



The Song of Saint Francis



Saint Francis by the Sea Episcopal Church, Salter Path, NC October 2025

Parish Office Hours:

Tues-Thurs: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Weekly Activities



Prayer Shawl-Wed, 10 a.m.

Celtic Eucharist Service-Wed, noon

"Be Still and Know" Prayer Group-
Tues, 10 a.m.

Other Activities

*Saturday, October 4, 10 a.m.-
Blessing of the Animals

*Tuesday, October 7, October 21,
11 a.m.-Meals on Wheels Prep

*Wed, October 8, 7 p.m.-Guided
Labyrinth Walk

*Saturday, October 11, 11 a.m.-4
p.m.-Lobsterfest

*Saturday, October 18, 8 a.m.-Men
of St. Francis Fellowship

*Sunday, October 19, Lobsterfest
Food Drive Ends



From the clergy -

In the Book of Common Prayer, which contains the Rites and Ceremonies of the Episcopal Church, there is a list of "offerings in prayer" that includes:

The Universal Church, its members and its mission
The Nation and all in authority
The welfare of the world
The concerns of the local community
Those who suffer and those in any trouble
The departed

These six categories are always to be included in the Prayers of the People, in one form or another, when the Holy Eucharist is celebrated.

When we intercede for particular people on Sundays by naming them aloud to the congregation, it is generally understood that the individuals named are family members or friends or acquaintances of members of the congregation or of visitors worshiping with us on that day.

It is a very powerful experience to be named in the prayers and to know you are being held in the presence of God by others, for healing, for solace, for strength.

Those of us who are deeply concerned about issues involving the Church Universal and national and global affairs are invited to pray with specific intention in the silence of the heart.

As a congregation representing the particular life of a specific parish family, we pray specifically for the immediate concerns of family and friends and acquaintances. The congregation as a Body prays aloud for those whose well being is of great personal concern to its members.

Beginning in October, St Francis will observe the practice of praying aloud on Sundays the names of those family members, friends, and acquaintances for whom prayers have been especially requested by parishioners and by visitors worshiping with us that day.

Let us pray.

Song of St Francis. October 2025

A while back, the Feast day of St Francis of Assisi, October 4, fell on a Sunday. I wanted to do something special so I got two big glass vases, filled them with de-chlorinated water and went to Pet Smart and bought some gold fish and put them in to swim around in the water in the vases which I planned to take to church and set behind the altar on the shelves where the altar flowers would on a Sunday normally go.

I thought it was a great idea and was very pleased with myself.

The powers that were, however, gently but assertively in the subtlest manner, managed to let me know this was not going to happen. The flowers were arranged and the fish swam around in their vases at the back of the church next to the baptismal font until after the service was over, when they were carried home by parishioners who promised to give them good homes, though I feared the worst.

These days, I stick to celebrating the feast day of St Francis by blessing animals at liturgies designed especially for blessing animals. This year at St Francis by the Sea, the blessing of animals will take place at 10 am Saturday October 4 on the labyrinth.

This is a great opportunity for you to invite your friends to church, to bring their pets for a blessing. What a wonderful introduction they will get to the joyful life of this parish:

Goldfish are welcome here!

Thank you all for welcoming me into the life of this parish over the past year and a half. God has blessed me through you.

Mary+





VESTRY VIEW

My Voyage Through the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina

Chapter Four

Dale Elks

I have learned so much over the last two plus years being a member of the Vestry of St. Francis. Being a lifelong Episcopalian within the Diocese of East Carolina I really had not given thought to the scope of responsibilities the Vestry has in the day-to-day operations of this Episcopal Parrish. I must also say that having a part-time Rector creates additional opportunities and responsibilities on behalf of the Vestry. So, in the last two years to prepare ourselves for a new Rector the Vestry under the leadership of Senior Wardens have looked at and developed a master plan to include job descriptions, responsibilities and a timeline of all the moving parts. So, this month I to pay particular tribute to the three senior wardens who have led us and helped us develop a cohesive sustainable business model to allow St. Francis to grow and thrive on this beautiful island we call home.



