



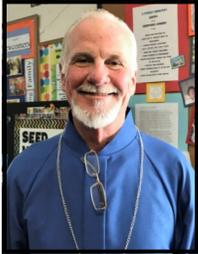
The Franciscan



Volume XLI, Issue VIII

St. Francis by the Lake
Canyon Lake, Texas

September 2020



Sr. Warden

Jim Kelch

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As a young teacher, Shakespeare was a difficult sell, until the boys discovered there were girls who wanted to be ‘on stage.’ “To be or not to be. That is the question!” They loved that line! It’s back! Our Bishop has made some recommendations for slightly loosening the phased reopening guidelines in what he calls “2b.”

The 2b guidelines can briefly be described as ‘meetings are ok, as long as all the other guidelines are maintained.’ So

- wear face masks,
- keep six feet of physical distance,
- practice good hygiene, and
- sanitize common areas.

Current guidelines allowed for in-person worship and now (2b) Vestry meetings, in-person AA, and other recovery meetings; and continuing outreach ministries that meet an immediate need. I am going to enjoy seeing my friends serving on the Vestry, in particular!

We will continue to live-stream our services as well as most of our meetings. The Bishop states more reopening discussions are being held and that further loosening will come at the appropriate time.

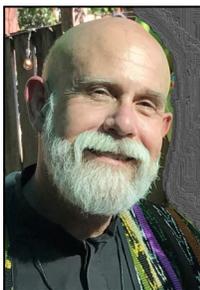
The 2b allows for in-person gatherings for Bible study, Sunday school, youth groups (got any spares out there?) and child care. At the discretion of the Rector and Vestry, outside groups may meet in-person. Fr.

David and Fr. Gordon may resume some pastoral duties, e.g., baptisms, and offering the sacraments to those who are dying.

Our written plan for this has to be submitted before we can start 2b. “To be or not to be...” a fully functioning parish family? Hopefully sooner rather than later, and in a safe environment for all.



A few years ago, I remember sitting on the side of a mountain between Carson City and Reno. The sun beat down, shining on my head and illuminating all that’s around with an intense light. Tall pines sway in the wind, the result of the air exchange between the hot valley and



the snow-covered peaks. Two squirrels play on boulder-sized rocks nearby. A mountain blue jay had just lighted in the dust in front of me. The squirrels and the jay looked

expectantly, tamed by human proximity to this state of hubris. I disappoint them by continuing to write. They scurry and fly away.

I hear the wind whooshing down the mountain. The sound of it moving through millions of 5 to 7 inch needles on the pines is absolutely pentecostal. The trees sway, showering me, the tent, the table, and the ground with green pollen dust. There’s so much pollen the air is hazy and green. A hawk turns overhead and cries. The grasses dance, their full, ripe heads bending low on slender necks.

I see two camps, one 100 yards away, and another about 150 yards further up the mountain. I can just make out sounds from the out of sight highway when the wind drops. And a little way further down the slope I hear-but do not see-another camp.

Over the majestic rush of wind and the sound of needles and branches brushing each other, I hear the blare of a boombox, bellowing bilious tunes. Way too loud for being in public, much less this communal camp-ground. “How incongruous,” I think at first. And then I realize my error.

God created humanity to live in loving harmony with Him, each other, and all creation, taking the beauty, wonder, and joy of it all and offering it back in thankful gratitude. The priesthood of humanity is found in that ministry of thankful offering back to God; as we say, “All things come of Thee.” Yet we tend to focus on our enjoyment rather than the Lord’s provision. We spread *our* presence and broadcast *our* noise, rather than bask in His presence, share His word, or listen to Him speak. Some of this is ignorance and naïveté, but mostly it’s fear.

We’re afraid of being alone. We’re afraid of being in the presence of God. And we’re afraid that we might have to change. We fear listening when God speaks to us. And, in our fear, we tend to drown out, cover up, or camouflage what we ought to be offering back to Him for His transformative blessing. Our innocence and naïveté come from benign neglect and willful forgetfulness.

