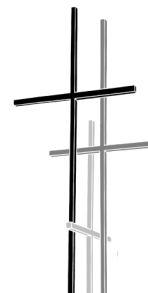


Saint Francis Journal

August 2025



A Loving Community, Serving God's Kingdom

A Time to Remember

When I began to serve on the vestry at St. Francis Episcopal Church in January 2023, Fr. Mitch was the rector, Fr. Joel McAlister was the curate, Dr. Cameron Rose was the director of music, Hailey Matthews was children's youth director, Carol Lanthrum was the parish administrator, Susan Kohler was the treasurer and Alberto Cruz was the sexton. We watched as Robert Jerger was ordained to the priesthood on January 24 at St. Francis. The church was holding a Parent Time Out program once a month to allow parents an opportunity to attend their adult activities. Plans began to form for a children's playground. Other existing activities included Women's Tea, Conversations on Race, Men's Breakfast, DOK meetings, Church Under the Bridge lunch prep, Widow's Group, Out-to-Lunch Bunch, Serendipity, and other activities such as celebrating Dorothy Clutter's college graduation and the Bill Cornett tree dedication. We welcomed The Rt. Rev. Doyle, Bishop of the Diocese of Texas. St. Francis welcomed Higher Dimension Church and St. Clare's Episcopal Church to worship and enjoy a potluck lunch together. The DOK hosted a Prayer Meditation Labyrinth on the front lawn of the church. AND this was only the first few months of my three-year term as a vestry member.

As time marched on, we at St. Francis saw many more events such as births, baptisms, birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, deaths, blessings of animals, food deliveries, get togethers, wonderful sermons, and connections to people within the community. Remember the Solar Eclipse witnessed on the lawn at St. Francis Monday, April 8th! While all along we were led by Fr. Mitch's encouraging quote: "We got this...with God's Help."

Then came the letter in May, 2024, from Fr. Mitch to the St. Francis family that with careful prayer and consideration, it explained his logical reasons to accept the position as rector at Holy Spirit in Houston. That was a "lot to take in" considering he had served the church for 10 years, but we understood. As Jimmy Tollett wrote in his letter to St. Francis, "You have done and will continue to do great

things...with God's help." Then we said our prayers, gave them blessings, and waved goodbye.

Under the careful leadership of Lisa Kraus as Senior Warden, preparations began to search for a new rector, beginning with Holy Cow and C.A.T. At the Ministry Fair, there were many worthwhile responses and pledges to move forward. Watchful parishioners gathered in front of the big screen to observe the investiture of Bishop Sean Row on November 11, 2024.

In January we welcomed new vestry members to serve under Jay DeOrnellas as 2025 Senior Warden. As time marched on, the life of our giant oak in front of the church ended one phase but appeared as another symbol of our ancestry, carved into a beautiful statue of St. Francis.

Kathy Dunn accepted the position as Formation Coordinator as well as continuing to serve as Executive Assistant to Bishop Fisher. The Prayer for a New Rector began to be included in our worship. Parishioners continued their service to the community as they caroled in the New Year and watched the youth present an excellent Christmas Eve Pageant.

The search committee to find a new rector was formed and the work began. In the meantime, we are so fortunate to have Rev. Robert Odom serve as our supply priest for the interim. He is a blessing! A book club formed under the leadership of Nancy Earls. The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper was delicious, providing energy for the upcoming Clean Up Day (s) organized by Andy Wells. Our monthly conversations had broadened and now has a new name: "Conversations Exploring Cultural Perspectives", led by Roy Barron.

In June, the St. Clare Chapter DOK held a Quiet Day for the NE Texas area. Our talented Sarah Jones spoke to the group on Contemplative Prayer and we learned to Zentangle our way toward a calmer more focused mind. Co-sponsor, Kathy Clark, led the group in nostalgic hymns as Carol Lanthrum explained the history of DOK's official song "Lift High the Cross". Attendees came as far away as Lufkin and new friendships were formed.

Summer is here and in a few more months my term as vestry member will come to a close. I apologize for any information omitted but you can see what an active group we are and how much I admire all the time and talent each member gives to God and St. Francis. To all those who have served in the past, who are now serving, and those who will serve in the future, I send my blessings. It is indeed an honor and a memorable experience to serve on the vestry at St. Francis Episcopal Church.

For His Sake,

Gipsy Schneider



VESTRY

Jay DeOrnellas, Senior Warden (2026)

Andy Wells, Junior Warden (2026)

Jeremy Cole (2025)

Claire Hodges (2025)

Lisa Kraus (2025)

Gipsy Schneider (2025)

Dan Amy (2026)

Dominique Lucas (2027)

Sallie McDaris (2027)

Carol Lanthrum, Clerk

CHURCH STAFF

Rector, In Transition

Dr. Cameron Rose, Director of Music

Kathy Dunn, Christian Formation

Carol Lanthrum, Parish Administrator

Susan Kohler, Treasurer

Alberto Cruz, Sexton

We want to know! What are your concerns? We want to answer your questions, & hear your suggestions!



