

March 2022

Points of Special Interest

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St. Francis by the Lake, Canyon Lake, Texas

Volume XLIV, Issue III

The Reverend Mother Nancy A. Springer



Mother Nancy

The Truth of Denial

I remember last year before Lent saying, "haven't we been in a type of Lent since March of 2020?" And, I must admit, I'm tempted to have the same approach to Lent this year. We've done without so much in the last two years, what can we possibly learn by giving up anything for this season?

Lent, the forty days before Easter, not counting Sundays, is not something that Jesus ever told us to observe.

Jesus did, however, tell us to follow him, to deny ourselves, and take up our cross daily as we follow him (see Luke 9:23). Being told to deny our self sounds harsh to our 21st century ears. Taking up a cross has become wearing a necklace or putting a sticker on our car or hanging a grouping of decorative crosses on a wall in our home. Just how many crosses do we need to hang around our house to make us good Christians? How does accessorizing our life with crosses help us to deny anything?

The simple and obvious answer is "it doesn't." But the image of a cross can serve as a reminder of the meaning of our lives as Followers of Jesus. At our

baptism we proclaim that we are buried with Christ in his death, we share in his resurrection, and we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. We are giving up our own desires so that we can be transformed and shaped by God's love, so that we desire what God desires for all of Creation.

Most folks tend to approach Lent with the idea of "giving up" something we really, really like, for 40 days—only to gorge on it on day 41. But all that does is turn what is supposed to be a season of growth into yet another way to brag about our own abilities and self-control.

Denying ourselves isn't saying we are worthless. It is the understanding that our full value, our pricelessness, is found in the image of God at the core of each of us. Denying ourselves is knowing we can only be fully, truly, really human with God and each other.

When we approach Lent as a spiritual growth activity by setting aside our immediate wants and desires so that we can make more room for awareness of God's presence in our lives, we maintain the right focus on God our Creator, all God has given us, and all that we are able to do with God's help.

If we can, with God's help, give up those things

that are harmful to us, whether physically, emotionally, or spiritually, for 40 days, we learn we can, with God's help, do without them forever.

And so, in place of whatever it is you give up, spend that time/energy/money doing something that will deepen your relationship with God, in study, prayer, meditation, and service to others. Make this Lent a time of renewal, to go deeper as followers of Jesus, to make our Christian life our whole life, giving all of ourself over to God's transforming power.

"small things..."

Dear Friends,

I offer the following meditation for your preparation for observing the Great Fast of Lent.

Perchance, he for whom this bell tolls may be so ill, as that he knows not it tolls for him; and perchance I may think myself so much better than I am, as that they who are about me, and see my state, may have caused it to toll for me, and I know not that. The Church is catholic, universal, so are all her actions; all that She does belongs to all. When She baptizes a child, that action concerns me; for that child is thereby connected to that Body which is my Head too, and ingrafted into that Body whereof I am a member. And when She buries a Man, that action concerns me: all Mankind is of one Author, and is one volume; when one Man dies, one chapter is not torn out of the book, but translated into a better language; and every chapter must be so translated; God employs several translators; some pieces

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Treasurer, Mr. Robert Amos

Greetings all,

Treasurer's Report

Our finances for the new year at St. Francis by the Lake are a tale of two stories. Our capital funds are doing well. However, our Operations (the General Fund) is challenging, as we expected. Contributions and expenditures are doing well. However, our investments are measurably reduced, due to declines in the market. I expect this decline to continue through the first quarter. Our cash situation is in good shape due to the substantial General Funds surplus from 2021. Below is the summary, as of January 31, 2022.

Financial Summary as of January 31, 2022

Operations for 2022 - significantly worse than planned.

Revenues: Total revenue was \$19,047.88. Other Revenue (Investments) was <\$19,274.06>. Revenue from other sources was \$5,224.16. Total Revenue was \$4,997.98, which is less than planned by \$21,135.02.

Expenditures: Expenditures were \$33,970.29, which is lower (better) than planned by \$1,046.71.