Elizabeth Sheeks



Stover Morris



Pam Ball



Towel and Basin

By Deacon Robin

October has always been one of my favorite months of the year. It will be a busy month at St. Francis by the Sea as we welcome the Reverend Mary Kay Brown as our new rector, observe St. Francis Day with a Blessing of the Animals, cook twice for Meals on Wheels, host our annual Lobsterfest, begin our warm wear collection, and sponsor our Lobsterfest food drive. Exciting times!

Our **Lobsterfest food drive** is underway, and it's more important than ever as the need in our community continues to increase. Every item you donate goes directly to hungry families in Carteret County, all of whom are vetted for their monthly visits by DHS or local churches.



Immediate needs include: jelly (no glass containers), soup, pasta, canned vegetables/beans, tea bags, saltine crackers, condiments (no glass containers), peanut butter, instant potatoes, grits, and Hamburger/Tuna/Chicken Helper.

Please bring food drive items any Sunday in September through October 19, and place them on the Meals Ministry table. We will also have a collection tent in the parking lot during Lobsterfest for our visitors coming to pick up lobsters; cash and non-perishable items will be gratefully received by Martha's Mission volunteers in the tent. Please be sure to mention this to anyone who buys a ticket from you, and of course, the food drive is open to anyone in the community, whether or not they purchase lobsters! **Thank you for feeding the hungry in our community.**



Our dedicated **Meals Ministry Team** will cook twice in October. On Tuesday, October 7, we will prepare chicken broccoli casserole with carrots and dessert. On Tuesday, October 21, the menu will feature tortellini with meat sauce, vegetables, and dessert. We send about 150 meals out each month to be delivered to Meals on Wheels recipients in our community. Everyone can be part of this ministry by providing ingredients, cooking, delivering meals, and praying for those who participate and those who receive the meals. We also serve parishioners and keep

Love Meals in the freezer on the top shelf; feel free to take them any time to anyone who would enjoy a meal. **Thank you for serving those in our community.**



It's time to clean out those closets for our **warm wear collection**. Share warm clothing with those who will need it this winter. Bring gently used or new jackets, coats, sweaters, scarves, gloves, boots, etc., and place them on the Meals Ministry table in the parish hall. They will be given to those in need who visit Martha's Mission. **Thank you for clothing the needy.**

Recently, the Coastal Community Action/AmeriCorps Seniors sponsored a luncheon for **volunteers at Martha's Mission Cupboard**. St. Francis by the Sea was well represented by some of the nearly 30 volunteers we have who pick up food recoveries from local grocery stores and deliver the food to Martha's Mission for distribution. These food recoveries make a huge difference in the amount of food we are able to distribute to families in our community. Thank you to those who give their time to support this vital ministry! **Thank you for feeding the needy.**

We provided a feast for local **first responders** on September 11, serving ham, wings, salads, side dishes, rolls, desserts, and beverages as a token of our appreciation for the good work these folks do to serve us here at St. Francis. We have also had generous donations to buy Lobsterfest dinners for our first responders, so many thanks to those of you who are so thoughtful! **Thank you for showing appreciation to those who help us.**

It is a joy to serve with such a loving and generous parish! **Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ in our community.**



Our Daughters of the King chapter has been engaged in a book study based on the story of Mary and Martha, recorded in Luke 10:38-42. You may recall that Jesus visited the home where siblings Mary, Martha, and Lazarus lived. Martha

focused on preparations for hosting, while Mary was occupied by listening to Jesus, or what Jesus called “the better part.” We have had good discussions about the need to balance service while leaving time for prayer and devotion and for listening for spiritual guidance.

We invite you to consider the same questions: how will you seek guidance in balancing the many demands on your time? How will you devote sufficient time to prayer, study, and listening? How will you seek “the better part?”

DOK members are committed to daily prayer. If you have a request, please share it with us by speaking to a member or by adding it to the prayer box. Your request will be shared only within our group. See any of these members: Grace Kemp, Beth Parker, Lisa Park, Marion Morris, Rosemary Unger, Susan Johnson, Kay Brackins, Pam Ball, Jerry Rita Brunton, Carol Holland, Laura Leslie, Joan Gracie, Kathy Driver, Sarah Criddle, Robin Smith.

For His Sake . . . I cannot do everything, but I can do something. What I can do, I ought to do. What I ought to do, by the Grace of God, I will do. Lord, what will you have me do?

Deacon Robin





Lobsterfest Is Almost Here!



