



The Song of Saint Francis



Saint Francis by the Sea Episcopal Church, Salter Path, NC October 2026

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

*Sat, October 3, 10 a.m.-Blessing of the Animals

*Sun, October 4, 5 p.m.-Choral Evensong

*Tues, October 6, 20, 11 a.m.-Meals on Wheels

*Wed, October 14, 21, 28, 5:30 p.m.-Way of St. Francis

*Sat, October 17, 8 a.m.-Men of St. Francis Fellowship Breakfast

*Sun, October 18, 6 p.m.-Celebration of New Ministry

*Sun, November 1, following service-In-gathering Luncheon



One of the many blessings of living on Emerald Isle is to walk along the beach each day. The water, sand, sky, and wind are always changing, always beautiful. And what abundance! This past week, the ocean literally teemed with life - fish jumping, birds diving. What an outpouring of creation, of dynamic interaction, energy, and pure joy! How can we not be awed by the abundance of our God?

Our gospel assures us of God's abundance of a different kind: abundance of forgiveness, of mercy, of grace and healing. At our communion table, we receive an abundance of welcome, of bread and wine, fellowship and belonging. In our community, we find an abundance of love, strength and connection.

So much abundance is ours every day. All of it, every bit, is a gift from God's generous hand. The breath we take, the food we eat, the beauty that surrounds us, the wealth we accumulate, the privileges we enjoy - everything comes from our abundant God.

How shall we respond to the gifts we are given? So often, our first impulse is to accumulate. We save and store up material things. We store up love, and compassion. We can be stingy in giving forgiveness, and guarded in sharing what we have. We live in fear of scarcity, worried that we won't have enough, when all around us is evidence that God provides.

When we begin to comprehend God's abundance, the depth of all God provides, only one response makes sense - gratitude. Seeing everything as gift, we assume a posture of thanksgiving in all we do. With compassion for those who are in need, we share from our abundance so that everyone might have enough. We walk together in love - love for one another, love for this amazing creation, and love for our abundant God.

May we have eyes to see and hearts to praise.

In Christ,
Mary Kay+

The Canticle of the Sun

St. Francis of Assisi

Most high, all-powerful, all good, Lord! All praise is yours, all glory, all honor and all blessing. To you alone, Most High, do they belong. No mortal lips are worthy to pronounce your name.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through all that you have made, and first my lord Brother Sun, who brings the day; and light you give to us through him. How beautiful is he, how radiant in all his splendor! Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Moon and Stars; In the heavens you have made them, bright, And precious and fair.

All praise be yours, My Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air, and fair and stormy, all the weather's moods, by which you cherish all that you have made.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Water, So useful, lowly, precious and pure.

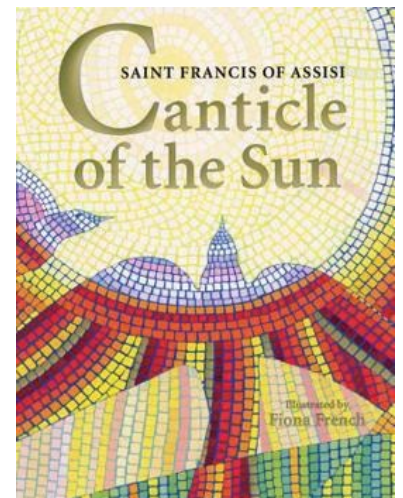
All praise be yours, my Lord, through Brother Fire, through whom you brighten up the night. How beautiful is he, how gay! Full of power and strength.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Earth, our mother, who feeds us in her sovereignty and produces Various fruits with colored flowers and herbs.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through those who grant pardon for love of you; through those who endure Sickness and trial. Happy those who endure in peace, by you, Most High, they will be crowned.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Death, from whose embrace no mortal can escape. Woe to those who die in mortal sin! Happy those She finds doing your will! The second death can do no harm to them.

Praise and bless my Lord, and give him thanks, and serve him with great humility.





VESTRY VIEW

JESUS AND CHILDREN

Mark 10:13-16 People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

The New Oxford Annotated Bible New Revised Standard Version commentary notes the word **indignant**, that Jesus often exhibits visceral emotion when he encounters forces that impede divine care for the afflicted and weak. **As a little child**, grammatically ambiguous, the phrase signals either that Jesus commends welcoming little children or sees them as exemplary for welcoming God's kingdom.

