



The Franciscan



Volume XLII, Issue III

St. Francis by the Lake
Canyon Lake, Texas

March 2021

Note from the Editor:

Some may have noticed that you never received a February newsletter. I apologize for that lapse in communications. Thank God we have the weekly “Good News” to keep most everyone informed about what’s going on (Thanks to Linda Hillin!)

There was a lot going on in January and into February that just made it impossible to put a complete newsletter together.

I will say, this is the first time we have missed putting out a monthly newsletter since I became Editor in January of 2010. And I will try to make sure it is the last time.

Maury Meyer

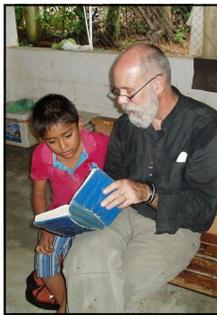
The Rector

Fr David Chalk

Did you know it's already March???

This past year has felt like... no one word can cover it! We talk around it, attempting to rationalize the way -over-used “unprecedented.” I’ve used so many adjectives, searching for the right one; yet a definition or description eludes me.

It’s not just me. The Oxford English Dictionary (OED) reached the same conclusion when faced with determining 2020’s “Word of the Year.” The OED deduced: “there’s no word in the English language that wholly encapsulates the experience



of 2020.” So, for the first time in its publishing history, it did not choose one. Instead, its lexicographers analyzed a *monitor corpus* of 11 billion words, and produced a report regarding how the coronavirus has changed not only the ways we live, work, and interact, but even the way we speak. “What was genuinely unprecedented (sic!!) this year,” the report says, “was the hyper-speed at which the English-speaking world amassed a new and collective vocabulary.” I hasten to remind you, gentle reader: *people do not like change.*

And yet that has become our new way of life. Science reports change their findings weekly. Governments make diverse pronouncements frequently. The world seems to be at the mercy—and in the grip—of an extremely fickle Mother Nature. What is a hopeful Christian to make of this? What shall our attitude be. How shall we respond? I confess to bouncing back and forth like a rubber ball...

(Do not taunt happy fun ball!)

There’s a story that was frequently told by President Reagan about twin boys, age six. Their parents were so worried about the boys’ diverse personalities—one was a grim pessimist, the other an over-eager optimist—that they took them to a renowned child psychiatrist.

The psychiatrist tried to brighten the pessimist’s outlook; he led the child into a room piled to the ceiling with brand new toys. Instead of surprised delight, the little boy burst into tears. “What’s the matter?” the psychiatrist asked. “Don’t you want

to play with any of the toys?” “Yes, I do” the little boy simpered. “But if I did, I just know I’d probably break them.”

And so the psychiatrist tried the super-optimist. After settling him down, the psychiatrist led him into a different room—which was filled with horse manure. Instead of shrinking back in disgust, this child emitted a little *yip* of joy. He then proceeded to climb and paw his way through the manure, gleefully throwing each scoop, with his bare hands, to the perimeter of the room. “What are you doing?!?” asked the now distressed psychiatrist. The boy replied, “Well, with all this manure,” and a huge smile spread across his face, “there’s just got to be a pony in here somewhere!”

May we not lose sight of our connection with humor and an ever-hopeful outlook on life and each other.

Pax et bonum,
May God’s Peace & Goodness be yours.
fr david





Treasurer's report

By [Robert Amos](#)

treasure@gvvc.com

Greetings all,

Overall our finances at St. Francis by the Lake through January 2021 are doing well.

Operations - better than expected.

Revenues: Total revenue for January is \$32,194.52, which is more than planned by \$14,613.52 Extra revenue was largely due to transfer of surplus

funds for rectory flooring to the general fund, per donor wishes.

Expenditures: Expenditures are \$24,261.39 which is slightly lower (better) than planned by \$124.61.

Balance (Revenue minus Expenditures): Balance is a surplus of \$7,933.13 which is better than planned by \$14,738.10.

Capital - doing well.

Capital Campaign 2020 – 2022: January contributions were \$3,605.00. Combined balance of Capital Campaign and Capital Campaign 2020 – 2022 Fund is \$100,466.71. We are continuing making monthly principal payments of \$6,060.00 to the Frost Line of Credit.

Debt Retirement: Contributions are \$3,560.00. The Debt Retirement Fund contains a balance of \$61,821.90.

Endowment Fund - doing well.

Total in the fund is \$134,774.36.

Our funds as of October 31, 2020:

General Operating	\$	46,595.08
Debt Retirement	\$	61,821.90
Capital Campaign Fund	\$	100,466.71
Endowment Fund	\$	134,774.36

Debt:

Frost Bank - Line of Credit:	\$	103,018.38
Crump Foundation:	\$	427,500.00

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](#),

I hope you will join us for our March meeting on Thursday, Mar. 11, at 11:00 a.m. This meeting will be held in the Great Hall and on Zoom. Our guest speaker is one of our parishioners, Peggy Kelsey. She will share her journey through months of treatment for COVID-19. You will not want to miss her story of her faith and the power of prayers; her recovery is truly a miracle!

