



# Saint Francis Journal

## September 2025



**A Loving Community, Serving God's Kingdom**



**Tell Out  
My Soul**

Stewardship Campaign Begins in October

### **Celebrating Fall and the Changing of Seasons at St. Francis Episcopal Church**

**A Season of Gratitude, Community,  
and Renewal**

*"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28*

As the golden light of autumn filters through colorful canopies and the air turns crisp with promise, we at St. Francis Episcopal Church find ourselves drawn into a season of reflection and celebration. Fall is more than a time of changing leaves and cooler days—it is a sacred invitation to behold God's handiwork in the world around us, to gather as a family of faith, and to embrace the call to stewardship with grateful hearts.

Each year, the turning of the seasons reminds us of life's cyclical beauty. Just as the earth prepares for renewal, so too are we invited to renew our commitments to one another, to our parish, and to the ministries that enrich our lives and our community. This year, we are especially blessed with a tapestry of events that embody our shared purpose and joy.

On October 11, we open our hearts and grounds for the Blessing of the Animals with Fr. Jerger. This cherished tradition honors the spirit of St. Francis, our patron, who saw all creatures as beloved kin in God's creation. As pets and their people gather, laughter and gratitude mingle in the autumn air, echoing the harmony and wholeness to which we are called.

The following day, October 12 brings a double portion of fellowship and thanksgiving. Parish Election Meeting

at 9:30am and Newcomer's Lunch at noon. This is a vital moment when we discern the future leadership of our church and thank those whose Vestry term is completed in January. This gathering is not simply an exercise in governance but a celebration of the gifts and callings of each member. In the spirit of stewardship, we look forward to the continued flourishing of our parish, nurtured by the prayerful participation of all.

October 19 is our Pastor Appreciation Brunch for our supply clergy. With tables brimming and spirits uplifted, we honor the faithful leadership to those that are helping us, especially Fr. Robert Odom, who drives from Ft. Worth just about every Sunday to be our celebrant.

As autumn deepens, we gather on November 2 for a special All Saints Day/Día De Los Muertos Brunch. Together, we remember and celebrate the lives of those who have gone before us, drawing wisdom and strength from their legacy of faith. This blending of traditions affirms our unity in diversity and the hope we share in Christ's resurrection.

All of these occasions are woven together by Stewardship Season—a time to reflect on the abundance we have received and the ways we are called to give back. Stewardship is more than a financial pledge; it is service, an act of worship, a joyful response to God's blessings, and a promise to nurture the life of our church for generations to come.

In this season of transformation, let us open our eyes to wonder, our hands to service, and our hearts to one another. May we step into autumn with gratitude, mindful of the blessings that surround us and the call to share them freely.

As the leaves change and the world prepares

for new beginnings, so too does our parish. Let us celebrate, serve, and love together with gladness and singleness of heart.

For His Sake,

Jay DeOrnellas  
Senior Warden



### **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

### \*September 6th\*

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



### Book Club

\*Sep 8th (due to Labor Day)\*

& Sep 15th

\*6:30p\*Parish Hall\*

Bring Paper Grocery Bags

Food Distribution Needs Them

\*Desperately\*

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

You've Asked for Them!!

St. Francis Shirts for Sale

They're back!

Need a St. Francis polo-type shirt?

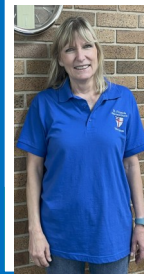
Is yours showing signs of age?

Would you like a different color?

This is your chance!

You can select from a variety of colors.

Also short and long sleeve  
denim shirts available.



Shirts on sale from

August 7th through  
September 21st.

Get an order form from  
Gay Barron or pick one up  
in the office.

Polo: \$ 21

Larger sizes ; \$23-27

### Conversations Exploring Cultural Perspective

(formerly Conversations on Race)

The September meeting is on Sunday,  
Sept. 21st (note change) at noon in the  
Adult Ed Room. Lunch is provided.  
Gipsy Schneider will talk about grow-  
ing up in the oil camp in Hawkins.  
Got questions? See Roy Barron

### St. Francis Animals Meeting

Sun. Sep 21st \* 5p

Youth Basement Room

Pizza & Drinks Provided



Connection \* Growth \* Belonging

A community where all are  
truly welcome—regardless of  
race, creed, or orientation.

Got questions? Megan McKeand &  
Dominique Lucas got answers!