With less than two weeks until Lobsterfest, it's not too late to get your tickets! Starting **October 6**, someone will be at the church each day selling tickets, or you can conveniently purchase them online through our parish website: www.stfrancisbythesea.org. While we won't know our final sales numbers or potential profit until November, we already consider the event a success.

Lobsterfest is our largest fundraising event, and its success is a true testament to our parish community. So many of our parishioners come together to make it happen, driven by love—for our parish, for one another, and for our mission of service in the community.

On behalf of our leadership team—Frances Jenkins (Kitchen & Dine-In), Laura Leslie (Take-Out Meals), Jean Smith (Sales), John Clarke (Technology & Social Media), and Ann Grigg (Accounting)—thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time, sold or purchased tickets, or offered words of encouragement. Your support makes all the difference!

We are also collecting food and cash donations for our ministry partners at Martha's Mission Cupboard on the day of the event. Donations are welcome any time before Lobsterfest, so please feel free to drop them off at the church.

Thank you, and God's peace,

Terry Smith



Meet the Bishop Candidates

Members of the diocese are invited to meet the nominees for our next bishop at a series of regional meet-and-greet events. The upcoming event for our deanery will be held on **Monday, October 27, from 5:45–7:30 p.m. at Christ Church, New Bern.**

For those who cannot attend in person, details about livestreams and recordings will be shared soon.

If you have questions you would like the candidates to answer during these events, please submit them to **bishoptransitioncommittee@gmail.com** by **October 10**. More details about these gatherings will be shared as they become available.



Saint Francis by the Sea Episcopal Church Stewardship Campaign 2026

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth... but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

- Matthew 6:19-21

Dear Parish Members and Friends of St. Francis by the Sea,

Our **annual stewardship season** at St. Francis is quickly has arrived! With these words, Jesus invites us to consider where we are investing our time, our talents, and our resources. In a world that often measures success by what we possess, our theme for this year's stewardship campaign, **TREASURES IN HEAVEN** calls us to a different, eternal perspective. It is a loving challenge to re-examine our priorities and to place our ultimate hope not in what is fleeting, but in what is eternal.

This past year, we have seen the beautiful fruits of your generosity through increased giving. THANK YOU! **Your gifts have helped us to:**

- Replace multiple HVAC units to keep us cool in the summer and warm during winter.
- Repairs to our electrical system and lighting.
- New appliances and an additional downstairs dishwasher.
- Tree trimming and parking lot painting projects

Church and parish property maintenance, however, is a year-round struggle and in order for our Vestry to continue to be good stewards of your pledges and offering, it is important for them to anticipate church facility needs for next year. **We expect to have to address these issues in 2026:**

- Purchasing additional HVAC units since we have some that are past the expectation date.
- Our church building need painting inside and out.
- Our flooring needs refurbishing and sealant applied.
- Our parking lot needs new parking bumpers and our landscaping needs updating. Additional outdoor lighting would also improve our safety and enhance the visibility of our beautiful church home from the roadside.

In the coming weeks, we will have meaningful dialogue, timely communications, and gentle friendly reminders that **Stewardship Season at St. Francis is a time to celebrate God's goodness and thankfulness** for allowing our parish to continue to be a bright light in this sometimes-darkened world on Bogue Banks and beyond.

Our stewardship campaign will begin on October 5th and run through October 31st. On All-Saints Sunday, we will celebrate the conclusion of our focus on giving by honoring those faithful servants who have served before us by a special In-Gathering Luncheon out on the Labyrinth following our worship service on November 2nd. Please be on the lookout for more information about this upcoming "homecoming" type celebration!

As you are considering what your gift to the church will be in 2026, please remember that these are not simply numbers on a balance sheet; **they are investments in people's lives and in God's kingdom.** Every dollar, every hour of service, and every prayer you have offered has been used to build up the body of Christ, creating a lasting legacy that earthly moths and rust cannot destroy.

As we begin this new season of stewardship, we are not asking for a transaction, but inviting you into a spiritual practice. This campaign is an opportunity for each of us to reflect on our blessings and consider how we can offer our first fruits back to God with gratitude. **By prioritizing God in our finances, we are training our hearts to trust in Him and experience the joy that comes from generous, sacrificial giving.**

Peace and Grace,

SFBTS Stewardship Committee



**St. Francis by the Sea
Stewardship Prayer 2026**

GRACIOUS AND ABUNDANT GOD,

Source of every blessing and giver of all good gifts,
we offer our humble thanks for your boundless love and mercy.
You have called us to be faithful stewards of your creation,
entrusting us with our time, our talents, and our material resources.