Also at the March meeting we will choose three people from our membership to be on the nominating committee. The nominees for the vacant positions on the executive committee will be presented to the membership at the April meeting. The following officers' positions are open: President, Recording Secretary, and Chaplain. These positions are for a two-year terms. The good news is our current Chaplain, Becky Nichols, has volunteered to serve for a second term.

Our communication ministry continues to reach out. Valentine cards were mailed to parishioners, and their response to this gesture was encouraging. Some of us have visited folks by making a "drive by visit." Smiling faces speak volumes!

Julie Chalk will be our guest speaker in April. She will tell us about her involvement in the Threads of Blessings Ministry, a non-profit organization that enables women in Uganda to produce unique textile art celebrating their culture and nurturing the creative process. Watch for future details in the Good News and emails later in March.

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.

March anniversaries

Tim & Joy Ellwood	3/21
Tom & Sheila Mulbry	3/21
Ray Ferguson & Tamara Huneau	3/29



Reaching up...
Reaching out...
Growing Something
Eternal!

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March birthdays

Gabe Jones	3/6
Betty Colley	3/8
Jim Kelch	3/9
Maura Mitchell	3/11
Brian Freiburger	3/12
Pat Flesher	3/13
Harold Simmons	3/15
Pat Smith	3/16
Margo Horner	3/20
J.P. Smith	3/23
Cindy Smith	3/24
Diane Thovson	3/25
John Stump	3/26



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.

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The Rev. David Chalk, Rector

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In loving memory

Hazel B. Dowdy
Sept. 28, 1928 - Jan. 17, 2021




In loving memory

Mary Barker
Nov. 25, 1943 - Jan. 23, 2021




In loving memory

Ann Patla
Sept. 14, 1932 - Feb. 26, 2021



Family Promise of Greater New Braunfels

St. Francis' participation with the families and staff of Family Promise of Greater New Braunfels (Family Promise) has been limited since COVID related restrictions on parish use were put in place. Some of you may have been wondering how COVID has impacted the Family Promise programs and families. Thanks to Jill Ingersoll, here's an update on how Family Promise has shifted in these challenging times.

By far, when most people think of Family Promise they think of a shelter program. They may even know about the organization's relationship with area churches and how this is foundational to the program. At the onset of COVID, it was clear that

housing families in churches was not an option--families would have to shelter in the Day Center. This limited the program to no more than two families at a time.

Thinking out of the box to address the growing needs for assistance, Family Promise created a new pilot program, the Stable Housing Initiative Program (SHIP), to assist families before they are evicted by providing supportive guidance and case management. As you know, one missed check or car repair can have a cascading financial effect for many families. Once a family is evicted, it is almost impossible for them to rent again. In fact, due to the moratorium on evictions, many landlords have raised their income qualifications. Currently, for most apartment complexes, families must earn a gross income of 3x more than their rent rate to qualify for a rental. This is up from 1.5 or 2x gross income prior to COVID. The average rent is about \$900. The average single income family that Family Promise works with earns \$1,400 to \$1,800 gross income. That means that they would need to find rentals in the \$450 to \$600 per month range. If you've checked on rent lately, you know they are much higher than that. If the family is housed, the odds of them finding a rental once evicted is slim to none. Currently, Family Promise serves four families through the SHIP pilot program. They have great hopes that this program will grow and many families will be assisted in maintaining their housing.

Another Family Promise program that people may not know as much about is the aftercare or graduate program. This is the New Lease On Life (NLOL) program that provides case management after a family graduates from the shelter. So often people see "graduating" as the end. For Family Promise, it's simply the

next chapter. While in shelter, the focus is developing the basics needed to leave the shelter. The New Lease on Life program extends Family Promise's relationship with the families. Jill Ingersoll, Family Services Coordinator, says, "I'm always gratified when one of our New Lease on Life clients calls to say "XYZ" happened. It indicates that they trust us and that they are proactively addressing issues before they get out of hand." The New Lease on Life program is the key to stability for graduating families. Family Promise staff and the families meet together monthly, complete workshops, and build on concepts introduced while in the shelter. Typically, families stay in the New Lease on Life program one to two years after graduating. Currently, there are eight families being served monthly, with the occasional "drop in" graduate as needed. Through a combination of their various programs, Family Promise has served 120 individuals this year (2020,) including 35 families (38 adults) and 82 children.

Some ways a person could help Family Promise help families are:

- Pray for the staff of Family Promise, the families they are assisting, and all people who are experiencing unstable housing;
- Financial donations;
- Donate your car;
- Contribute towards graduation "wish lists"; and
- Write notes and cards in support of the staff and the families.

Visit the Family Promise website at www.fpgnw.org for much more information on their history, programs, and how to support them. The blog has great stories about the staff, families, and supporters, including a story and picture of our own Fr. David.