Balance (R minus E): Balance is a deficit of \$28,972.31, which is worse than planned by \$20,088.31.

The General Fund is still in good shape with a balance of \$44,940.64. This is due to the significant balance from 2021, which carried over into 2022.

Capital - continuing to do well.

Capital Campaign 2020 - 2022 contributions were \$3,252.22, with a balance of \$67,735.67. We are continuing to make monthly principal payments of \$6,060.00 to the Frost Line of Credit. We also paid \$10,000.00 for the mini-split air-conditioners.

Debt Retirement: Contributions are \$4,090.00. The Debt Retirement Fund contains a balance of \$71,978.72.

Endowment Fund - declined in January due to market conditions.

Total in the fund is \$143,521.18.

Our funds:

General Operating	\$ 44,940.64
Debt Retirement	\$ 71,978.72
Capital Campaign Fund	\$ 67,735.67
Endowment Fund	\$ 145,521.18

Debt:

Frost Bank - Line of Credit:	\$ 30,298.38
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@gvtc.com.

Training for Family Promise

By Maury Meyer and Tricia Jones

Family Promise supports homeless families with children to achieve and sustain independence. It truly changes lives, family by family, and it is very successful. Please visit <https://www.fpgnb.org> for more information on their history, how they work, and their success.

We at St. Francis have been involved with Family Promise for quite a few years in partnership with St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Startzville; and then in 2019-2020, we were able to host families twice in the new Ministry and Outreach Center (MOC).

When the pandemic hit, hosting by all churches came to

a halt. Now, with cases decreasing, Family Promise is once again asking area churches to host families once a week on a quarterly basis.

The personal interaction with people at partner churches adds a unique type of support which our guests appreciate greatly.

This interaction includes setting up bedrooms for guests and hosts on Sunday ...continued on page 3

CRRC's Pantry Needs

For March:

If you would like to contribute, please put your contributions in the "CRRC Box" in the Ministry & Outreach Center:

- Toilet paper
- Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
- Shampoo & Body wash
- Applesauce (canned or bottled)
- Canned fruit of any kind
- Canned Ravioli-type items
- Canned Chicken & Canned Tuna
- Oatmeal & hot cereal (canisters preferred)
- Spaghetti sauce (canned or bottled).

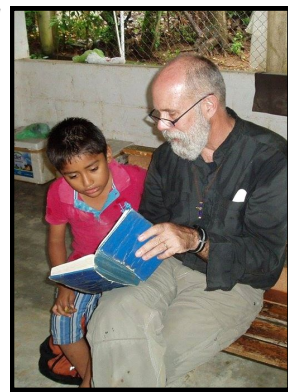


Small things, cont from page 1

are translated by age, some by sickness, some by war, some by justice; but God's hand is in every translation, and His hand shall bind up all our scattered leaves again for that library where every book shall lie open to one another. As therefore the bell that rings to a sermon calls not upon the Preacher only, but upon the Congregation to come, so this bell calls us all; but how much more me, who am brought so near the door by this sickness.

There was a contention as far as a suit (in which both piety and dignity, religion and estimation, were mingled), which of the religious orders should ring to prayers first in the morning; and it was determined, that they should ring first that rose earliest. If we understand aright the dignity of this bell that tolls for our evening prayer, we would be glad to make it ours by rising early, in that application, that it might be ours as well as his, whose indeed it is.

The bell doth toll for him that thinks it doth; and though it intermit again, yet from that minute that this occasion wrought upon him, he is united to God. Who casts not up his eye to the sun when it rises? but who takes off his eye from a comet when that breaks out? Who bends not his ear to any bell



which upon any occasion rings? but who can remove it from that bell which is passing a piece of himself out of this world?

No Man is an island, entire of itself; every Man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy Friend's or of thine own were: any Man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in Mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.

Neither can we call this a begging of misery, or a borrowing of misery, as though we were not miserable enough of ourselves, but must fetch in more from the next know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.