REMINDE US, O Lord, of the fleeting nature of worldly wealth,
where moth and rust can destroy, and thieves break in and steal.
Turn our hearts from the pursuit of earthly comforts
and fix our eyes on the imperishable riches of your kingdom.

INSPIRE US to live with open hands,
willing to share generously with those in need,
and to offer our lives in service to you and our neighbors.
May our giving be a true act of faith, a living symbol of our love for you.

GIVE US the wisdom to discern your will
and the courage to put our faith into action,
as we seek to store up for ourselves treasures in heaven.
We pray with grateful hearts in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Lay Ministry Schedule

11

	October 5	October 12	October 19	October 26
Lector	Terry Smith	Betsy Randall	Nora Webb	Kathy Driver
Prayers	Sharon Birmingham	Martha Edwards	Libba Shelton	Elizabeth Sheeks
Altar Guild	Carol Holland	Laura Leslie	Betsy Randall	Gay Lea
Chalice	Libba Shelton Scott Shelton	Frances Jenkins Marion Morris	Elizabeth Sheeks Kelly Sheeks	Sarah Criddle Martha Edwards
Crucifer	Kelly Sheeks	Stover Morris	Scott Shelton	Tim Owens
Torchbearers	Sarah Criddle Marian Goetzinger	Kay Brackins Jami Turner	George Grigg Terry Smith	Frances Jenkins Mary Kurek
Audio	Stover Morris	Larry Castle	Stover Morris	Larry Castle
Video	John Clarke	Skip Kemp	John Clarke	Skip Kemp
Coffee Hour	Vestry of St. Francis	Sue and Wayne Perry	Judy and Steve Gould	Carol and Jim Holland
Vestry of the Day	Kay Brackins	Dale Elks	Lisa Park	Pam Ball



October Birthdays

12



Geraline Castle-4
Penn Perry-4
Betsy Elkins-Williams-4
Donald Williams-8
Pat Jones - 13
Andy Wright - 13
Bobbie Hill - 14
Sue Perry-31

Jeanie Best – 15
Ann Grigg – 23
Kay Brackins – 24
Anne Rives Lawrence – 25
Henry Lawrence – 25
Len Thomas-29
Moni Bottlinger-31

* If you don't see your name above and would like to be added to our birthday list, please email or call the church office.

Art and Music Ministries



Our choir rehearses each Wednesday, from 4:30-5:30 p.m., and again on Sundays, at 9:15 a.m. prior to the beginning of our 10 a.m. Worship Service. We are always looking for additional choir members. Please join us at any time with no musical audition. All are welcome!





St. Francis by the Sea Episcopal Church
920 Salter Path Road
Salter Path, NC 28512

First Class Mail

Worship Service begins at 10 a.m., casual dress welcome
Sunday school for ages 6-12 begins at 9:45 a.m.

If unable to attend, please visit <https://stfrancisbythesea.org/live> at 10 a.m. to view our worship service online or visit our website at www.stfrancisbythesea.org for additional information and viewing options.

St. Francis by the Sea Episcopal Church is a parish in the Diocese of East Carolina
The Right Reverend Robert Skirving, Bishop

Interim Supply Priest

The Rev. Mary Ogus

Priest in Residence

The Rev. Chris Carlin

Deacon

The Rev. Deacon Robin Smith

Parish Manager

Stover Morris

Financial Administrator

Peggy Quinn

Treasurer

Dave Phillips

Sexton

George Grigg

Vestry Class of 2025

Kay Brackins

Dale Elks

Lisa Park

Vestry Class of 2026

Pam Ball, Senior Warden

Sharon Birmingham

Terry Smith

Vestry Class of 2027

Terry Parrish, Junior Warden

John Clarke

Laura Leslie

Clerk of the Vestry

Korin Gagnon

Music Director

Craig Everett

Art Gallery Director

Tim Bradford

Vergers

Tim Bradford, Marion Morris

Communications

Penn Perry



The Song of St. Francis is a monthly publication of
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