



The Song of Saint Francis

Saint Francis by the Sea Episcopal Church, Salter Path, NC June 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

*Fri, June 6, 5:30-7 p.m.-Bradford Art Gallery Opening with Nicola Mason

*Sat, June 21, 8 a.m.-Men of St. Francis Fellowship



Song of St Francis June 2025

The mockingbird that built its nest much too close to our backyard- maybe even just inside it - exerted a tremendous energy trying to keep us out of it for about a week and a half, last month. It never drew blood but wasn't afraid to wing me on the back, again and again, and fly right at my face up to the distance of about a foot right at eye level.

I was leery of watering the garden, pulling weeds, hanging clothes on the line, and in desperation one day even put on foul weather gear and a wide brim hat before stepping off the porch. I was impressed by that bird's unflagging commitment to the hungry chicks in the nearby nest, and I was beginning to get annoyed.



A few days ago, too soon it seems to me, it wasn't there anymore, to 'greet' me in the morning when I stepped outside onto the porch with my coffee.

There was a big hole in the air.

The nest was quiet. No more persistent cheeps. Silence.

It doesn't seem possible the brood matured overnight and flew away.

I hate to think that some nocturnal predator wiped them out.

Mockingbirds, like the rest of us, have to sleep sometime.

I feel flattered every spring when mockingbirds return to the neighborhood and claim the immediate vicinity of our yard as their territory, however annoying they can be.

Once a Greek chorus of mockingbirds squawked at our cat, who liked to sleep on the rail inside the screened porch, all day long, all summer long, I think just for the fun of it. That was a bit much; but they were funny. You had to laugh.

And who doesn't love to hear a mockingbird sing, in the middle of the night, all night long, when you can't sleep, or keeping you awake.

There is a sermon here somewhere, I think, but I will let you write it on your heart, in just the words you need to hear it.

Mary+



VESTRY VIEW

I am serving as a member of the Vestry Class of 2027. While I am not new to our beloved St. Francis by the Sea, I have never served on the Vestry here or in any other Episcopal church since I grew up as a Baptist. So not only am I new to the Vestry but here I am now serving as Junior Warden! I thank you for your patience as I am still in the process of learning the responsibilities of both of my roles.

Out of curiosity, I recently read more about St. Francis of Assisi and learned that, after an encounter with a leper, he began to turn his life towards God and, while praying one day, he heard a voice saying, "Francis, repair my church." That struck a chord with me as my assigned Vestry focus is the church facility and grounds. So coupled with my role as Junior Warden, repairing the church is my responsibility. Don't get me wrong, I realize, as St. Francis did, that God's command of "repair my church" reached far beyond the physical church. In responding to God's command, St. Francis began to live a simple life by performing manual labor and ministering to the poor and underprivileged. He felt compassion for everyone and believed people should treat others as if they were Christ. We learn from St. Francis to be good stewards of God's creation and that includes plants, animals, and humans. One of the things I love about our church that is aligned with St. Francis' beliefs is our desire to help others who are less fortunate, especially those who suffer food insecurity. Katherine and I are helping the Meals on Wheels team and enjoy working alongside dedicated members who have been doing this for years. All of us on the team are so happy to know we're helping feed those in need. The SFBTS parishioners do an awesome job of responding to the call to bring food and clothing donations which are usually a fixture in our parish hall.





We also help along with many volunteers with picking up donated food from several grocery stores and deliver it to Martha's Mission. The volunteers there work tirelessly to make sure that food gets to those who need it. Like St. Francis, our church has responded to the call to minister to the poor and underprivileged.

As a choir member who loves to sing, one of my favorite things we sing with the congregation each week is "The Prayer of St. Francis," and I try to really focus on his words to guide me in my every day life. I won't comment on each phrase of his prayer but particularly love the line "in giving of ourselves that we receive". I plan to do just that as I serve this church as a Vestry member and as Junior Warden. I look forward to making sure I "repair the church" as needed. Even more importantly, I look forward to working with all of you as we, God's people, are called to continue to serve and love others not only with our words but by our actions. In doing so, we will receive far more than we give.

Terry Parrish



Search Committee Update

At last- the wait is over! Our position for part-time rector has been posted for six weeks and Canon Stephanie Allen has vetted the candidates and sent the resumes as well as the Transition Questionnaire (same questions we were asked as a congregation) for each candidate to the Search Committee. After a lengthy Zoom call with Canon Allen to review the interview process and communication protocol, we are ready to begin the initial review of each candidate. We will go over the documents carefully, then view multiple sermons online and evaluate each person. We will meet as a committee to assess the candidates using tools provided by the Diocese. Once the initial review is completed we will schedule a Zoom Call with each candidate. Candidates chosen to move forward will be scheduled for an in person visit, including spouses. Candidates will be narrowed down to a final list and after much prayer and thought, the committee will communicate the finalist to the Vestry who will conduct their own review. If none of the candidates seem to be a good fit we will ask that the position be reposted. We are very hopeful that this will not happen but must be aware of the possibility.

The names of candidates and any details regarding them and the search process must be kept confidential to protect them in their current position. Very firm that no information be shared with anyone. We would feel terrible if somehow their current congregation got wind they are considering leaving and not learn this from their priest.

We ask that each of you pray daily for the Search Committee to find the right person to be our spiritual leader and know we are grateful for your support.

Peace.

Beth Beswick, Frances Jenkins, Skip Kemp, Kelly Sheeks, Marion Morris



Towel and Basin

By Deacon Robin

Beautiful June is here, and it's a perfect time to participate in some of these wonderful opportunities for ministry.

