

The St. John's Newsletter

St. John's Episcopal Church 254-803-3800 Marlin, Texas www.stjohnsmarlin.org October 2007

We are a church community rooted in Anglican traditions and committed to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ through faith, prayer, compassion, and encouragement.

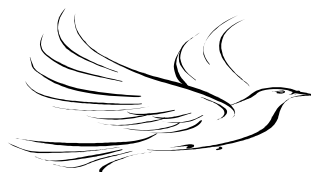
St. Francis of Assisi was born Giovanni de Bernardone in 1181, the son of a wealthy merchant in the Italian hillside town of Assisi. As a youngster, he assisted his father in running his business. After being held a prisoner of war and suffering grave illness, and despite his father's intense opposition, Francis totally renounced all material values and devoted himself to serve the poor and the sick. He renounced his inheritance and even his clothes, choosing to wear a simple garment provided by the Bishop of Assisi.

In 1210, Francis took twelve young men to Rome with him, and Pope Innocent III gave him permission to start a new religious order—the Order of Friars Minor, a name Francis chose to emphasize his desire to be numbered among the “least” of God's servants. Today, members of his religious order are known as Franciscan friars.

The blessing of the animals on St. Francis' patron feast day (October 4th) is a reminder that Francis prayed and sang and rejoiced day-in and day-out at the sight of God's creation. He considered all nature a mirror of God. In fact, he would stop and speak to the trees and praise the flowers. In each leaf and in every blade of grass he found a friend, he called them all the children of God.

St. Francis' attitude towards the natural world, while poetically expressed, was conventionally Christian. He believed that the world was created good and beautiful by God, but suffers a need for redemption because of the primordial sin of man. He preached to man and beast the universal ability and duty of all creatures to praise God and the duty of men to protect and enjoy nature as both the stewards of God's creation and as creatures ourselves.

Please join us for Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, October 6, at 10:00 a.m.



St. John's Leadership

Vestry:

Senior Warden, Mike Meyer
Junior Warden, Troy Henderson
Clerk/Treasurer, Cathy Phillips
Polly Gaeke
Bobby Peterson
Joe Owen

Rector: The Rev. Judy Filer

Minister of Music: Sue Visser

Parish Administrator: Cathy Phillips

Altar Guild Chair: Louise Burton

Altar Flowers Chair: Polly Gaeke

Special Events: Libby Price and Pattie Bosnack

ALTAR FLOWERS

October 7 — Mike and Alice Ferda
October 14 — Marge Schumann
October 21 — Mark and Sherri Patterson
October 28 — Mike Meyer

If you want to request flowers for St. John's altar, contact Polly Gaeke, chairperson, phone number 584-4464.

ST. JOHN'S CHOIR NEWS

If you are interested in learning to play hand bells, please contact Sue Visser or Cathy Phillips. Remember, choir practice is held every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Please join us!



CURSILLO

2007 CURSILLO WEEKENDS
November 1-4, 2007 (campsite)



COFFEE HOSTESS

October 7 – Mike Meyer

October 14 — Marge Schumann
October 21 – Kyla smith
October 28 – Libby Price and Pattie Bosnack



OCT. BIRTHDAYS:

October 1 – Jason Peterson
October 5 – Mike Ferda, Sr.
October 7 – Ed Visser
October 29 – Bob Peterson
“Grant, O Lord, that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord.” *Amen*

You are cordially invited
to brunch on Sunday, October 28th
in celebration of all parish September
birthdays and anniversaries.

Please join us following the regular Sunday
service for wonderful food and fun in the
Parish Hall, St. John's Episcopal Church.



Christian Education

“Who Are We, Why Are We Here, and Why Do We Do the Things We Do?” is a Bible study that involves some church history, some Book of Common Prayer study, taking a look at liturgy and other subjects Episcopal ... and Anglican. Anyone interested in confirmation classes should attend. These classes, plus a couple of individual studies, will serve for confirmation classes. Dates for this Bible study are: September 30, October 14, October 21, October 28, and November 4.

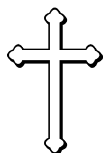
The Lectionary Bible Study will be rescheduled to a fixed date which will, hopefully, be more convenient to those who wish to attend. The next class will be October 3 at 11:00 a.m., in the Parish Hall.

Join us as we explore our faith and grow in Christ.



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

St. John's and the First Presbyterian Church will host Blessing of the Animals on October 6, 2007, at 10:00 a.m., in the Garden of Hope. Following the blessing, the Falls County Animal Rescue will host their second annual Halloween Pet and Costume Party.



PARISH MEETING

The Parish Meeting will be held on October 7th, and there will be a covered dish luncheon. At the meeting, we will elect new vestry members for next year. If you wish to nominate someone for vestry, please consult the letter sent to you by the church or call Cathy. There will not be nominations from the floor this year, since we need time to ensure the candidate is qualified to run and that he or she understands the commitment. Please join us!



DOK QUIET DAYS

The Daughters of the Shepherd Chapter will host Quiet Days on October 20, 2007, from 8:15-3:00 at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Tomball. The guest speaker will be Dr. Eileen M. Raffaniello Barbello whose topic will be "Living in the Breath of God." Make reservations by October 16th with Kathy Koch at 281-352-8555. You can contact the church office at 281-351-1609 for more information.



FOOD BAGS

Don't forget to pick up your Food Bag to bring your canned goods and other non-perishable food items for our outreach ministry to the Salvation Army.

