



The Franciscan

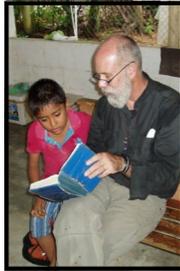


Volume XLII, Issue IX

St. Francis by the Lake
Canyon Lake, Texas

October 2021

Small details make big differences fr. david



Dear friends, I spent quite a long time recently with the students in our diocesan Iona program discussing how important it is to know your source's background and agenda. And while I've done that in small doses, during small gatherings (e.g., Bible studies, feasts, Wednesday Eucharists, etc.), there's a significant source in my spiritual formation that I've not shared with you, until now.

The Rt. Rev. Wes Frensdorff was my first bishop. His ministry in the Diocese of Nevada was profound and his influence in the world wide Anglican Communion was great but his presence in the life of my family was also far reaching. He died in a small plane crash, during my first year of graduate school.

[Here is the link](#) to the official archives of the Episcopal Church about that event.

Wes helped shape my understanding of ministry. He wrote a visionary piece which encapsulates his thinking in what he called [The Dream](#).



△Let us dream of a church in which all members know surely and simply God's great love, and each is certain that in the divine heart we are all known by name. In which Jesus is very Word, our window into the Father's heart; the sign of God's hope and his design for all humankind. In which the Spirit is not a party symbol, but wind and fire in everyone; gracing the church with a kaleidoscope of gifts and constant renewal for all.

△A church in which worship is lively and fun as well as reverent and holy; and we might be moved to dance and laugh; to be solemn, cry, or beat the breast. People know how to pray and enjoy it - frequently and regularly, pri-

vately and corporately, in silence and in word and song. The Eucharist is the center of life and servanthood the center of mission: the servant Lord truly known in the Breaking of the Bread. With service flowing from worship, and everyone understanding why worship is called a service.

△Let us dream of a church in which the sacraments, free from captivity by a professional elite, are available in every congregation regardless of size, culture, location, or budget. In which every congregation is free to call forth from its midst priests and deacons, sure in the knowledge that training and support services are available to back them up. In which the Word is sacrament too, as dynamically present as bread and wine; members, not dependent on professionals, know what's what and who's who in the Bible, and all sheep share in the shepherding. In which discipline is a means, not to self-justification, but to discipleship and law, is known to be a good servant but a poor master.

△A church affirming life over death as much as life after death, unafraid of change, able to recognize God's hand in the revolutions, affirming the beauty of diversity, abhorring the imprisonment of uniformity, as concerned about love in all relationships as it is about chastity, and affirming the personal in all expressions of sexuality; denying the separation between secular and sacred, world and church, since it is the world Christ came to and died for.

△A church without the answers, but asking the right questions; holding law and grace, freedom and authority, faith and works together in tension, by the Holy Spirit, pointing to the glorious Mystery who is God. So deeply rooted in gospel and tradition that, like a living tree, it can swing in the wind and con-

tinually surprise us with new blossoms.

△Let us dream of a church with a radically renewed concept and practice of ministry and a primitive understanding of the ordained offices. Where there is no clerical status and no classes of Christians, but all together know themselves to be part of the *laos* - the holy people of God. A ministering community rather than a community gathered around a minister. Where ordained people, professional or not, employed or not, are present for the sake of ordering and signing the church's life and mission, not as signs of authority or dependency, nor of spiritual or intellectual superiority, but with Pauline patterns of "ministry supporting church" instead of the common pattern of "church supporting ministry." Where bishops are signs and animators of the church's unity, catholicity and apostolic mission; priests are signs and animators of her Eucharistic life and the sacramental presence of her Great High Priest; and deacons are signs and animators - living reminders - of the church's servanthood as the body of Christ who came as, and is, the servant slave of all God's beloved children.

△Let us dream of a church so salty and so yeasty that it really would be missed if no longer around; where there is wild sowing of seeds and much rejoicing when they take root, but little concern for success, comparative statistics, growth or even survival. A church so evangelistic that its worship, its quality of caring, its eagerness to reach out to those in need cannot be contained. A church in which every congregation is in a

[Continued on page 2: Small ...](#)



Treasurer's report

By [Robert Amos](#)
treasure@gvtc.com

Greetings all,

Our financial position at St. Francis by the Lake is continuing to do much better than expected so far this year. Contributions continue ahead of expectations. Expenditures are better than planned. We received loan forgiveness for our Payroll Protection Plan loan. We have an operations balance surplus, which is much better than planned. Capital Campaign, Debt Retirement, and the Endowment funds are doing well. We are paying down our line of credit at Frost Bank.

