he feels are growing skeptical in their faith, questioning God's abilities because God wasn't doing what they expected in the timeframe they expected. Peter is wanting to keep them focused on the long game, reminding them that just because we don't see God doing what we'd do, or what we expect God to do, doesn't mean that God has forgotten the promise to set all things in proper order or is ignoring us.

Quite the contrary. It is precisely **because** of God's love for us, for every human

being that ever was, is, and will be (yep, even that person) that God gives us the gift of time: time to discover who God is and who we are as God's beloved children. It's a lifelong journey and it doesn't matter when you begin or when (or how often) you choose to resume The Way if you've spent some time on another path.

So much in this world tries to convince us that we deserve instant satisfaction. We pick up fast-food meals and can make coffee in less than a minute. We order what we want when we want it and complain if we have to wait 2 days for delivery. We scroll through headlines and consider ourselves informed. Our entire economy is built on this idea and so when something like a worldwide pandemic stops the flow of goods our "booming" economy crashes in less than 30 days.

But what if God created us to live with waiting and anticipation and lingering so that we can really experience this amazing gift of life and time? What if this instant world is actually preventing us from living fully? What if one of the causes of all of our collective stress and anxiety is our attempt to force fit the life God wants for us into a to-go container not designed to hold it?

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What if we all poured ourselves another cup of coffee and sat with that thought for a few minutes? Would it ruin the rhythm of our day? Or reset it? Remember that part of following (as in Following Jesus) is letting the One we follow set our pace.

God's peace, my friends,
Mtr. Nancy+

"small things..."

Dear friends,

I'm working on this article on January 1st, 2022; let me begin by wishing you Merry (8th Day of) Christmas, a most blessed Feast of the Holy Name, and a very happy and healthy New Year. By the time we get back home to you it will be 12th Night (of Christmas), and so I pray that you will be blessed during this coming Epiphany Season (which begins January 6th and continues through March 1st.)

Our Anglican Church year began way back at the first Sunday of Advent. Since then we've been anticipating, preparing, and expecting Christ's arrival, His coming and His Presence, in the world. Then the 12 day Christmas Season is spent in a blended mixture of Christmas joy and the serious remembrance of the Church's first martyrs (Stephen, John the Evangelist, and the Holy Innocents.) Beginning our annual cycle this way puts us in mind, yet again, of God's care and concern for our lives, coupled with the difficulties of living our lives faithfully. Imagine it: God loves us *so*

Greetings all,

Treasurer's Report

I hope all of you had a very merry and safe Christmas. My wishes go out to each of you for a happy new year.

Our Financial Position

Our financial position at St. Francis by the Lake is continuing to do much better than expected. Thank you so much for your continued generosity and faithfulness. We have an operations balance surplus. The Capital Campaign, Debt Retirement and the Endowment funds are doing well. We are paying down our line of credit at Frost Bank and have made our annual payment to the Crump Foundation loan.

Financial Summary as of November 30, 2021

Operations - continues significantly better than planned.

Revenues: Total revenue is \$268,087.17 which are better than planned by \$72,166.17.

Expenditures: Expenditures were \$260,618.13 which was slightly higher (worse) than planned by \$4,240.27.

Balance (R minus E): Balance is surplus of \$6,819.90 which is better than planned by \$67,925.90.

Capital - continues to do well.

Capital Campaign 2020 – 2022 contributions were \$43,984.48 so far this year, with a balance of \$78,091.78. We are continuing to make monthly principal payments of \$6,060.00 to the Frost Line of Credit.

Debt Retirement: Contributions were \$37,550.00. The Debt Retirement Fund contains a balance of \$64,757.70.

Endowment Fund - continues to do well.

Total in the fund is \$149,445.33 as of November 30, 2021.

Our funds, as of November 30, 2021:

General Operating \$ 45,481.85
 Debt Retirement \$ 64,757.70
 Capital Campaign Fund \$ 78,091.78
 Endowment Fund \$ 149,445.33

Debt:

Frost Bank - Line of Credit: \$ 42,418.38
 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@gvvc.com.



Treasurer,
Mr. Robert
Amos

CRRC Food Needs

CRRC Food Pantry needs for January. If you would like to donate items please put them in the box in the Ministry & Outreach Center labelled CRRC.

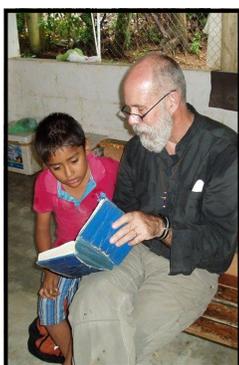
Toilet paper;
Toothpaste;
Toothbrushes;
Shampoo & bar soap;
Mac & cheese (boxed, not single serve);
Jelly (we have peanut butter!);
Spaghetti sauce (canned);
and Tomato soup.



