



Saint Francis Journal

December, 2022



A Loving Community, Serving God's Kingdom



Grace and peace be yours in abundance through knowledge of God and Jesus Christ our Lord!

The Anglican Communion.

We know St. Francis is a part of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, and that the Episcopal Diocese of Texas is a part of the Episcopal Church, and that the Episcopal Church is a part of the Anglican Communion.

What is the Anglican Communion? The Anglican Communion, which is made up of 41 Provinces (plus 5 extra-provincial areas) and over 85 million people, is the third largest Christian communion following the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches. It was founded in 1867 in London.

What is it that keeps such a large organization as the Anglican Communion together? There are a few things such as fundamental beliefs and the Instruments of Communion.

Now, as you may be aware, there is a broadness to the beliefs within the Episcopal Church as there is a broadness of beliefs throughout the Anglican Communion. This broadness is tempered by a resolution known as the Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral set out in 1886 and in the Lambeth Conference as resolved in 1888. This resolution pushes forward the idea of coming together rather than dividing:

That, in the opinion of this Conference, the following Articles supply a basis on which approach may be by God's blessing made

towards Home Reunion:

1. The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as "containing all things necessary to salvation," and as being the rule and ultimate standard of faith.
2. The Apostles' Creed, as the Baptismal Symbol; and the Nicene Creed, as the sufficient statement of the Christian faith.
3. The two Sacraments ordained by Christ Himself--Baptism and the Supper of the Lord--ministered with unfailing use of Christ's words of Institution, and of the elements ordained by Him.
4. The Historic Episcopate, locally adapted in the methods of its administration to the varying needs of the nations and peoples called of God into the Unity of His Church.

The Instruments of Communion are symbols and gatherings that offer connection, conversation, and communion among members to maintain bond of affection. They are:

The Archbishop of Canterbury: which is viewed as the Spiritual Leader of the Anglican Communion. As of this writing the person in that position is The Most Reverend and Right Honorable Justin Welby.

Lambeth Conference: Every ten (or so) year gathering of all the bishops from around the Anglican Communion.

Primates' Meeting: The Primates of the Anglican Communion are the chief

Archbishops, Presiding Bishops, Moderators and chief pastors of the 41 provinces. Their churches are autonomous. The Archbishop of Canterbury chairs their meetings, which are held at varying intervals around the world.

Anglican Consultative Council: seeks to serve the needs of member churches. It comprises members of the laity, archbishops, bishops, priests, and deacons. Meetings take place approximately every three years.

The goal of these Lambeth Resolution of 1888 and the Instruments of Communion are to affirm Jesus' call to unity, "That we all may be one," and prevent disunity. The purpose, then, of the Anglican Community is to bring people together in Christ. I am glad to be in a tradition that struggle with diversity rather than break into silos of beliefs.

This is just a glimpse into the Anglican Communion. For more information click <https://www.anglicancommunion.org/>

God's Peace,
Mitch⁺



¹"Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral - Anglican Communion," accessed November 16, 2022, <https://www.anglicancommunion.org/media/109011/Chicago-Lambeth-Quadrilateral.pdf>.
<https://www.anglicancommunion.org/structures/instruments-of-communion.aspx>

A Word from Joel...

Operating in God's Time



Does God experience time the same way that we do? In some ways yes and in some ways no. God is not bound by time the way that humans are. God exists before all of creation and that means God existed before time was even created. Sometimes this is hard to think about because, as humans, we have only existed within the confines of time. Yes, God is not bound by time, but God chooses to operate within the limits of time. In the Old Testament, God made himself known through things like a burning bush, or pillars of fire and cloud leading the Israelites through the desert. In these last days, God has chosen to break open time and space to dwell with us, and has chosen to become incarnate as a human being. God entered time. God made himself vulnerable to time so that we would be free from the confines of time. Through Jesus Christ, we have been given all the time in the world! God has freed us up! What kinds of plans might we make now that we have all the time in the world? What kinds of things might we prioritize, now that we're free from the tick of the clock? I think I'll choose those things that bring more life and more love! And I'll definitely try to choose those things that help myself and others experience God's love more fully.

Blessings, Joel+



Church Under a Bridge Prep

Saturday, Dec. 3rd at 10am

***AND* Saturday Dec. 31st at 10am**



Shelf-stable food and Toiletries

Collection Continues

Bring donations to the Parish Hall

Christmas Pageant Reminder & a Note from Sheila Thrash

Thank you for being a huge part in my journey toward the diaconate. Each session I attend at Iona School for Ministry has strengthened my love of scripture and our Book of Common Prayer. The more I learn, the more I feel God's love and see His presence all around me. It has been exciting to return and to use what I have learned to teach our future church during Sunday School and Children's Chapel.

It is time to prepare our young ones for the Christmas Pageant. We will be sharing Advent stories, trying on costumes, learning our parts, and practicing for the big celebration. We will be doing this during the Sunday School time. There is a signup sheet posted. I will also need volunteers to help during this extra exciting time. Please let me know if you can help.