[\(Continued on page 4\)](#)



Treasurer's report

By [Robert Amos](#)

Email:

treasure@gvvc.com

Greetings all,

I hope you are doing well and staying safe. I miss seeing you and my prayers continue for all of you.

Overall our finances are doing well. Operations are slightly better than planned due to expenditure management and pledge contributions which are ahead of plan. Capital Campaign and Debt Retirement continue to do well. The

Endowment Fund has recovered from the market down turn earlier this year. Thank you for your ongoing generous contributions and faithfulness.

Here are our finances as of July 31, 2020.

Operations - Continues mixed.

Revenues: Total revenue was \$147,989.80, which is less than planned by \$6,838.20. Pledges are ahead of plan. The short fall is largely due to plate and regular giving, which are impacted by the pandemic.

Expenditures: Expenditures were \$164,543.58 which is lower (better) than planned by \$9,382.42.

Balance (Revenue minus Expenditures): Balance was a deficit of \$16,533.78 which is better than planned by \$2,544.22.

Capital - Continues doing well.

Capital Campaign 2020 - 2022: Total contributions were \$59,905.34. Combined balance of Capital Campaign and Capital Campaign 2020 – 2022 Fund is \$100,262.05.

Debt Retirement: Contributions are \$25,520.00. The Debt Retirement Fund contains a balance of \$67,059.67.

Endowment Fund - Doing well.

Total in the fund is \$116,503.13.

Our funds as of July 31, 2020:

General Operating	\$	157.36
Debt Retirement	\$	67,059.67
Capital Campaign Fund	\$	100,262.05
Endowment Fund	\$	116,503.13

Debt:

Frost Bank - Line of Credit:	\$	139,378.38
Crump Foundation:	\$	450,000.00
Payroll Protection Plan Loan:	\$	35,000.00

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 transaction on credit card, debit card, 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 (ECW)

By [Ronnie Harper-Schwakhofer](#), ECW President

Our ECW 2020-2021 calendar year begins in September and we've had to create a "NEW Norm" with the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. This "new norm" for our meetings will allow us to be with one another just not "in person." Our monthly meetings will be held electronically via ZOOM and the format of the meeting will be slightly different. The meeting date will remain the same, the first Thursday of each month; however, the time has changed from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Other components of our monthly meeting will remain the same: i.e. prayers, birthday celebrations, business meeting, and other pertinent information.

The format for our first meeting of the year on Thursday, Sep. 10, will be "Let's Get Reacquainted." We'd love for the attendees to share "good news in their life" with everyone and then we'll play a game called "Two Truths and a Lie." In this game you share three facts about yourself: two facts that are true and one that is a lie. Get creative and think up some "facts" to share. Check the weekly *Good News* and your email for further details and instructions to play the game and access ZOOM. At this meeting we will also install our new officers for 2020-2021: Vice President: Carlie Maciejewski; Treasurer: Mary Anne O'Bryant; and Corresponding Secretary: Beverly Matthewson. The following ladies will serve for another year: President: Ronnie Harper-Schwakhofer; Recording Secretary: Anne Cain; and Chaplain: Becki Nichols.

Our October meeting program will be David Ricker, Executive Director of Communities in Schools, who will give us an update on the services provided local schools by their organization and conduct a question and answer session. Programs for our future monthly meetings will be publicized once they are confirmed.

After careful consideration and in light of ongoing Coronavirus developments, we are cancelling all fundraising events planned for this year (rummage sale, bake sale, and Taters N Treasures.) This decision to postpone these events until a later date will ensure a safe environment for our parishioners and customers. In our efforts to stay connected while keeping physical distance we will initiate connections between our parishioners through mailed notes, phone calls, Facebook Messenger, text message, or email. A committee will be created and volunteers will be recruited to assist with making these

[\(Continued on page 4\)](#)

September anniversaries

Bruce and Brenda Smith	9/2
Larry and Linda Bosenbark	9/4
Gabe and Tricia Jones	9/21
Chitt and Mary K. Chittenden	9/24



**Reaching up...
Reaching out...**

Growing Something Eternal!

