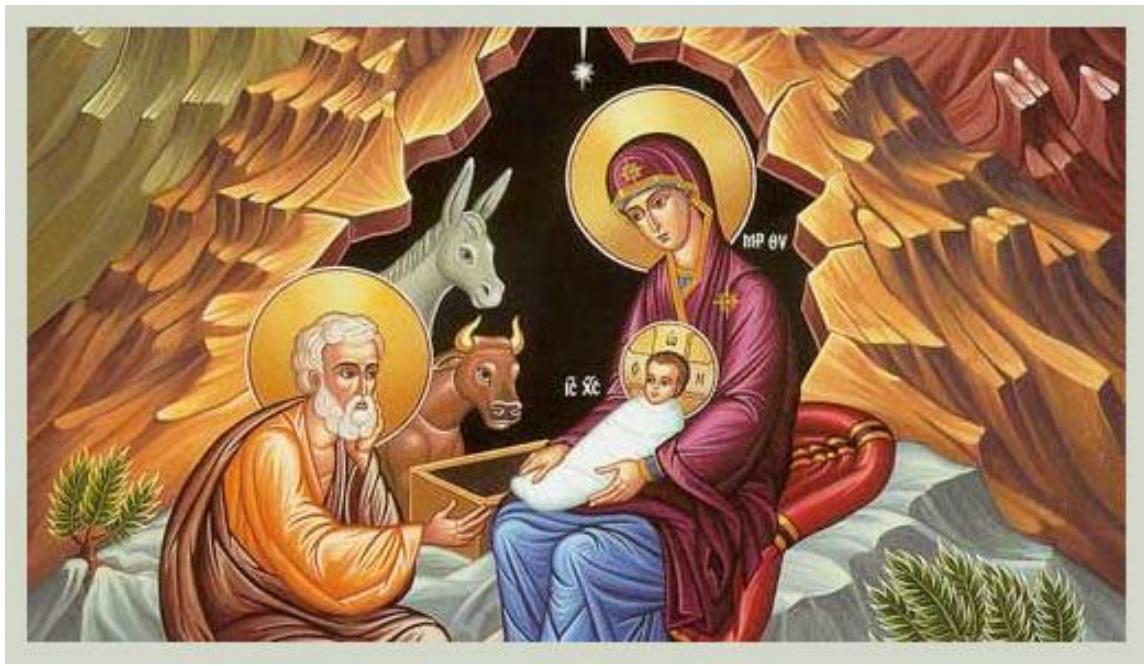




St. Francis
Episcopal Church

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
& BLESSING OF THE TOYS
DECEMBER 25, 2022

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II
10:00 AM



Welcome to St. Francis Episcopal Church. We are glad to have you with us today as we worship and invite you to participate throughout the service. May God bless you this and every day.

PRELUDE: Variations on “PUER NOBIS”

Albert Zabel
Benita McFarland, organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand, sung by all.

OPENING HYMN: *Hark! the herald angels sing*

Hymnal 87



1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.
Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

Please remain standing.

THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever.

Amen.

HYMN: *Angels we have heard on high*

Hymnal 96



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
 4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;



and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
 What great bright-ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
 Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.



Refrain



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Glo - - - - -





THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 62:6-12

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem,
I have posted sentinels;
all day and all night
they shall never be silent.
You who remind the LORD,
take no rest,
and give him no rest
until he establishes Jerusalem
and makes it renowned throughout the earth.
The LORD has sworn by his right hand
and by his mighty arm:
I will not again give your grain
to be food for your enemies,
and foreigners shall not drink the wine
for which you have labored;
but those who garner it shall eat it
and praise the LORD,
and those who gather it shall drink it
in my holy courts.
Go through, go through the gates,
prepare the way for the people;
build up, build up the highway,
clear it of stones,
lift up an ensign over the peoples.
The LORD has proclaimed
to the end of the earth:
Say to daughter Zion,
"See, your salvation comes;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him."
They shall be called, "The Holy People,
The Redeemed of the LORD";
and you shall be called, "Sought Out,
A City Not Forsaken."