Prayer for a New Rector

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Prayer 13, BCP, pg. 818

August 2nd

Breakfast for All * 8:30a

Men's Group * 9a * Join us!

DOK * 9a * All Women Welcome

Do NOT have to be a Daughter

CUB Lunch Prep *10a



Out-to-Lunch Bunch Tues. Aug 19*11:30a Daniel Boone's

Book Club

1st & 3rd Mondays
of Each Month

*6:30p*Parish Hall*

August 3rd

In celebration of the
Feast day of St. Clare

St. Clare's congregation will join us at the 10:45a service. Fr. Rob Jerger will celebrate and Deacon Sheila Thrash will preach at both services.

Lunch Serendipity at Noon

Conversations Exploring Cultural Perspective (formerly Conversations on Race)

The August meeting is on Sunday, Aug. 10th at noon in the Adult Ed Room. Lunch is provided. Seth Wilson (who is legally blind) will give a talk, "Walk a Mile in my Shoes".

Got questions? See Roy Barron

God in the Movies

****Join us**** for food, formation and fun, and discuss where we find God in the movies. These movies are especially planned for children, though adults will enjoy them too!

Friday, Aug 15, 6:30pm

Especially St. Francis Animals



Jane Johnson's painting accepted in Gallery Main Street Juried Art Show! Congratulations!! (even if she didn't win)

Campus Improvements in August



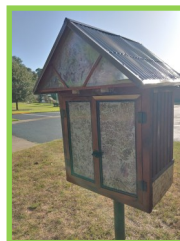
New Deck/Stairs
Education Bldg



New Sealant



Sealed & Striped Parking Lot



New Little Free Library



New

St. Francis

STRIKE UP THE Fun!

JOIN US FOR A Bowling Party TO CELEBRATE:

Back to School

DATE: August 24th

TIME: 2pm - 4pm

PLACE:

DETAILS:

2311 ESE Loop 323

RSVP: 9103 Lisa Kraus 920-3881

St. Francis Animals Event

Adults can join them to bowl or watch!
Pizza and drinks provided

Bring Paper Grocery Bags
Food Distribution Needs Them

Desperately

to put potatoes, onions, etc.
for senior and pantry recipients

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Evan Barat (8/4)

Charlotte Weller (8/7)

Roy Barron (8/10)

Royal Daniel (8/20)

Lisa Kraus (8/29)

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Lisa Kraus & Frank Cabell (8/31)

“So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time, we will reap a harvest if we don’t give up.” -Galatians 6:9

Invitation to Participate in the Episcopal Diocese of Texas Council 2026 and Vestry Service

As we look forward to the coming year, we are blessed with opportunities to deepen our connections within our parish and across the wider Episcopal community. I am writing to invite your interest in two significant avenues for engagement: attending the Episcopal Diocese of Texas Council 2026 and/or serving as a member of our Vestry. Both of these opportunities are vital to the health and vibrancy of St. Francis Church, and your participation can make a meaningful difference to our shared ministry.

Episcopal Diocese of Texas Council 2026 at The Woodlands

The Episcopal Diocese of Texas Council serves as the annual legislative meeting of our diocese, bringing together clergy and lay representatives from every parish, mission, diocesan institution, and ministry. The Council is not only a forum for the official business of the church—such as elections, policy decisions, and financial planning—but also a vibrant gathering for worship, fellowship, learning, and the celebration of our shared faith.

Event Details

Date & Location: February 27-28, 2026; The Woodlands, Texas-Transportation, Lodging and Meals provided for delegates.

Who Can Attend: Delegates/alternates; clergy; interested observers. All are welcome to experience the broader work of the Church.

Activities Include:

- Worship services with inspiring music and preaching
- Workshops and breakout sessions on ministry, social justice, and community outreach
- Opportunities to connect with other parishes and ministries throughout Texas
- Engagement in the democratic governance of our diocese

Why Attend?

Attending Council is a powerful way to witness the Episcopal Church in action and to represent St. Francis among our peers. Whether you are interested in the governance of the church, passionate about outreach and ministry, or simply eager to grow in faith and fellowship, your presence is valued.

- Be a voice for St. Francis in diocesan decision-making.
- Gain insights and fresh ideas to bring back to our parish life.
- Build relationships with Episcopalians from across Texas.
- Participate in meaningful worship and learning experiences.

If you are interested in being a delegate, alternate, or observer, please let us know as soon as possible. Formal delegation involves vetting by the Vestry and election by the Parish, but all expressions of interest are encouraged.

Serving on the Vestry

The Vestry is the lay leadership body of St. Francis, responsible for the stewardship of our resources, the maintenance of our facilities, and, above all, the support of our mission and ministry. The Vestry works in partnership with our clergy-to-be to ensure the well-being and spiritual growth of our congregation.