Again, thank you for your support in my journey.—Sheila

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Mitch Tollett, Rector

The Rev. Joel McAlister, Curate

Dr. Cameron Rose, Director of Music

Sheila Thrash, Children/Youth Director

Carol Lanthrum, Parish Administrator

Susan Kohler, Treasurer

Alberto Cruz, Sexton

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Penny Streufert (12/2)

Carole Barnes (12/6)

Julie Miller (12/10)

Ethan Hartman (12/12)

Paul Streufert (12/13)

Connie Wilson (12/14)

Edward Tabri (12/15)

Jeff Streeter (12/17)

Betty Taylor (12/22)

David Hood (12/26)

Julie Yeargain (12/26)

Barbara Haynes (12/26)

Norma Gagliano (12/27)

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Susie & Tom Cummins (12/5)

Dorothy & Rick Clutter (12/8)

Julie & Jeff Streeter (12/11)

Polly & Gerry Kuklewicz (12/28)

September Serendipity Luau



Carole Barnes' 80th Birthday Party **Sat. Dec. 3rd at 3 pm in the Parish Hall**

Carole has requested that you do not bring gifts—a card would be fine. Instead, contribute to Church Under a Bridge, the Young at Heart toiletries drive, or the Conversation on Race shelf-stable food drive—or any other charitable organization you would like to support,

Come! Have cake! Celebrate!



VESTRY

Pat Sarubbi, Senior Warden (2022)
Sheila Thrash, Junior Warden (2022)
Marley Johnson (2022)
Todd Lestage (2023)
Paul Streufert (2023)
Doug Clark (2024)
Nancy Earls (2024)
Lisa Kraus (2024)
Kathy Dunn, Clerk

Have you looked outside the Parish Hall?



Alberto Cruz is a U. S. Citizen!

Congratulations to our Sexton!



Christmas Day Dinner

O Come All Ye Faithful! ☐

*You are Invited to
Join Us for a Christmas Feast!!!*

*Right after Services at Noon
December 25, 2022, Sunday*

For Special Holiday Fellowship+ in the Parish Hall

We'll have the turkey! Bring your favorite side or dessert as you are able. If not, please join us for the Feast anyway. Come!

Family and Friends welcome!

Bring a gift or two under \$10 if you want to join in the optional gift exchange.

Please do sign up so we can prepare.

If you have questions, feel free to call or text, and if you'd like to help out do let me know!

*Prayerfully in Christ,
Laura Claire Zeiker 903.521.9395*



**DOK Chrismon
Tree Decorating
Event * Parish Hall
Sat. Dec. 3rd 9am
All invited
*Snacks***

Men's Breakfast



**Sat. Dec 3rd
8:30am
Parish Hall**

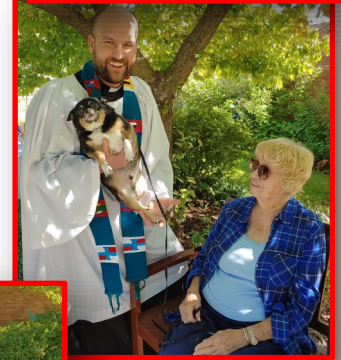
**Conversation
On Race
Sun. Dec. 11th * Noon
Adult Ed Room
Lunch Provided**

Blessing of the Animals October 1st

Some were blessed by phone—too rowdy!?, or scaredy cats!

Some were blessed in repose * Some “lovies” were blessed

But ALL—humans & creatures—are loved and blessed



Women's Christmas Tea

Sun. Dec. 11th * 2-4p *Gagliano's home*
Crazy Ornament Exchange

(\$10 Limit)

*Bring Snack *

No signup

Just come



Serendipity Christmas Party

Sat. Dec 10th* 6-8p * Barat's Home

Main Dish: Ziti

Sign up in hallway to bring
side, appetizer or dessert



Christmas Eve

Music Prelude: 3:30pm

Pageant & Rite II Eucharist: 4:00pm

Christmas Day * One Service

Rite II Eucharist at 10:45am * No Music

Christmas Dinner Follows

Wonder Woman!!



Halloween Serendipity at the McAlisters'



Mary & Bert aka
Michelle & Andy Wells

Yep, this is
my costume!



Is it Sailor Moon?!

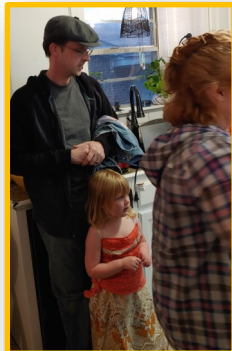


Penny & Amalia

Twisted Sisters



Hmm, what
COULD go wrong



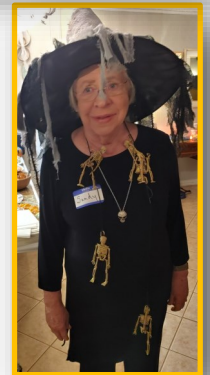
Lego Man



Why, yes I can drive a stick



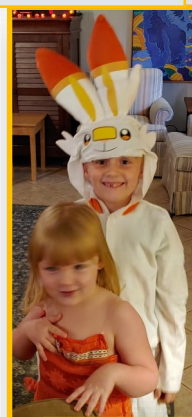
Glad you're back



Food & Friends



It's the Queen!