The Renovare Spiritual Formation Bible notes **to such as these...the kingdom of god belongs** that Jesus' all-inclusive love reaches out not only to adult "tax collectors and sinners," but to little children, who are often neglected, abused, or ignored by "grown-up" society. To fully participate in the kingdom of God we will need to teach-and learn from-the children and youth in our midst.

Matthew 19:13-15 Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

From The Episcopal Church "Lesson Plans that Work" we need to ask ourselves the following questions. What is it that the disciples do not "get?" (Children are not only allowed, but welcomed to come to Jesus.) What three things does Jesus say about these little children? (Let them come to me; do nothing to stop their coming; and God's kingdom is for "such as these.") Do we think this means that we have to be childish to be Christians? If not then what does it mean? (Consider the attributes of a child that Jesus might be referring to: openness, enthusiasm, vulnerability, expecting joy, anticipating surprise.)

How well do we welcome children in our worship and ministry at St. Francis? Could we do more?

Laura Leslie





VESTRY VIEW

Children's Activities at St. Francis

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is offered each week during the first portion of the worship service. Lessons are based on the Bible lectionary readings appointed for that day's worship and are designed for children ages three through fifth grade.

Each session is led by two adult parishioners. A team of eight trained volunteers rotate throughout the year, and all teachers have completed the required Safe Church training.

NURSERY

The Nursery welcomes children from birth through age three. Parents are asked to sign children in and out and to note any allergies or special needs on the sign-in sheet.

The Nursery is staffed by two adults who have completed Safe Church training. One caregiver is a parishioner, and the other is a staff member provided through Nancy's Nanny. The owner of Nancy's Nanny is well known to the Vestry, and all staff members have undergone background and reference checks. In addition, a Vestry member interviews each caregiver to ensure they are a good fit for serving our youngest children.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

Children are always welcome in worship. During the service, they may enjoy books, activity sheets, crayons, crafts, and other age-appropriate activities at the Children's Table located at the back of the sanctuary.

For questions or additional information, please contact Laura Leslie or Elizabeth Jobe.



Towel and Basin

By Deacon Robin

As we move into October, my favorite month of the year, I am grateful for the efforts of all who made September a productive month for outreach.

The **Men of St. Francis** prepared a feast to thank our First Responders in Indian Beach/Salter Path on September 11. They served grilled chicken, sides, and desserts, and their efforts were much appreciated by those who serve and protect our community.

In addition to cooking twice for Meals on Wheels, the **Meals Ministry Team** prepared lunch for guests at Hope Mission. We served ham (thanks to a generous donor), potato casserole, green beans, and rolls, and desserts were provided by parishioners. Servers included David Lodge, Lynn and Mike Weddle, Jim and Carol Holland, Debbie McLean, and Terry Smith. Our next date to serve at Hope Mission is November 21, so plan now to be part of this ministry.

We will be busy serving others in October. How would you like to help?

The **Meals Ministry Team** will convene twice in October to cook for Meals on Wheels recipients. On October 6, we will make chili, corn muffins, and dessert. On the 22nd, the menu is chicken broccoli casserole with carrots and dessert. The Meals Ministry Team is incredibly faithful in this work. Every other Tuesday, they put aside other things to devote a few hours to helping those in our community who need a filling meal for the weekend. Recipients of Meals on Wheels receive meals from Hope Mission Monday through Friday, and three churches - St. Peter's Methodist, St. Andrews Episcopal, and St. Francis by the Sea - provide frozen meals that recipients can microwave for the weekend. We have now provided thousands of meals, and the need continues to grow. Please help us by providing ingredients (signup sheets are on the MMT table in the parish hall), by helping to cook and/or deliver, and by your prayers. There is no audition for the MMT, and you don't need great cooking skills, just a generous heart, a sense of humor, and a willing spirit!



Our **Food Recoveries Team** continues to do amazing work for Martha's Mission. Six days each week, volunteers from St. Francis pick up food from local grocery stores and deliver it to Martha's Mission for distribution to families in our community. Without the generosity of these volunteers (nearly 30 from SFBTS!), there would be much less meat and produce, and almost no bakery items for families to receive. When you're shopping at Publix, Food Lion in Emerald Isle, Walmart in Morehead City, or Lowes in Cape Carteret or Morehead City, please tell them you appreciate their generosity in donating to Martha's Mission. The food recoveries make a significant difference to families who need assistance.

