



Saint Francis Journal

September, 2023



A Loving Community, Serving God's Kingdom

Not all of us can do great things.

But we can all do small things with great love.

-Mother Teresa

“Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.”
Philippians 2:5-7 NRSV

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.” Romans 12:2 NRSV

Ministries never start big, even though with our future vision of any given ministry we feel called to start we tend to think, “This is going to be HUGE!” In my experience of starting and witnessing ministries begin, this is quite common. “Of course, people are going to absolutely LOVE this ministry and the world will be set on fire with renewed love of God and neighbor. We will change the entire world!” we might say. (Rather I have heard this said, at least in my own mind.) The truth is that ministries start off small and take time to form and solidify. If they make it that far and are picked up by enough committed people, they last long enough to enter a growth stage which then requires more time to re-form and solidify

Now churches go through similar stages. They can grow, but in growth there is change. And for the growth gained to remain, the church re-forms and solidifies, sometimes growing and sometimes shrinking until a sort of new life comes about, a new creation. Then

after some time, they can grow again, larger or smaller, re-form into something new and solidify. I have seen churches grow large, I have seen churches shrink, and I have seen churches hover in-between. None of those scenarios are “bad”, they just are. Each one, wherever it is now, started small. They started with a few people as a church “plant.” Like what Fr. Joel, our Curate for the last two years, is called to do in the Fort Worth area.

The verse from Philippians reminds us that Jesus did not come on a cloud with an army of angels as the Son of God, but instead came to us as a vulnerable human baby. Who, after growing up, gathered a relatively small group of faithful followers to share the Gospel in a small area that eventually expanded to the world. This was not overnight. In the beginning of Jesus’ ministry following his death and resurrection, the small ministry was oppressed and forced into having secret worship so as not to be detected.

The verse from Romans reminds us to be patient for what God’s will is for any given ministry. The world tells us that success means things must grow to astounding sizes. To go big or to go home. Do not fall into the trap that if the ministry is small, then it should stop or is a failure. Instead of conforming to this world of “bigger is better”, be transformed and renew your mind about smallness. That, if it is small and producing good fruit and is lasting, then it bears the sign of God’s will. Like Church Under a Bridge, or Just as I am,

or Conversations on Race, to name a few. Not that all ministries last forever, sometimes there are seasons: remember the Rum Cake ministry of St. Francis. Be renewed and refreshed that God can do so much more with the things we offer. Not everything will succeed, but whatever you do don’t let small numbers dissuade you from continuing a given ministry. It is the small things that can end up saving the world.

God’s Peace,
Mitch+



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

Searching for Jesus

V.B.&



Sat. Sept. 3rd

Breakfast for All * 8:30a

Parish Hall

DOK Meeting * 9a * Adult Ed Room

CUB Lunch Prep * 10a * Ed Building



**OUT-TO-LUNCH
BUNCH**

Sept. 19th * 11:30 am

Sign up in Hallway

**Serendipity Luau &
Pool Party**

Saturday, Sept. 9th 4p-6p

****Pool Open ** Childcare****

Main Dish: Chicken Adobo

Sign up for apps, sides,
& desserts in hallway

Frank Cabell & Lisa Kraus Home



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Andy Wells (9/3)

Stephen Haltom (9/6)

Cindy Meyer (9/15)

Doug Clark (9/29)

Claire Hodges (9/3)

Mary Hood (9/8)

Earl Boudreau (9/19)

Dotty Hillis (9/30)

Gipsy Schneider (9/5)

Linda Glenn (9/13)

Tristan Jones (9/22)

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Jordan & Katherine Chapman (9/22)

Stephen & Pamela Haltom (9/28)

Edward & Lara Tabri (9/30)

Tyler Talking Together Fellowship
July 30th at
Higher Dimension Church



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**St. Francis
 members
 attended !**

Youth Sunday School Begins September 10

Youth Sunday School for all ages above nursery age will begin September 10. Fr. Mitch will be leading with Hailey Matthews assisting. Hailey is a local college student and helped last year with Sheila Thrash. Sheila has moved on to engage in her Deaconate formation and is not able to help with Sunday School here at St. Francis.

The schedule is for all youth to be dropped at the nursery by 9:45. Then Fr. Mitch and Hailey will walk the children to the downstairs youth room. There all ages will be engaged in music and discuss the lesson for that Sunday. Then the youth will be engaged in a craft, play games, or further discussion. At 10:30 the youth will be brought up 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.

Hailey, as a college student, will not be available every Sunday this fall. There will be a Fall Youth Sunday School schedule available by the sign-up sheets in the hallway. There you will find available slots to help. Please sign up as able.

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

Conversation on Race

St. Francis Conversation on Race met after church on Sunday, August 13. There were four new attendees. The topic of discussion was the direction the group wants to take in the future. One suggestion was joining St. Francis, St. Clare, and Higher Dimensions on a monthly basis to continue to learn more. There was some discussion about meeting at St. Clare's once a month for a Craft Night. We continue to enjoy learning from our brothers and sisters. Everyone is invited to come meet with us after the 10:45 service on September 10. We will have a light lunch.

**Back-to-School Bowling &
 Pizza Party *August 13th***



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facebook

www.facebook.com/StFrancisTyler



WEEKLY RECURRING EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER

Sunday

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

Nursery available from 8:00 am—1:00 pm

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

Mobile Food Pantry

Chance Lee worked at the East Texas Food Bank Mobile Pantry at the Bethel Bible Church. The Mobile Pantry distributes food in locations that are not well served by other pantries. Folks can go to the Mobile Pantries to receive non-perishable food, as well as fresh produce and baked goods. Chance worked bagging plums and distributing cantaloupes. Fresh fruits and vegetables were distributed to more



Eagle Project is Finished LOVE our New Bench Seat & Railing! *Thanks, Julian*



September Special Events

Sat. September 3, 8:30am
Breakfast for All by Men's Group

Sat. September 3, 9:00am
DOK Meeting

Sat. September 3, 10:00am
Church Under a Bridge Lunch Prep

Wed. September 6, 7:00pm
Choir Rehearsal resumes

Sat. September 9, 4:00—6:00pm
Serendipity Luau & Pool Party
Home of Frank Cabell & Lisa Kraus

Sun. September 10, 9:45am
Children/Youth Sunday School resumes

Sun. September 10, 12:00pm
Conversation on Race

Sun. September 17, 10:45am
Installation of New DOK Members

Sun. September 17, 12:00-2:00pm
Patent Time Out

Tues. September 19, 11:30am
Out-to-Lunch Bunch

Tues. September 19, 6:00pm
Vestry Meeting

Sat. September 30, 10:00am
Church Under a Bridge Lunch Prep
No Breakfast for All

Sat. September 30, 10:30am
Blessing of the Animals