Invite-Welcome-Connect

How can I Help?

Dear People of St. Francis,

The Invite Welcome Connect group met recently and are excited to present many new initiative ideas for the upcoming year. St. Francis strives to be a transformational church with continued focus on growth and outreach as well as deepening our connections and creating a stronger community within the current fellowship.

We need help to create this vision, however and this is our call to you. For a true community to thrive, all members contribute. No job is too small, no task too simple. We believe every individual at St. Francis has a gift, a gift that the world and this community is waiting for. Our prayer for St. Francis has brought you to our doors and we are so thankful to God for all of the special people that have been added to our community over the years.

You will soon see many more opportunities to be of service to the church (and your fellow man) in the upcoming weeks. Any and all contributions are welcome. Some people are under the impression that if they volunteer once that they will have to do it for the foreseeable future or create an entire ministry. That is not the case. We have many service opportunities that are a one-time need. Would you be able to make a few phone calls for the church for one week? Are you willing to hand out newcomer bags once a month? Greet for just one day when no one is available? All of these options are wonderful and are enough. If you can do more, that is great, but we understand that we are all in different phases of our lives and some have more free time than others. No contribution is too small.

Please set aside time this month to sit in prayer and ask what are the gifts that await inside you? What are you good at? What makes your heart happy? The last thing we want is for people to say yes to things they do not enjoy doing. How much time can you happily contribute? Once a week, a month, a year?

When you give with a loving heart that light can't help but shine through you and be seen by others. That is what we want people to experience when they come to our church for the first time. A loving exchange of service between members of a supportive community. Jesus said to love thy neighbor. Look to your left, look to your right. What could you do for those people today to make their community a little bit better? If you are uncertain on what to do but willing to help you can always ask. Tell us what you are able to commit to and someone will have an idea for you. Sometimes the greatest service opportunities come to you when you express willingness to be of use then wait and listen with an open heart

The greatest gift you can give someone is your time, it is the only non-renewable resource, and we thank you for all who have blessed our community with it. We look forward to seeing St. Francis in action again after the pandemic. We hope you will share your gifts with us soon. Anyone can usher, shake a hand, share a smile, or help prepare the altar but no one can do those things just like you and you might be exactly who is needed that day.

Love and peace,

The Invite, Welcome, and Connect Ministry



We love our priests!
Continue to keep them in your prayers!



Conversation on Race Group Establishes a Mission Statement

The Conversation on Race group has been meeting for several months now, and the question has always been, what is the goal of this group? Who do we want to be? What do we want to offer to our community? After careful planning and discussion, we are excited to share our new mission statement:

To educate ourselves and others about race, equity, and injustice through seeking, listening, and forming connections.

Our group strives to create change by bringing awareness and acceptance to this continuing issue of how all races do not experience the world in the same way, and seeking answers as to why this is the case. If you are interested in expanding your views on how race relations affects our world and a chance to see and experience the perspectives of minorities of all races, then please join us on the 2nd Sunday of every month from 12p-2p. Lunch and a safe place for questions and discussion will be provided. All you have to bring is a willingness to learn and listen.

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facebook

www.facebook.com/StFrancisTyler



December Special Events

Sat. December 3, 8:30 am
Men's Breakfast * Parish Hall

Sat. December 3, 9:00 am
DOK Chrismon Tree Decorating Event
Parish Hall

Sat. December 3, 10:00 am
CUB Prep * Ed Building

Sat. December 3, 3:00 pm
Carole Barnes Birthday * Parish Hall

Sat. December 10, 6-8pm
Christmas Serendipity Dinner –Barats

Sun. December 11, Noon
Conversation on Race

Sun. December 11, 2-4pm
Women's Christmas Tea—Gaglianos

Sun. December 18, 9:30am
Dorothy Clutter Graduation Cake

Sat. December 24
Christmas Eve Music Prelude: 3:30pm
Pageant & Rite II Eucharist: 4:00pm

Sun. December 25
Christmas Day Rite II w/o Music: 10:45am
Christmas Friends Dinner: Noon

Adult Christian Formation

Sunday November 27th through December 18th

Living Well Through Advent Series
Adult Education Room

Newcomer & Confirmation Class
Library

WEEKLY RECURRING EVENTS for December

Sunday

- 8:30 am: Rite I—No music—Masks Optional
- 9:30 am: Adult—Gospel Discussion—Adult Ed Room
Children—Sunday School—Children Ed Room
- 10:45 am: Rite II—Traditional Music—Masks Optional
Broadcast Live on Facebook
- 6:00 pm: Yoga—Children's Ed Room

Wednesday

- Noon: Noon Eucharist & Bible Study
- 2:00 pm: Widows Support Group—Parish Hall
- 2:00 pm: God's Grace—St. Clare's

Thursday

- 5:00 pm: Handbell Practice—Music Room

Subject to change due to COVID restrictions
Nursery available from 8:00 am—1:00 pm