"For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat . . ." Matthew 25:35

ST. JOHN'S MEN'S ASSOCIATION

The first meeting of the St. John's Men's Association was held September 27th at 6:00 p.m., and was a great success! The Men's Association will meet again on October 25th at 6:00 p.m. All men of the parish are invited to come for dinner and fellowship.



All Saints in Crockett, Texas, will dedicate the stained glass windows which they learned to make for their church on October 28th. The Bishop will attend the dedication. On October 26th from 10:00-2:00 they will have a spaghetti lunch and bazaar and will raffle off a stained glass cross. If you are interested in attending this, please contact Cathy, and she will give you directions to All Saints.



OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY

Please see the fliers posted in the Parish Hall for opportunities within our community to enjoy fun and fellowship!



FAVORITE HYMNS

Do you have a favorite hymn? Please contact Sue Visser or Cathy in the church office and let us know. Then Sue will be able to incorporate some of your favorite hymns into our service.

Kay Evans-*Morning Has Broken* Hymn #8

Jean Trice-*The Strife is O'er* Hymn #208

Polly Gaeke-*Rock of Ages* Hymn #685

Mary Price-*Amazing Grace* Hymn #671



FAVORITE PRAYER

Do you have a favorite prayer from the Book of Common Prayer? Please contact the church office with the information. We will be printing these in the newsletter.

Joe Owen, BCP, p. 833 — *A Prayer attributed to St. Francis*

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. *Amen*

Jean Trice, BCP, p. 323, *For a Birthday*
“O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants, as we begin another year. Grant that we may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen our trust in your goodness all the days of our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord.” *Amen*

The Grace of God . . .

to succeed without ability and create without talent;

to be confident in doubt and secure in turmoil;

to have joy in sorrow and peace in battle;

to be loved without a lover and helped without a helper;

to be healed without a physician and taught without a teacher;

to be nourished without food and assuaged without water;

to believe when doubtful and trust when suspicious;

to love when hated and care when rejected;

to see in the dark and hear in the din;

to walk straight on a crooked path and firmly on shifting sand;

to be sweet when bitterly assailed and peaceful when hostilely attacked;

to make judgments sounder than my understanding, and decisions wiser than my knowledge.

The grace of God is God acting in me despite me. *Wallace Alcorn*

ENTERED INTO LIFE ETERNAL:

Wilbur Fannin

We offer our deepest sympathy and prayers to family and friends.

“O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of your servants and grant them an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.” *Amen*

Cathy's Corner:

Fall is here, and judging from the calendar, I

will need track shoes to keep up with the busy schedule we have coming up during the next 3 months. We have the “Who Are We, Why Are We Here, and Why Do We Do the Things We Do?” Bible study, the Lectionary Bible study, Blessing of the Animals, a Parish Meeting, Pentecost will end, Advent will begin, Lessons and Carols, and Christmas. Phew! And I’m sure I forgot something somewhere in there — but what a blessing for me to be at St. John’s and be able to participate, learn and grow in my personal walk with God.



CALENDAR!

October 2, 7:00 p.m.: Choir Practice
October 3, 11:00: Lectionary Bible Study
October 3, 5:15 p.m.: Healing Service
October 4, 11:00 a.m.: Clericus, St. Martin’s, Copperas Cove
October 4, 5:15: First Thursday Prayer Meeting, Courthouse Square
October 6, 8:00-10:00: Marlin Ministerial Fellowship, Senior Citizens Center
October 6, 10:00 a.m.: Blessing of the Animals
October 7: Parish Meeting, Election of Vestry Members, Pot Luck Dinner
October 9, 4:00 p.m.: Staff Meeting
October 9, 7:00 p.m.: Choir Practice
October 10, 10:00-11:30: Grief Support, St. Paul’s, Waco — Note: Office will be closed until 1:00 p.m.
October 10, 5:15 p.m.: Healing Service
October 11, 12:00 Noon: Coalition Meeting
October 11, 3:00 p.m.: Rev. Filer in Waco
October 14, 10:30: Who Are We, Why Are We Here, and Why Do We Do the Things We Do? Bible Study
October 14, 4:00 p.m.: Ultreya, St. John’s, Marlin
October 16, 7:00 p.m.: Choir Practice
October 17, 5:15 p.m.: Healing Service
October 17, 2:00-5:00: St. James House Annual Silver Tea, Houston, Texas

October 17, 6:00 p.m.: Vestry Meeting
October 20, 8:00-3:30: Kairos Team Meeting, St. John’s, Marlin
October 20, 8:15-3:00: DOK Quiet Days/Meeting Invitations, Church of the Good Shepherd, Tomball
October 21-25: Rev. Filer out of town
October 21, 10:30: Who Are We, Why Are We Here, and Why Do We Do the Things We Do? Bible Study
October 22, 10:30-1:30: Leadership for Ministry, Pflugerville
October 23, 7:00 p.m.: Choir Practice
October 24, 10:00-11:30: Grief Support, St. Paul’s, Waco — Note: Office will be closed until 1:00 p.m.
October 24, 5:15 p.m.: Healing Service
October 25, 6:00 p.m.: Men’s Association
October 28, 10:30: Who Are We, Why Are We Here, and Why Do We Do the Things We Do? Bible Study
October 30, 7:00 p.m.: Choir Practice
October 31, 5:15 p.m.: Healing Service