Next Gathering

Sat. Sept 20th

6 to 8 pm

Adult Ed Room

### God in the Movies

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

Friday, Sept 19th, 6:30pm

\*Especially St. Francis Animals\*



Out-to-Lunch Bunch  
Tues. Sep 16\*11:30a  
Jucy's on Old J'ville



### Serendipity Luau & Pool Party

Sat. Sept 27th \* 4 –7 pm  
at the Kraus/Cabell home

Main Dish:  
Chicken Adobo

Sign up in the hallway  
appetizers, sides & desserts

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Claire Hodges (9/3)

Andy Wells (9/3)

Gipsy Schneider (9/5)

Stephen Haltom (9/6)

Dominique Lucas(9/12)

Linda Glenn (9/13)

Cindy Meyer (9/15)

Earl Boudreau (9/19)

Tristan Jones (9/22)

Lauren Tear (9/24)

Doug Clark (9/29)

Dotty Hillis (9/30)

## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Katherine & Jordan Chapman (9/22)

Pamela & Stephen Haltom (9/28)

Lara & Edward Tabri (9/30)



Have a GREAT



2025-26 School Year!!



The Handbell Choir has been busy this summer learning and playing music to the enrich the parish's worship experience. We are so thrilled to have new and returning ringers because it allows us to play more complex music for you. We are also looking forward to learning music that will enhance your fall holiday worship.

**We can always use one more ringer!**

**\*\*Join us\*\***

**-You don't have to read music-  
We know how to color!**

## Church Under a Bridge Shoe Drive



Sandra Dugan & Gay Barron  
sorting by size & grouping men,  
women & children



As usual, St. Francis  
has come through  
in abundance

## Upcoming Events This Fall Mark your Calendars!!

- Serendipity Luau Sat. Sept. 27th
- Nat'l Night Out Tues. Oct 7th
- Blessing of the Animals Sat. Oct. 11th
- Newcomer's Lunch Sun. Oct. 19th
- Dia de los Muertos Sun. Nov 2nd
- Men's Turkey Smoke Sat. Nov. 15th
- Parish Turkey Dinner Sun. Nov. 16th

**\*All these events require helpers\*  
St. Francis needs you!!**

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Tyler, TX 75701  
Telephone: 903-593-8459

Email: [office@stfrancistylor.org](mailto:office@stfrancistylor.org)  
Web site: [www.stfrancistylor.org](http://www.stfrancistylor.org)

**facebook**

[www.facebook.com/StFrancisTyler](http://www.facebook.com/StFrancisTyler)



## WEEKLY RECURRING EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER

The Rev. Robert Odom, Celebrant

### Sunday

**Nursery available on request**

- 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—Narthex

### Wednesday

- Noon Morning Prayer — Lay Led — Sanctuary
- 12:30 pm Bible Study — Parish Hall
- 2:00 pm Grief Support Group — Parish Hall
- 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal begins September 10th

### Thursday

- 5:00 pm Handbell Practice—Music Room

## Join the Chancel Choir or Handbell Choir

**\*Sing and/or Ring for the Holidays\***

## September Special Events

**Happy Labor Day—Office Closed**  
(Book Club moved to September 8th)

Sat. September 6

Breakfast for All - 8:30am  
DOK & Men's Group Meeting - 9:00am  
Church Under a Bridge Lunch Prep - 10:00am

Sun. September 7, 9:30am

Children/Youth Sunday School Resumes

Mon. September 8, 6:30pm

Book Club - Parish Hall

Mon. September 15, 6:30pm

Book Club - Parish Hall

Tues. September 16

Out-to-Lunch Bunch on Jucy's Old J'ville: 11:30a  
Vestry Meeting: 6:00p

Fri. September 19, 6:30pm

God in the Movies

Sat. September 20, 6:00-8:00pm

Thrive for 20 & 30 Somethings

Sun. September 21, 12:00pm

Conversations Exploring  
Cultural Perspectives

Sat. September 27, 4:00-7:00pm

Serendipity Luau & Pool Party  
Kraus/Cabell home

### Mission Statement

*Why do we exist?*

*What is our purpose?*

St. Francis is a community of Christians whose mission is to love one another, serving God's kingdom on earth through

- Developing discipleship through worship, prayer, education, and fellowship,
- Ministering to one another
- Offering ourselves as servants in God's world.

### Vision Statement

*The parish we aim to become*

**The vision of St. Francis is to**

- Promote spiritual growth through education and worship,
- Reach out in service to the community,
- Increase diverse music ministries to create a joyful sound in celebration,
- Provide vibrant children's, youth, and campus ministries,
- Create a variety of ministries and programs for everyone.

## Diocesan Council & Vestry

Are you feeling called to serve?

St. Francis needs you!

Diocesan Council delegates represent SFEC at Diocesan Council, the annual business meeting of the Diocese of Texas, held this term February 25-27, 2026, in The Woodlands.

Vestry members serve for a 3-year term and are the lay leaders, responsible for church governance

If interested or have questions. See Jay DeOrnellas, Sr. Warden.

*"Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours" - St. Teresa of Avila*