Our collection for Trinity Center campers will continue through Trinity Sunday on June 15. Trinity Center provides an amazing camp experience in a supportive Christian environment for children and youth, and we are fortunate to have their terrific facilities so close to us. Some campers cannot bring the extras they need to have a great camp experience, so please bring any of these items to share with them: sunscreen, beach towels, swim goggles, flip flops, bug spray, sun glasses, caps, etc. The campers and the staff will appreciate your generosity. **Thank you for helping children and young people.**

Our next visit to Carteret Landing will be on Saturday, June 28 at 3:00 PM. Join us as we sing hymns and interact with the residents, especially our own Anne Clarke, as well as other friends of St. Francis by the Sea. We will gather at the entrance and go in together to share an hour with the folks there. If you'd rather not sing, no worries - there will be plenty of time to interact with the residents. Join us, and you will be glad you gave that hour to serve others! **Thank you for caring for others.**



The Meals Ministry Team will be busy in June. On June 3, we will prepare baked pasta, green beans, and desserts, and on June 17, the menu will include hash brown casserole, baked apples, and muffins. With increased need in our community, we now send 75 meals out for distribution to Meals on Wheels recipients, and we deliver parishioner meals to anyone who has a need. We also offer Love Meals for anyone who would like a meal; feel free to take them from the top shelf of the freezer to share with anyone any time. If you are able to provide ingredients, sign up sheets are on the Meals Ministry Team table in the parish hall, and if you would like to cook, join us in the kitchen at 11:00 AM on June 3 and/or 17. **Thank you for feeding the hungry.**

Thank you for your generous support of our canned vegetables collection during Lent. We collected 800 cans, which is enough to feed 40 large families (five or six family members) for one month. Great job, St. Francis by the Sea! Martha's Mission Cupboard is so grateful for your support, and many families will have healthier meals because of you gave generously. We will continue to collect plastic grocery bags for use at Martha's Mission; you can add them to the blue container under the Meals Ministry table. **Thank you for feeding the hungry in our community.**

Special thanks to the Men of St. Francis. As part of their Memorial Day weekend fundraiser, this great group provided grilled chicken dinners to our local first responders. Well done!



St. Francis by the Sea Music Ministry Minute

Craig Everett, music director

Pentecost is the celebration of when the Holy Spirit descended. Fifty days after Jesus Christ rose from the grave, the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles. I know many of you, like me, feel the Holy Spirit each and every time you walk through the doors of our beloved parish.

Jesus promised his disciples that an advocate and helper would come. After He was crucified and sent to His Father's kingdom that helper, the Holy Spirit, arrived from heaven to speak to the disciples. Now the Holy Spirit dwells in us, empowering us with his presence and grace.

The Season after Pentecost, the longest season of the church year, is also a significant period in the liturgical year, offering an extended time for reflection, growth, and action in the Christian life. It's a time for deepening understanding of scripture, spiritual maturity, and implementing Jesus' teachings in daily life. This season is characterized by the color green, symbolizing growth, and is often seen as a time to focus on relationships with God, Christ, and one another, as well as the work of the Church.

*Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And You shall renew the face of the earth.*

During the season after Pentecost, also known as Ordinary Time, music often reflects themes of God's grace, the ongoing work of salvation, and the call to discipleship. Our hymns and choral anthems will focus on biblical narratives, personal experiences of faith, or spiritual truths related to the season. This will be a time to celebrate the ongoing presence of God in the world and to encourage everyone to live in light of their Christian faith. As always here at St. Francis by the Sea, the theme of God's love for each other will continue to be a primary focus in our music offerings. Pentecost is indeed a long and wonderful season when as we focus on how God grows His Church through His Word. We hope our music will be a blessing to you this summer.

Peace and Grace to you during this season of Pentecost.
Craig



Lay Ministry Schedule

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	June 1	June 8	June 15	June 22	June 29
Lector	Kathy Driver	Kay Brackins	Frances Jenkins	Joey Mossor	Nora Webb
Prayers	Marion Morris	Carol Holland	Donald Williams	Mollie Mossor	Elizabeth Sheeks
Altar Guild	Betsy Randall	Elizabeth Sheeks	Laura Leslie	Gay Lea	Jean Smith
Chalice	Sarah Criddle Terry Parrish	Marion Morris Terry Smith	Elizabeth Sheeks Kelly Sheeks	Libba Shelton Scott Shelton	Martha Edwards Jami Turner
Crucifer	Frances Jenkins	Jami Turner	Dale Elks	Terry Smith	Kelly Sheeks
Torch Bearer	Scott Shelton Bill Blanchard	Mary Kurek Kelly Sheeks	George Grigg Kay Brackins	Liam Mossor Martha Edwards	Sarah Criddle Don Sparrow
Audio	Larry Castle	Stover Morris	Larry Castle	Stover Morris	Larry Castle
Video	Skip Kemp	John Clarke	Skip Kemp	John Clarke	Skip Kemp
Coffee Hour	Elizabeth/Kelly Sheeks	Layne/Ron Helwig	Christina/Dan Hess	LabyrinthCommittee	Pam Ball/Gay Lea
Vestry of the Day	Kay Brackins	Dale Elks	Lisa Park	Pam Ball	Sharon Birmingham



June Birthdays

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Eric Ellis–3
Stephen Elkins-Williams–9
Marion Morris–9
Jami Turner – 10
Harold O’Briant–14
Jean Smith – 20
Mary Hartman–23
Mary Kurek - 26

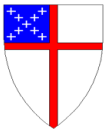
* If you don't see your name above and would like to be added to our birthday list, please email or call the church office.

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.
Nursery is not available at this time.

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



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