Neither can we call this a begging of misery, or a

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Save the Dates

- Mar 1: 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. - Shrove Tuesday Pancakes in the Great Hall
- Mar 2: Ash Wed. Eucharist, Ashes at 7 a.m., 11:30 a.m., & 6:30 p.m.
- Mar 9: 6:30 p.m. - Lenten Soup Suppers (Wednesdays until Apr. 6)
- Mar 19: 9 a.m. - Highway Cleanup
- Mar 13: 11:45 a.m. - Vestry Meeting

Looking Ahead

Apr 22-May 2: Navajoland Mission

March birthdays

- Gabe Jones 3/6
- Betty Colley 3/8
- Jim Kelch 3/9
- Jeri Balcom 3/11
- Maura Mitchell 3/11
- Brian Freiburger 3/12
- Harold Simmons 3/15
- Pat Smith 3/16
- J.P. Smith 3/23
- Cindy Smith 3/24
- Janet Morris 3/25
- Diane Thovson 3/25
- Dore Jackson 3/26
- John Stump 3/26

March anniversaries

- Thomas & Sheila Mulbry 3/18
- Tim & Joy Ellwood 3/21
- Ray Ferguson & Tamara Huneau 3/29

For more information about what's happening, check out our *Good News* publication which is emailed out at the beginning of each week.

Training..., cont from page 2

after 10:00 a.m. worship, providing evening meals and a Saturday morning breakfast, providing food for guest breakfasts and lunches (they assemble their own), hospitality, overnight hosts, praying for the families, breakdown of the bedrooms, delivery of the Family Promise trailer to the next host church, and laundry service for the sheets and towels.

Before this happens, the volunteers who have individual contact with the families (hospitality and overnight hosts) who have not had Safeguarding God's Children and Family Promise training in the last five years, will need to attend the next class. **WATCH YOUR EMAIL for additional information for the training classes that will be sent out this week.** If you would like to know more about what's involved with any of the tasks or about the program, please ask Tricia or Maury.

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Diocese of West Texas
"We are a Missionary People"



"Reaching up Reaching out"
Growing Something Eternal!

Our mission is to learn all we can, in order to live as best we can, that we might share the love of God the Father, revealed through the Word of God the Son, by the power of God the Holy Spirit with... everyone! We strive to be welcoming, hospitable, and we hope you will consider making St. Francis by the Lake your parish and your spiritual home. Please take time to browse through our website for information about our parish family, as well as about the Episcopal Church. We'd like to extend our invitation to you: "Come as you are; leave better." Also, if you encounter something that's not clear, please give us a call and allow us to try and explain. Many thanks!

fr. davið

We're on the Web!!
www.saintfrancisbythelake.org

cont from page 3

borrowing of misery, as though we were not miserable enough of ourselves, but must fetch in more from the next house, in taking upon us the misery of our neighbours. Truly it were an excusable covetousness if we did, for affliction is a treasure, and scarce any Man hath enough of it. No Man hath affliction enough that is not matured and ripened by it, and made fit for God by that affliction. If a man carry treasure in bullion, or in a wedge of gold, and have none coined into current money, his treasure will not defray him as he travels. Tribulation is treasure in the nature of it, but it is not current money in the use of it, except we get nearer and nearer our home, Heaven, by it. Another Man may be sick too, and sick to death, and this affliction may lie in his bowels, as gold in a mine, and be of no use to him; but this bell, that tells me of his affliction, digs out and applies that gold to me: if by this consideration of another's danger I take mine own into contemplation, and so secure myself, by making my recourse to my God, who is our only Security.



The Rev'd John Donne (22 Jan. 1572 – 31 Mar. 1631) was an English poet, scholar, soldier, and priest in the Church of England. He was the dean of St Paul's Cathedral in London, and is considered the best of the "metaphysical poets." Noted for metaphorical and sensual style, his works include sonnets, love poems, religious poems, Latin translations, epigrams, elegies, songs, and satires. He's also well-known for his sermons.

HOW TO DO LENT