Lector: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 97

- 1 The LORD is King; let the earth rejoice; *
let the multitude of the isles be glad.
- 2 Clouds and darkness are round about him, *
righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.
- 3 A fire goes before him *
and burns up his enemies on every side.
- 4 His lightnings light up the world; *
the earth sees it and is afraid.
- 5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, *
at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.
- 6 The heavens declare his righteousness, *
and all the peoples see his glory.
- 7 Confounded be all who worship carved images
and delight in false gods! *
Bow down before him, all you gods.
- 8 Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, *
because of your judgments, O LORD.
- 9 For you are the LORD, most high over all the earth; *
you are exalted far above all gods.
- 10 The LORD loves those who hate evil; *
he preserves the lives of his saints
and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
- 11 Light has sprung up for the righteous, *
and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.
- 12 Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, *
and give thanks to his holy Name.

THE SECOND READING

Titus 3:4-7

A reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus:

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand, sung by all.

GRADUAL HYMN: Go tell it on the mountain

Hymnal 99

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and
ev - ery - where; go tell it on the mountain, that
Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep - herds kept their
2 The shep - herds feared and
3 Down in a low - ly

watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
trem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth
man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,
be - rang and

Repeat Refrain

hold, through - out the hea - vens there shone a ho - ly light.
out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sa - vior's birth.
God sent us sal - va - tion that blessed Christ - mas morn.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of

great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

HOMILY

The Very Rev. Milton C. Williams, Jr.

Please stand.

THE NICENE CREED

Celebrant and People:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor: This day our God came among us a tiny child to show us the saving power of divine love. Let us pray for the fullness of God's grace and truth in ourselves and in all people, even to the ends of the earth.

That Jesus, Word of God made flesh, be God's joy for all members of the church, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: That Jesus, desire of nations, be God's peace among states and peoples, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: That Jesus, consolation of all hearts, be God's healing and strength for those in need, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: That Jesus, Savior of the world, be God's light in our darkness, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: That Jesus, king of blessedness, be God's everlasting joy for those who have died, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: For those who need our prayers and whom we now remember:

People: [pause for silent prayer]

Intercessor: For them and for ourselves, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Lord God, let your Son, born for us this day, announce peace and good news to our world in answer to these prayers. Yours be the praise and the glory, here on earth and in highest heaven, both now and for ever.

People: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *In December Bleak and Cold* (Catalonian Carol)

Michael Bedford

Benita McFarland, organ

Please stand.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER A

BCP p361

The musical notation consists of four staves of music. The first staff (Celebrant) has lyrics: "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you." The second staff (Celebrant) has lyrics: "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord." The third staff (Celebrant) has lyrics: "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." The fourth staff (People) has lyrics: "It is right to give him thanks and praise."

Celebrant: ... to proclaim the glory of your Name:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant: ...Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant: ... By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

People: AMEN.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Alleluia Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

THE PEACE

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on Him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. To receive bread only, place one palm of the hand in the other and the priest will offer the Body of Christ to you. If you would like to receive bread and wine keep your hands by your side, and the clergy will intinct the body into the wine and place the body and blood on your tongue. To receive a blessing in lieu of communion, cross your arms over your chest and the clergy will give you a blessing.

At Communion the children are invited to bring their toys for a blessing.

Please be seated.

MUSIC AT COMMUNION:

Away in a Manger James Murray, William Kirkpatrick, arr. Lloyd Larson
Creator of the Stars of Night (Sarum Plainsong) Ryan Jones
Benita McFarland, organ

Please stand.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

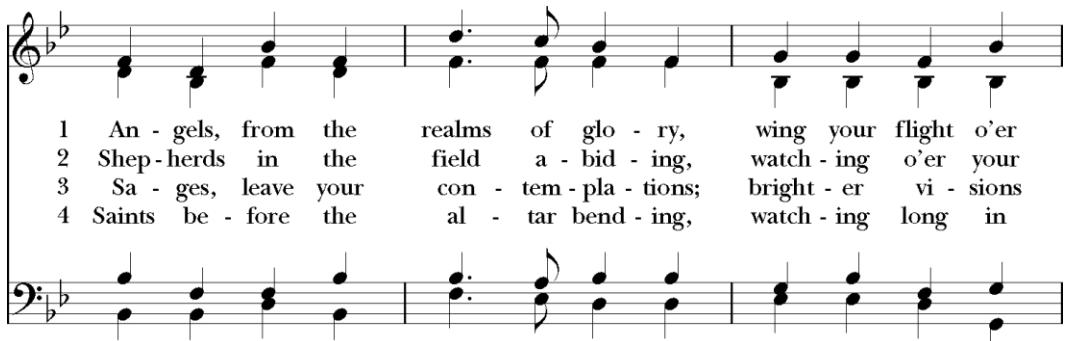
THE BLESSING

Celebrant: May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

Please stand, sung by all.