We are in the midst of our **Lobsterfest Food Drive**, the largest food drive of our year, and so far we have nearly filled two tables in the parish hall. Let's fill at least four tables with these items: **canned vegetables (anything other than green beans); boxed cereal; pasta; canned meat/fish/chicken; canned sloppy Joe mix; Hamburger/Tuna/Chicken Helper; and/or condiments in plastic containers.** If all our regular SFBTS attendees bring in just 10 items, we will make a huge difference for our neighbors in need. Ten cans of vegetables can be purchased for about \$10; for most of us, that won't be much of a dent in our food budgets, and together we will make a huge difference for our neighbors. Hate shopping for groceries? No problem - bring me the money you would like to spend, and I will shop for you.

Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me. Matthew 25:40

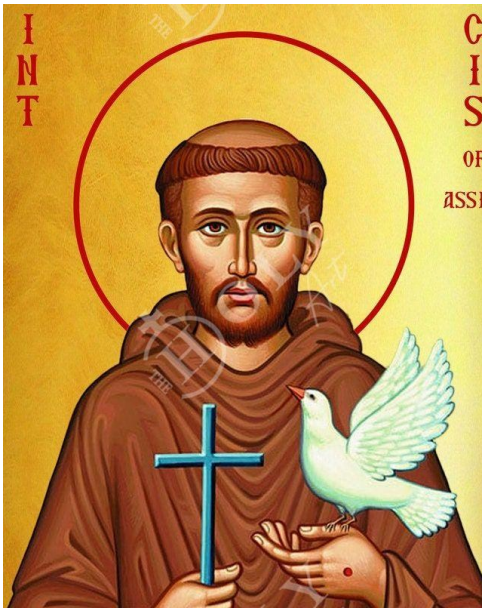


Join Us on “The Way of St. Francis”

St. Francis is more than just a name for our parish. We are named for St. Francis of Assisi (c. 1181–1226), and you don’t have to look far around our campus to find an image of him.

St. Francis is one of the best-known and most beloved saints, sometimes affectionately called the “bird-bath saint.” But who was Francis, really, and what did he believe?

Francis was radically committed to following Jesus. Hospitality, simplicity, humility, respect for the earth, and a belief that all creation reflects God were at the heart of his life and teachings. And perhaps most importantly, Francis embodied **joy**.



Over three sessions, we’ll become more familiar with St. Francis—the man, his life, his theology, and his legacy. We’ll explore how our own “Way of St. Francis” reflects his teachings and consider how we might embody those teachings in our own lives and live more fully into what we believe.

Please join us for “**The Way of St. Francis**,” a three-session exploration of the saint whose name and example are at the heart of our parish.

We’ll meet on **Wednesdays, October 14, 21, and 28**. We’ll gather for a **potluck meal at 5:30 p.m.**, followed by the program at **6:00 p.m.**

Come share a meal, learn more about Francis, and explore what it might mean for us to follow his way.



Please join us for these upcoming events...

The Blessing of the Animals

Please join us on Saturday, October 3rd at 10 am on our labyrinth for the annual St. Francis by the Sea Blessing of the Animals. Be sure to bring your pets for a special blessing during this memorable service in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals.

An Evensong for the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi

Please join us on Sunday, October 4 at 5 pm as we welcome our neighboring parish of St. Paul's Church, Beaufort for a joint combined Evensong honoring our patron saint, St. Francis of Assisi. A reception will follow the 45-minute service of meaningful scripture, liturgy, and music downstairs in our Parish Hall.

The feast day of Saint Francis of Assisi is celebrated annually on October 4th. A radical follower of poverty and a lover of nature, St. Francis, a 13th-century Italian friar, famously preached to the animals and view all of creation as his siblings and is widely revered as the patron saint of animals and ecology.

What is an Evensong? For over 450 years, communities have gathered at day's end to let go of the world's urgency and enter a space where time seems to slow, where beauty and silence speak as eloquently as words.

Celebration of New Ministry for the Reverend Mary Kay Brown

Please join us on Saturday, October 18, at 6 pm, for an official Celebration of New Ministry for our rector, Mary Kay Brown. Bishop Sarah Fisher will be officiating the service with area clergy in attendance. Since this service is scheduled by the Diocese of East Carolina, we will be sharing the starting time and more details soon.