St. Francis by the Lake
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www.saintfrancisbythelake.org

September birthdays

Dale Templeton	9/1
Lizzie Leigh	9/3
Linda Bosenbark	9/9
Julie Chalk	9/9
Patricia Doyal	9/9
Richard Ellas	9/11
Ann Patla	9/14
Tricia Jones	9/15
Norm Littlefield	9/15
Don Stackhouse	9/15
Jordan Pollock	9/17
Chuck Davenport	9/23
Bernie Frey	9/23
Anne Cain	9/26
Josh White	9/26



CRRC Needs

CRRC's food pantry is in need of:

- canned green beans;
- canned corn;
- canned applesauce;
- canned chicken noodle soup;
- Progresso soup (our elderly would love to just open a can and heat to eat!)
- and paper towels.

All contributions are appreciated.

The Franciscan

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St. Francis by the Lake
Canyon Lake, Texas
The Rev. David Chalk, Rector
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In loving memory

Robert B. Kerr

December 25, 1929 - August 14, 2020

now, all we can do is follow guidelines we are told will keep us from exposing ourselves, and protect our neighbors, our loved ones, and everybody from the virus. We can also offer prayers and connect with one another to listen and to offer amiable advice to calm the anguish, the grief, and the uncertainty that has become the normal in our lives.

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 the ECW, and are welcome to participate in ECW meetings and events. For more information, please call Ronnie Harper-Schwakhofer at (210) 885-6886, or email: ronnie78133@gmail.com.

The purpose of the ECW is to empower the women of St. Francis

Until we meet again stay safe and healthy! Blessings, Ronnie

A few years ago... (Cont'd from page 1)

We, ourselves, neglect to recognize the sounds God makes, or the message He wants us to heed; and we forget to teach and manifest to others God's way and will. Most of all we neglect and forget that, while God's voice and vocation for each of us may be different, God does not contradict Himself, and longs for all of us to live together in His love. We need the voices of all to fathom the depth of His will for the world. And so we must remember the truth that is ours in Him. We must commend the faith that is in us. We must humbly resume the marvelous privilege and awesome task that lies ahead of us. We must listen to the Lord, to our neighbors, to the creation, and help others in their attempts to listen as well. Perhaps we'll begin to hear.

Episcopal ... (Cont'd from page 3)

connections with our parishioners on a regular basis. Details on this ministry will be discussed at our September meeting.

I would like to share some comments from the National Episcopal Church Women website regarding the pandemic: *Desperately embracing the hope to survive this pandemic, we try to imagine what the future will be after the Covid-19 virus is under control and or after a vaccine is developed to protect us from this horrible plague. Right*

CANYON LAKE NOON LIONS ANNOUNCE OUR 2020 DRIVE-THROUGH SHRIMP FEST

It wouldn't be October without the Canyon Lake Noon Lions annual Shrimpfest!!!! Come celebrate our quarter century of serving gulf-raised, fresh off the boat, boiled shrimp on Saturday, October 17th, at the CRRRC Recreation Center, 125 Mabel Jones Drive (below Canyon Dam) from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Now in our 25th year of serving fantastic shrimp to the Canyon Lake community, we can't let a pandemic get the way of this annual tradition. Masked, gloved Lions will box your serving of fresh boiled shrimp, along with a helping of baked potato salad and cole-slaw, in a carry-out clam shell box and deliver it to your vehicle. As in past years, tickets are \$12.00 each and are available from any Lion or in the drive-in line on October 17th. Credit cards, cash, and checks accepted. Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, no indoor seating will be available.

We want to keep our guests safe so we've had to forgo the annual mega-affle! We're disappointed and we know you all are too, but safety and the health of our Lions and community are foremost. CDC guidelines for food preparation and events and gatherings will be adhered to.

We Serve

CANYON LAKE NOON LIONS CHARITIES IS A 501(c)(3) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION