



Saint Francis Journal

October, 2023



A Loving Community, Serving God's Kingdom



“They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.” - Jeremiah 17:8

Anyone living in East Texas knows about drought this year. The temperatures were out of sight. My A/C at home could not even keep up. Luckily, we had a few box fans that helped cool things down when the earth would finally give us a break from the sun as it's rotation would go on to expose the other side of the planet to those melting rays. The recent rain was a balm not only to my soul but also to the grass in my yard and along the highways. The truth from the reading above is that for any tree planted beside water, while hot, is still able to remain green.

An interesting thing about the passage from Jeremiah above is that the full set of verses, Jeremiah 17:5-8, speak to people's reliance on fellow humans as being like a parched tree in a wilderness of uninhabited salt lands, compared to being reliant upon God as a tree planted by water. As you can see relying on God is a much, cooler, refreshing, and a better deal.

This is the passage that informs our stewardship campaign this year, Rooted in Abundance. Please remember that stewardship is more than a monetary pledge from members that keeps people at the church employed, and pays for the

upkeep of the building, and utilities and such. To look at the church in such a way is to only see that worldly, merely human side of things. Such a dusty take on the church is like seeing the church planted in a parched place with no hope of relief. Because humans alone cannot support the church as is needed.

To see stewardship as God's provision for the church is to see the church as a place of rest, a cool place to sit in the loving and refreshing embrace of God. A tree planted beside the water. It is not about dry membership; it is about blessed, watered, cool discipleship. And what is discipleship if it is not about following Jesus? If it is not about following God? The church and the people that work there are the very water for those disciples, not just serving the church but also all those served by those disciples.

It is about disciples sharing the gifts given to them with the church they love in service of God. These gifts are not just financial, but also time and passion. And prayers. We have many people giving in many ways that keep the church like a tree next to water. And prayers are the most refreshing part because in prayer we are in conversation with God.

This sharing of gifts is of God. One of the prayers we say every Sunday, beside prayers of praise and thanksgiving, is the prayer for St. Francis Church. In that prayer we specifically ask God to direct the waters of life so we can all be faithful disciples for God and for the world. We

pray to be that tree planted by the water. That stable, reliable, and evergreen tree.

And I truly believe God has answered those prayers. Just look around you and you will see.

God's Peace,
Mitch+



Election of New Vestry Members & Delegates to Diocesan Council

Sun. Oct. 22nd 9:30a
Sanctuary

VESTRY

Lisa Kraus, Senior Warden (2024)
Jeremy Cole, Junior Warden (2025)

Todd Lestage (2023)
Paul Streufert (2023)
Doug Clark (2024)
Nancy Earls (2024)
Claire Hodges (2025)
Gipsy Schneider (2025)
Kathy Dunn, Clerk

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Mitch Tollett, Rector
Dr. Cameron Rose, Director of Music
Hailey Matthews, Children/Youth Director
Carol Lanthrum, Parish Administrator
Susan Kohler, Treasurer
Alberto Cruz, Sexton

Serendipity Luau & Pool Party



DOK SERVICE OF ADMITTANCE



NO Breakfast for All in October
DOK Meeting * Oct. 7th * 9a
Adult Ed Rm



***CUB Lunch Prep * Sept 30th * 11a ***
after Blessing of the Animals* Ed Bldg*

OUT-TO-LUNCH BUNCH

Tues. Oct. 17th * 11:30 am

Wasabi

Sign up in Hallway



Serendipity Halloween Party

Saturday, Oct. 28th 5:30—7:30p

Main Dish: Ghoulash

Sign up for apps, sides, & desserts in hallway

John Bridges & Jeremy Cole

1081 CR 3382, Hawkins

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Gerry Kuklewicz (10/1)

Rogan Jones (10/1)

Amalia Streufert (10/2)

Viki Mullins (10/3)

Jewel McGraw (10/5)

Fr. Mitch Tollett (10/11)

Courtney Gray (10/14)

Kevin DeOrnellas (10/15)

Ryan Ridley (10/22)

Charlie Hillis (10/27)

Paula Whitson (10/28)

Susan Kohler (10/29)

Mona Poe (10/30)

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Malcolm & Janice Teasdale (10/3)

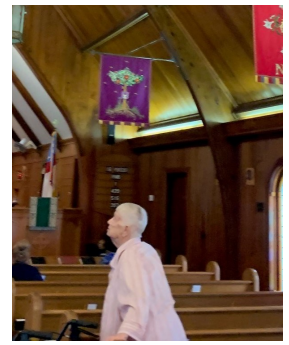
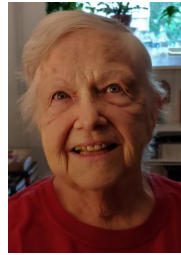
Wayne & Julie Yeargain (10/3)

LADIES, LEAVES AND LOVELINESS

PINEY WOODS ECW SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, KILGORE, TEXAS



Arriving at St. Paul's



Admiring banners

Margaret Faulk and Lisa Kraus attended the Piney Woods Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Luncheon at St. Paul's in Kilgore on Saturday, September 15th. Margaret wanted to attend because of her past association with ECW.

But there's a lot you don't know about Margaret Faulk!

Margaret is a true feminist, not by picketing or burning her bra, but by doing the hard work of supporting women in ministry. Here is her ECW story.

Margaret grew up in Newburyport, Massachusetts as a cradle Episcopalian. She began her journey in the GFS – Girl Friendly Society, the Episcopal girl's youth organization at the time. She aged into the ECW at her church.

After moving to New Hampshire, she became the youngest and first woman elected to a parish vestry in the diocese of New Hampshire. Ditto for the Seacoast Convocation. She was surprised by a supporter (obviously a man) who championed her election because he said, 'she thought like a man!' She was also the only woman elected to council that year.

She became president of her church ECW. She advanced through positions to become Diocesan Director of the ECW of New Hampshire. And similarly, she held various positions until she became ECW Province I President. She was also the elected diocesan delegate to 4 National Triennial Conventions.

She was a member of the National Ecumenical Council, whose work resulted in full communion between the Northern Lutheran Church and the Episcopal Church, allowing priests to serve and communicants to fully attend each other's churches.

Being a delegate to council, she was honored to be appointed as the council representative to the International Meeting of the World Council of Churches in Geneva, Switzerland. She worked with women throughout the world on issues of abuse, physical attacks on Christians, life skills, nutrition, and women's health.

She was present at the ordination of the Philadelphia 11 in 1974, those bold women who were ordained 2 years before the Episcopal Convention affirmed and explicitly authorized their ordination. She advocated for women who wanted to be priests when she believed they had the qualities and compassion for excellence.

Then she went to seminary! She attended the Andover-Newton Theological Seminary in Newton, MA, to become a hospital chaplain. She also obtained a Certificate of Advanced Graduated Study from the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, MA., a degree plan for professional educators who desire leadership roles.

Margaret came to Texas to work as hospital chaplain at then Mother Francis Hospital because she was impressed with their interest not only for the physical and medical needs of the patients, but because of their concerns for the spiritual needs of the patient, the family, and the staff. After working there for a couple of years, she worked at the CPS Ranch Academy for Boys, teaching and mentoring for 5 years.

She is now in retirement due to some health issues and hopes to attend services at St. Francis as her health allows.

What's the Difference between DOK & ECW!?

The Daughters of the King is a religious ORDER for women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church. Members undertake a Rule of Life, a life-long program of prayer, study, service and evangelism, dedicated to spreading Christ's Kingdom and strengthening the spiritual life of her church.

ECW is not a religious order, although their mission is similar, to empower the women of the Episcopal Church to carry out Christ's work in the world: by proclaiming the Good News, nurturing new believers, responding to human need, transform societal structures, and safeguard and renew creation and life on earth.

St. Francis Episcopal Church
3232 Jan Avenue
Tyler, TX 75701
Telephone: 903-593-8459

Email: office@stfrancistylers.org
Web site: www.stfrancistylers.org

facebook

www.facebook.com/StFrancisTyler



WEEKLY RECURRING EVENTS FOR October

Sunday

- 8:30 am: Rite I—No music
- 9:30 am: Adult Gospel Lectionary Discussion
- Children/Youth Sunday School
- 10:45 am: Rite II—Traditional Music
Live-Stream on FaceBook & YouTube
- 6:00 pm: Yoga—Children's Ed Room

Wednesday

- Noon: Rite II Eucharist Service
- 12:30pm: Bible Study—Parish Hall
- 2:00 pm: Grief Support Group—Parish Hall
- 2:00 pm: God's Grace—St. Clare's
- 7:00 PM: Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary

Thursday

- 5:00 pm: Handbell Practice—Music Room

Youth Sunday School

Youth Sunday School for all ages above nursery age is happening every Sunday. Fr. Mitch will be leading with Hailey Matthews, and with other volunteers assisting as able.

Drop off your children at the nursery by 9:45. Fr. Mitch and a volunteer will walk them to the downstairs youth room. We will have music and discuss the lesson for that Sunday. Then the children can do a craft, play games, or talk more with Fr. Mitch about the lesson. At 10:30 we will bring the youth back to the nursery where the parents can pick up their children for home, or the 10:45 service, or left in the nursery until after the peace to then join the 10:45 service.

Volunteers are needed as they allow Sunday School to happen. There is a Fall Youth Sunday School schedule available by the sign-up sheets.

Fr. Mitch and Hailey and the volunteers are looking forward to teaching the Bible stories and spending time with the children of St. Francis Church.

Conversation on Race

The St. Francis Conversation on Race held its monthly meeting on September 10th after the 10:45am service. A light lunch was followed by a very informative presentation by Hannah Harris, a coordinator from the East Texas Food Bank. Hannah explained that the ETFB is the distribution center for all the food pantries in over 20 counties in East Texas. Backpacks with meals for the weekend are provide for school children. Fresh produce is distributed to families at mobile food pantries close to Tyler three times a month. Additionally, ETFB distributes the food for the mobile pantries that serve families throughout East Texas.

Did you know that folks cannot receive food directly from the food bank? But there are resource centers in some East Texas towns and the one in Tyler is under construction!

Our next meeting will be held October 8th in the adult ed room, and everyone is welcome.

October Special Events

Sat. September 30, 10:30am

Blessing of the Animals

Sat. September 30, 11:00am

Church Under a Bridge Lunch Prep

No Breakfast for All

Sat. October 7, 9:00am

DOK Meeting

Sun. October 8, 12:00pm

Conversation on Race

Sun. October 15, 9am -1pm

Blood Drive

Sun. October, 15, 9:30am

Pastor Appreciation Celebration

No Adult/Youth Sunday School

Sun. October 15, 12:00pm

Parent Time Out

Tues. October 17, 11:30a

Out-to-Lunch Bunch at Wasabi

Tues. October 17, 6:00pm

Vestry Meeting

Sun. October 22, 9:30am

Vestry/Delegate Elections

Sat. October 28, 5:30pm - 7:30pm

Halloween Serendipity Dinner

*Tyler Talking Together Fellowship
*October 29th *9:30am*
St. Clare's Episcopal Church
Meal Follows*