Responsibilities Include:

- Three-year term commitment
- Regular attendance at Vestry meetings (typically monthly)
- Participating in decision-making regarding parish finances, outreach, and programming
- Serving as a liaison to ministries or committees
- Engaging in prayerful discernment and visioning for the future of St. Francis

Who Should Consider Serving?

We seek members who are committed to the mission of our parish and who wish to contribute their time, skills, and perspectives to our communal life. Prior experience is not necessary; a willingness to learn and serve is all that is needed. The Vestry benefits from a diversity of gifts, backgrounds, and voices. If you have a heart for service and a desire to help guide our parish into the next chapter, please consider volunteering. Those interested may nominate themselves or recommend another member.

Benefits of Vestry Service

- Spiritual growth through deeper involvement in the life of the church
- Development of leadership skills and experience
- The opportunity to make a lasting impact on the future of St. Francis
- Strengthened relationships with clergy, staff, and fellow parishioners

How to Express Interest

If you are interested in either or both of these opportunities, please respond by September 30th, to Jay DeOrnellas at 903.504.2122 or jadeornellas@icloud.com or by signing up on the sheet in the narthex. Please indicate whether you are interested in attending the Diocesan Council, serving on the Vestry, or both.

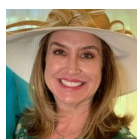
Next Steps

Once we have gathered names, the Vestry will coordinate with interested individuals to provide more details, answer questions, and vet the candidates.

Elections for Delegates to Council and new Vestry members will be held on October 12, 2025, at 9:30am in the sanctuary. The Episcopal Diocese of Texas Council 2026 and ongoing Vestry service are both vital expressions of our shared mission and commitment to the Gospel. We encourage you to consider how you might participate in these important facets of our communal life. Through your involvement, St. Francis will continue to grow as a beacon of faith, hope, and love in our community and beyond.

Thank you for your ongoing support and engagement. We look forward to hearing from you and to serving together in Christ’s name.

With gratitude and hope,
Jay DeOrnellas
Senior Warden;



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

Email: office@stfrancist Tyler.org
Web site: www.stfrancist Tyler.org

facebook

www.facebook.com/StFrancisTyler



August Special Events

Sat. August 2

Breakfast for All - 8:30am

DOK Men's Group Meeting - 9:00am

Church Under a Bridge Lunch Prep - 10:00am

Sun. August 3, 12:00p

Lunch Serendipity with St. Clare's

Mon. August 4, 6:30pm

Book Club - Parish Hall

Sun. August 10, 12:00pm

Conversations Exploring
Cultural Perspectives

Mon. August 18, 6:30pm

Book Club - Parish Hall

Tues. August 19

Out-to-Lunch Bunch at Daniel Boone's: 11:30a

Vestry Meeting: 6:00p

Fri. August 15, 6:30pm

God in the Movies

Sat. August 16, 6:00-8:00pm

Thrive for 20 & 30 Somethings

Swim Party at Kraus/Cabell home

Sun. August 24, 2:00-4:00pm

Back-to-School Bowling Party

Green Acres Bowling—Pizza & Drinks

Thrive! is a brand-new group created for 20-30 somethings in Tyler, designed to be a welcoming third space for connection, growth, and belonging. Thrive is led by Megan McKean and Dominique Lucas and is a community where all are truly welcome—regardless of race, creed, or orientation.

Food/Games/Swimming

Sat. Aug 16th 6-8p

Kraus/Cabell home

**Bring swimsuit if you
want to swim**

Board games available



WEEKLY RECURRING EVENTS FOR AUGUST

The Rev. Robert Odom, Celebrant

Sunday

• 8:30 am

• 9:30 am

• 10:45 am

• 6:00 pm

Wednesday

• Noon

• 12:30 pm

• 2:00 pm

• 7:00 pm

Thursday

• 5:00 pm

Nursery available on request

Rite I—No music

Adult Gospel Lectionary Discussion

No Children/Youth Sunday School until September

Rite II—Traditional Music

Live-Stream on FaceBook & YouTube

Yoga—Narthex

Morning Prayer — Lay Led — Sanctuary

Bible Study — Parish Hall

Grief Support Group — Parish Hall

No Choir Rehearsal until September

Handbell Practice—Music Room

It Happened in July



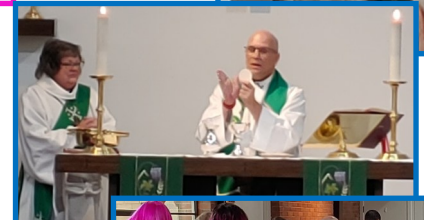
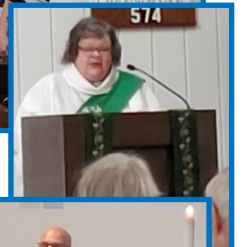
Yonjoo talks about S. Korean
democracy at Conversations



SFEC helped send Jordyn
Nipps to Camp Allen



Daisy Cruz' baby shower



St. Clare's visits St. Francis.
Deacon Sheila first sermon to SFEC!