Thank you so much for your continued generosity and faithfulness. It is so very important to our mission at St. Francis by the Lake.

Financial Summary as of August 31 , 2021.

Operations - significantly better than planned.

Revenues: Total revenue is \$224,528.36, which is better than planned by \$82,190.36.

Expenditures: Expenditures are \$179,355.85, which is lower (better) than planned by \$9,516.15.

Balance (Revenue minus Expenditures): Balance is a surplus of \$45,172.51, which is better than planned by \$91,706.51.

Capital - continuing to do well.

Capital Campaign 2020 – 2022: Contributions were \$29,382.35 so far this year, with a balance of \$82,127.43. We are continuing making monthly principal payments of \$6,060.00 to the Frost Line of Credit.

Debt Retirement: Contributions were \$28,646.00. The Debt Retirement Fund contains a balance of \$55,854.96. Crump Note of \$31,050 was paid on Aug. 11, 2021.

Endowment Fund - continuing to do well.

Total in the fund is \$150,379.94.

Our funds, as of August 31 , 2021:

General Operating	\$ 83,834.46
Debt Retirement	\$ 55,854.96
Capital Campaign Fund	\$ 82,127.43
Endowment Fund	\$ 150,379.94

Debt:

Frost Bank - Line of Credit:	\$ 60,598.38
Crump Foundation:	\$ 405,500.00

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.

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process of becoming free - autonomous - self-reliant - interdependent, none has special status: the distinction between parish and mission gone. But each congregation is in mission and each Christian, gifted for ministry; a crew on a freighter, not passengers on a luxury liner. Peacemakers and healers abhorring violence in all forms (maybe even football); as concerned with societal healing as with individual healing; with justice as with freedom; prophetically confronting the root causes of social, political, and economic ills.

△A community: an open, caring,

sharing household of faith where all find embrace, acceptance, and affirmation.

△A community: under judgment, seeking to live with its own proclamation; therefore, truly loving what the Lord commands and desiring His promise.

△And finally, let us dream of a people called to recognize all the absurdities in ourselves and in one another, including the absurdity that is LOVE; serious about the call and the mission but not, very much, about ourselves, who, in the company of our Jester Redeemer, can dance and

sing and laugh and cry in worship, in ministry, and even in conflict.

△△△

I've taken the liberty of translating some of Wesley's 1800s vocabulary into terms we use today, but this text is illustrative of the vision I've had of the church from the beginning of my ministry (which began decades before my ordination).

I'd be delighted to talk with you and learn about your response to Wesley's Dream.

Faithfully,
david+



St. Francis “Fall Fête”

The ECW is hosting an afternoon social at Table 306 on Oct. 21st from 3:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. for the men & women of St. Francis. The cost is \$10 per person (cash, no credit cards, to be paid at the door) to cover the cost of appetizers. You may bring your favorite bottle of wine to share.

Please, RSVP with your name and the number of people in your party by October 18th to Dori Clark (doric57@hotmail.com). (This venue accommodates 50 people.)

Oct. 21, 2021
3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Table 306,
7250 FM306,
New Braunfels, 78132,
[\(830\) 217-3775](tel:(830)217-3775)

Mark your calendar

October Potluck Supper

Date: Oct. 20, 2021
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Our monthly potluck suppers at St. Francis are once again in the Great Hall. Please bring your “fall” favorite entrée - dessert or vegetable, or appetizer.

All are welcome!



Mark your calendar

Thanksgiving Potluck Supper

Date: Nov. 24, 2021
Time: 6:30 p.m.

St. Francis will provide the turkey. Please bring your favorite dessert, or vegetable, or appetizer.

Invite your friends:
all are welcome!

kitchen happenings

The Migration Ministry prepares food on Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m. and then takes it to those in need at the San Antonio Airport. If you'd like to help, please let us know. Thank you!



Reaching up... Reaching out...

Growing Something Eternal!

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October anniversaries

Tom & Cary Corbin 10/1
Mike & Carlie Maciejewski 10/9

October birthdays

Becky Weaver 10/2
Ginger Rose 10/3
Teresa St. John 10/3
Jake Benham 10/5
Jackson Bosenbark 10/7
Janis Allen 10/9
Debbie Barnwell 10/11
Becki Nichols 10/11
George Glasby 10/18
Bruce Smith 10/20
Hollie Malone 10/21
Richard Meinke 10/21
Libby Templeton 10/22
Frank Matthewson 10/24
Nancy McNeely 10/24
Alice Meinke 10/25
Janet Pollock 10/25



CRRC

Current
Food Pantry Needs

toilet paper,
toothpaste,
toothbrushes,
shampoo & bar soap,
boxed mac & cheese
(*not single-serve*),
jelly (*we have peanut butter!*),
canned spaghetti sauce,
and
tomato soup

All contributions are greatly appreciated.