CLOSING HYMN: *Angels, from the realms of glory*

Hymnal 93



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

A musical score for a hymn. The top section consists of two staves: a soprano staff in treble clef and a bass staff in bass clef. The soprano staff has a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The bass staff has a key signature of one sharp (F-sharp). The lyrics for the top section are:

all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;
 beam a - far: seek the great De - sire of na - tions;
 hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

The bottom section, labeled "Refrain", also has two staves: soprano and bass. The soprano staff has a key signature of one sharp (F-sharp). The bass staff has a key signature of one sharp (F-sharp). The lyrics for the refrain are:

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 yon - der shines the in - fant Light: come and wor - ship,
 ye have seen his na - tal star: come and wor - ship,
 in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE:

Fanfare on "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Dick Sanderman
 Benita McFarland, organ

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DEDICATIONS

In loving memory of Polly, Dave Sr., Nelson, Martha Ellen, Norman, Bruce and Mary Lou, given by the Reich Family.

In loving memory of Zane B. Fisher, Marie and Leon Stone, Joe and Sally Fisher, Franny and Pryor Stone, given by Carole Fisher.

In loving memory of Anna Dixon and Russell French, by Bob Dixon and Susan French.

In loving memory of Suzanne DeTuerk, Shirley Koval, and Ronald Koval, by Pete and Dana Koval.

In loving memory of John, Eleanor, Harry, John Sr., Martha, Barbara, and Judy, given by Cathy Isaacs.

In loving memory of Tommy and Gwen Cox, Gill and Flo Stanley, and Bruce Lyon, by Ross & Debbie Cox.

In loving memory of Jim Garrison and Wesley Buffaloe, given by Martha Ann Buffaloe.

In loving memory of Blanche and "Rabbit" Bonner, Margaret and Walker Stevens, and William Ross Bonner, by Blanche and Walker Stevens.

In loving memory of Norman, Peter and Matthew Lee, given by Sheila Lee.

In loving memory of her father, Ralph H. Bowden and in honor of her mother, Tirzah Bowden, given by Page Bowden.

In loving memory of Ruth and Rob Holland, Clyde and Della Stubbs, Billy and Glenda Gilgo, and Raymond Handy, by Van and Jane Stubbs.

In loving memory of Milton C. Williams, Sr., Lucille and Tom Cox, Ruth and Claude Henson, Bill Henson, and Howard Cox, given by Vara, Jim and Lisa Cox.

In loving memory of Betty and Grady Gandy, Ann and Richard Saunders, given by Carolyn and Rick Saunders.

In loving memory of Dorothy and Ray, Dawn and Bob Shank, and Stella and James Weeks, given by Sally and Jim Weeks.

In loving memory of Dick and Barb Kelly, and George and Ginny Russell, given by Scott and Pat Russell.

In loving memory of Paul Shickedantz, Dianne Schickedantz and Cathy Sternbergh, by The Shickedantz Family.

In loving memory of Anne Ravenel "Baba" and Peggy Marsh, given by Renee, William and James Gaunt.

In loving memory of Jim and Anita Schenk, given by Mary Dator.

In loving memory of Russell Peck, and other departed family and friends, given by Cameron Gordon Peck.

In loving memory of Sonny Lackey, given by Gayle Lackey.

In loving memory of George and Emily Patterson, Bill and Mary Hattle, our parents, given by George and Linda Patterson.

In loving memory of William and Diane Sieck, given by The Sieck Family, John, Kathryn, Lilly, McKinley, Nolan and Oliver.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DEDICATIONS

In loving memory of James and Aneita Caddigan, Robert and Dorcas McGoodwin,
given by Middleton and Judy McGoodwin.

In loving memory of William W. Jordan, given by Olive Jordan and Family.

In Loving memory of Mom, Dad, Gramma, and Uncle Tom, given by Harry Grant.

In loving memory of our parents and loved ones, given by Larry and Marty Upson.

In loving memory of Amy Elizabeth Roesner, given by Matt and Penn Smith.

In loving memory of Doug Katz, given by Dawn Katz.

In loving memory of Paul Jerome Hartley, given by Lane Hartley.