Small things, cont from page 1

much that He doesn't abandon us to our own ideas; neither does He leave us to our own attempts to put things right. God loves us *so much* that He is *always* giving His Son, so that all who believe should... have life. (John 3.16) Because the last thing the LORD wants is to condemn the world; God wants the world, through Christ, to be saved. (John 3.17; 1 Tim 2.4) And yet living the way of God's love will rarely be comprehended by the very world we're working to help. (John 15.19)

The matter at issue for the Church isn't whether or not God loves everyone (that's a given—sorry, Fred W. Phelps, Sr. followers). The matter is whether, when God appears, will He find any faith? (Lk 18.8) This completely mitigates against any “me & Jesus” beliefs, as well as “once saved, always saved” beliefs. I like to say Jesus loves us so much that He doesn't leave us as He



found us. The Father (through the power of the Holy Spirit) is always trying to transform us into the image of His Son... This is the transformation we seek: not complacency, not balance, and not stasis. And this is the transformation that good teachers, great coaches, and constructive leaders promote.

Leaders encourage transformation. The Apostle Paul says pastors and teachers are given by God to the community to “equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ”

(Ephesians 4.12,13) This is ultimately the biblical promise: God says—over and over—“Behold, I'm doing a fresh, new thing! It's springing up; don't you recognize it? I make ways through the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” (Isaiah 43.19)

At the beginning of this new year, despite a new variant virus and renewed vigilance, when resolutions, transformation, and hope emerge in our thoughts and hearts, I encourage us, one and all, to renewed commitment to our community, deeper resolve to care for others, and the wondrous largesse for which we have become known.

This is more than just renewed loyalty (although that's important!). This is about *constancy* in our being together to worship God, our primary reason for being. It's about *redoubled dedication* to pray for our leaders: the priests, wardens, vestry, ministry heads, *all* our leaders. All of us need to be kept in your prayers.

Psalm 127 says “Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain.” The leadership at St. Francis doesn't want to do anything “in vain.” We don't manage people or ministries merely maintaining some *status quo*. As disciples of Jesus, we've been instructed to discern and grow, deepen our (collective) faith, and increase our numbers. The *Good News* is about going into the world, showing Christ's sacrificial love, so that we might invite and *gather* the lost, hurt, lonely, and broken people into the Body of Christ. Each and every ministry of the Church contributes to this, because that's our mission and ministry. Would you please pray that, together, we hear, discern, and follow where He leads the way?

May God the Father bless us; may God the Son heal and strengthen our broken, hurting hearts; and may God the Holy Spirit guide and enlighten us, that in this, and in all things, we may do God's will in the service of His Kingdom. *Amen.*



Save the Date

1/5 12th Night Party
at 6:00 p.m.

1/6 Epiphany Lessons
& Carols, at 6:00 p.m.

1/8 Inquirer's Class at
9:00 a.m. - 12 noon

1/12 Inquirer's Class at
9:00 a.m. - 12 noon

1/23 Annual Parish
Meeting at 9:00 a.m.

1/30 Bishop David
Reed's visitation

January anniversaries

Jay & Linda Hillin 1/1
Harold & Mo Simmons 1/4
Doug & 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

Annual Parish Meeting - Ministry Reports Due

The annual parish meeting will be held on Sunday, Jan. 23, at 9:00 a.m. in the Great Hall. Ministry reports are being compiled for the parish meeting. If you are the head of a ministry at St. Francis, please provide a report on your ministry's activities, goals, etc. to the office no later than Monday, Jan. 17.

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.

The Bishop is coming

Bishop David Reed's visitation is Jan. 30. He will confirm and receive all those who have attended the Inquirer's Class. (See article on this page.)

Inquirer's Retreat

Whether you are new to the Episcopal Church or have been sitting in a pew every Sunday since you were born or anywhere in between, you are invited to attend the St. Francis by the Lake Inquirer's Retreat. We will talk about the history of the Church, the Book of Common Prayer, and the method

and meaning of the Holy Sacraments, as well as the sacramental rites of the Episcopal Church.

Saturday, Jan. 8, 2022
9:00 a.m. - 12 noon
Led by Mother Nancy Springer

OR

Saturday, Jan. 15, 2022
9:00 a.m. - 12 noon
Led by Fr. David Chalk

Both retreats will cover the same information; we are offering two different days to help accommodate as many folks as possible. **If you are considering being confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church when Bishop David Reed visits with us on Jan. 30, you will need to attend one of these retreats.** If neither

day works for you, please contact Mtr. Nancy or Fr. David individually.

A continental breakfast will be served.