The Franciscan

A mostly-monthly publication of
St. Francis by the Lake
Canyon Lake, Texas

För. David P. Chalk, Rector
Mör. Nancy A. Springer, Assoc. Rector

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Introducing our new Associate Rector

by Maury Meyer
& Mtr Nancy Springer

While many of us already have met and spoken with Mtr Nancy, and know she is starting her ministry with us in October, we wanted to provide some background on how we've come to this decision.

As the *Franciscan* Editor, I thought it would be an auspicious opportunity to include an article on this happy event. There have been parishioners and friends ask how this came to be, so I spoke with Fr. David and another Vestry member about how we've been led by faith to the calling of Mtr. Nancy.

As we were emerging from pandemic isolation, the Vestry began a discussion and then posed themselves a question: "What will our 'new normal' look like? Are we living / serving / growing into our full potential? If not, what might facilitate that? How might we equip and encourage *us*, in *all* our ministries, whether we expand the scope of ministry, or not?"

And it was just around that time when Mtr. Nancy led us in the All Parish Retreat, "Together Again," in June. She also served as Supply Priest on several Sundays. Fr. David and the Vestry began to recognize that God was proposing a "new thing." The prayer became focused on listening to the Lord and then discerning, together, what that looked and sounded like. Many previous obstacles seemed to wonderfully disappear as Bob Amos, our Treasurer, had reported for many months, "our financial position continues to be better than expected." With that, the Vestry gave it's approval to Fr David to call another priest into ministry with St. Francis. After many conversations with many diocesan person-

nel (including the bishop) Fr. David extended the invitation for Mtr Nancy to become Associate Rector.

Mother Nancy's Bio

Although I was not raised in the Episcopal Church, I got here as fast as I could! My first footsteps inside an Episcopal Church were in Christ Church Cathedral in Houston at my uncle's funeral. It may seem odd to say this about a funeral service but for the first time in my church going life, I felt a part of what was happening. The words and devotion and actions of the clergy and lay ministers spoke deeply to my soul. For several years before his death, my uncle had encouraged me to explore the Episcopal Church, and now I knew how right he had been!

I spent the next few years getting more and more involved at St. Thomas in San Antonio, and it was there that I began to have conversations with Fr. Chuck Woehler about becoming a priest. In the fall of 2009, in my mid-forties and with a son in college, I entered seminary at Wycliffe College in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. I was ordained to the diaconate on the Feast of St. Barnabas, June 11, 2012, eleven years to the day from when I was confirmed in the Episcopal Church. My first assignment was at St. John's in McAllen where I served as Associate Rector until moving to St. Alban's in Harlingen as their Associate Rector in 2016.

My husband, Jim Chase, and I met while we were preparing for a mission trip to Guatemala, sponsored by St. John's, in the fall of 2012. We married on September 15, 2013. Jim retired from nursing in 2016 so that he could spend more time golfing and hanging out with our dogs. We did a brief sojourn out of the Diocese of West Texas from 2018 to 2020 and knew quickly that our real church home is with the Diocese of West Texas. We returned with faith that God would lead us to where we are to serve.

We are both so very grateful that

God led us to St. Francis and that y'all have stepped out in faith with the invitation to be your Associate Rector. Fr. David was one of my examining chaplains while I was in seminary, and has had a significant role in who I am as a priest in God's Church. I am honored to serve with him and all of you as we flavor and light our community with God's love.

I am looking forward to working with all of you as we reconnect with groups, such as CRRC, and build new relationships with our local schools and others in our community as the hands and feet and eyes of Jesus, so that everyone is cared for and knows they are loved.

P.S. One of the first questions I'm often asked is "what do we call you?" I'm not big on titles, and I invite you to call me 'Nancy.' I do ask that if you address Fr. David as 'Father,' please use 'Mother' for me. It may sound awkward; however, it is the grammatical and ecclesiastical equivalent to 'Father.' It's also appropriate for preserving our equality as priests.

The Rev. Nancy Springer
(210) 382-1195

www.mothernancyscoffeethoughts.com



The Feast of St. Francis Monday, Oct. 4

Please invite your friends and neighbors to bring their pets and come with you for our annual pet blessing. We'll gather outside, under the trees in front of our worship building. If you aren't able to travel with your loved ones we'll also Zoom.

Monday, Oct. 4, we begin at 5:00 p.m. Refreshments will be provided.

For the safety of all, please have your pet on a leash, in a carrier, a bowl, etc.