In loving memory of Billy Sandlin, Carl and Emma Dean Carver, and Joyce Weir, given
by The Sandlin Family.

In loving memory of my husband George F. Bailey, given by Lois D. Bailey.

In loving memory of Bruce Parks Barnes and other departed loved ones, given by
Sharon Barnes.

In loving memory of Cindy Butner, given by given by her friends.

In loving memory of Dennis Barry, given by Betty Barry.

In loving memory of Flo and Herbert Crutchlow, and Marie and Jerry Clarke, given by
Ken and Claudia Clarke.

In loving memory of Carol Phillips and Jim Allen, given by Lawrence Phillips and Anna
Clare Allen.

In loving memory of Nancy Baldwin and all loved ones, given by The Shields Family.

In loving memory of Richard and Rebecca DeCoste, given by Bonnie, Joff, Jeremy and
Emma Thyer.

In loving memory of Al Kimble, Fred Byrd, Patricia Cooney, and Branch Moeling,
given by Melinda Kimble, Richard Ferebee and Beth and Lindsay Byrd.

In honor of Sam Doyle and Benita McFarland, given by John and Kathie Huff.

In honor of the St. Francis church and staff, given by Ella Wertz.

In honor of Lois d. Bailey, given by John and Liz Daniel.

In honor of Mom, Dad, Gramma and Uncle Tom, given by Harry Grant.

In honor of our children, Gray and Emery, given by Laura & James Otterberg.

In joyful gratitude for our first granddaughter, Elizabeth Lane Fleming, given lovingly
by Mike and Sandra Shields.

In honor of Vara and Jim Cox, for all they contribute to the life of the St. Francis
parish and in gratitude for the clergy and staff of St. Francis, given by Judith
Williams.

Christmas flower donation, given by Paul and Trish Crowell.

In thanksgiving for the Advent wreath making, given by Anonymous.

Christmas flower donation, given by Anonymous.

Christmas flower donation, given by Melinda Kimble.

To Edith and Vernon Nicolls given by their daughters Lyn & Kay

To God and my loving and giving church friends, given with love by Sandra Shields.

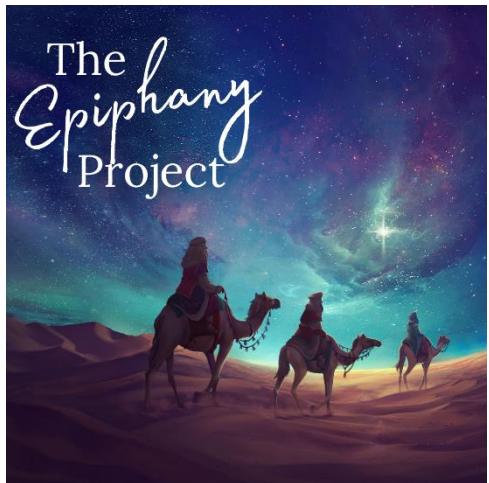
THE EPIPHANY PROJECT

January 8th

As we celebrate the Magi coming to offer Christ gifts during the season of Epiphany, we will be offering gifts as part of our Epiphany Project. Joyner Elementary School is just around the corner from St. Francis and the teachers have many needs. Please bring your gifts from the list below on January 8th where they will be blessed and shared with Joyner Elementary. If you are unable to attend on January 8th donations can be dropped off at the church the week before.

Items needed:

Glue sticks	Velcro dots
Pre-sharpened pencils	Headphones
Packing tape	Science fair display boards
Two pocket folders	Felt tip pens
Tissue	White and colored card stock
Pencil erasers	Individual erasers
Markers	Colored Pencils
Crayons	Dry-erase markers - all colors
Dry-erase markers - both fine point and regular black	



ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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THE RT. REV. SAMUEL RODMAN
BISHOP OF NORTH CAROLINA

THE RT. REV. JENNIFER BROOKE-DAVIDSON
ASSISTANT BISHOP
OF NORTH CAROLINA

THE VERY REV. MILTON C. WILLIAMS, JR.
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THE VESTRY

Senior Warden: Kris Cooke, **Junior Warden:** Claudia Clarke,
Treasurer: Rick Saunders

Kitty Baker, Jim Cox, Angela Greiner, Kay Nicolls, George Patterson, Lee Schrader, Sandra Shields, Mike Sigmon, and Bill Sutton.

Vestry may be contacted at: vestry@stfrancisgreensboro.org