Stewardship Season at St. Francis by the Sea

Stewardship Season begins, September 27 and will run through the entire month of October. Please pray this prayer as you begin to think in ways of increasing your treasures, time and talents to our beloved parish, St. Francis by the Sea Episcopal Church, and more importantly, our Lord, Jesus Christ:

*O GOD,
our loving Creator and Giver of all good gifts:
As Christ loved us, may we also walk in love.
Inspire us with gratitude and abundance
as we share our many blessings—
our wealth, our works, and our wisdom—
with our neighbors, our church, and the world you made.
Hear the prayers of your people,
and guide us in lives of generous and joyful service
in your holy name, we pray. Amen.*

All-Saints Day In-gathering Luncheon

Please join us for All-Saints' Day worship service, followed by a special in-gathering luncheon **on Sunday, November 1.** During this service, we will remember our loved ones who have gone on before us and will give thanks for all of our blessings in life. Our clergy will also bless all of the pledges that have come in during our Stewardship Season at St. Francis by the Sea.



STEWARDSHIP
A Way of Life



The Poet with His Face in His Hands

by Mary Oliver (2005)

You want to cry aloud for your
mistakes. But to tell the truth the world
doesn't need anymore of that sound.

So if you're going to do it and can't
stop yourself, if your pretty mouth can't
hold it in, at least go by yourself across

the forty fields and the forty dark inclines
of rocks and water to the place where
the falls are flinging out their white sheets

like crazy, and there is a cave behind all that
jubilation and water fun and you can
stand there, under it, and roar all you

want and nothing will be disturbed; you can
drip with despair all afternoon and still,
on a green branch, its wings just lightly touched

by the passing foil of the water, the thrush,
puffing out its spotted breast, will sing
of the perfect, stone-hard beauty of everything.

(I just can't get over the tone of this poem. It's not harsh, but it is so cold that it cuts glass.)



Lay Ministry Schedule

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	October 4	October 11	October 18	October 18 (6 p.m.)	October 25
Lector	Beth Beswick	Kelly Sheeks	Terry Smith	Libba Shelton	Kathy Driver
Prayers	Carol Holland	Elsie Phillip	Debbie McLean	Nora Webb	Cecile Shenkan
Altar Guild	Elizabeth Sheeks	Laura Leslie	Frances Jenkins Elizabeth Sheeks	Frances Jenkins Elizabeth Sheeks	Carol Holland
Chalice	Terry Parrish Terry Smith	Marian Goetzinger Marion Morris	Libba Shelton Scott Shelton	Sarah Criddle Stover Morris	Elizabeth Sheeks Kelly Sheeks
Crucifer	Jami Turner-White	Stover Morris	Kelly Sheeks	Scott Shelton	Terry Smith
Torchbearers	Kay Brackins Scott Shelton	Frances Jenkins Tim Owens	Donald Johnson Sarah Criddle	George Grigg Liam Mossor	Marian Goetzinger Jami Turner-White
Greeters	Grace Kemp Elsie Phillip	Melanie Hum Scott Hum	Robin Miner Ed Miner	Beth Beswick Bob Blalock	Elsie Phillip Terry Robertson
Audio	Stover Morris	Larry Castle	Larry Castle	Stover Morris	Stover Morris
Video	Skip Kemp	David Stroud	John Clarke	John Clarke	Skip Kemp
Coffee Hour	Daughters of the King	Jami/Gordon White	Marion/Stover Morris	RECEPTION AFTER	Judy/Steve Gould
Vestry of the Day	Sharon Birmingham	Pam Ball	Kathy Driver	Pam Ball	Bruce Jobe



October Birthdays

12



Geraline Castle-4
Penn Perry-4
Betsy Elkins-Williams-4
Donald Williams-8
Patrick Tormey - 11
Pat Jones - 13
Andy Wright - 13
Jeanie Best - 15

Ann Grigg - 23
Kay Brackins - 24
Anne Rives Lawrence - 25
Henry Lawrence - 25
Len Thomas-29
Moni Bottlinger-31
Sue Perry-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 Sarah Fisher, Bishop

Rector

The Rev. Mary Kay Brown

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

Donald Johnson

Vestry Class of 2026

Pam Ball, Senior Warden

Sharon Birmingham

Terry Smith

Vestry Class of 2027

John Clarke, Junior Warden

Terry Parrish

Laura Leslie

Vestry Class of 2028

Bruce Jobe

Mary Kurek

Kathy Driver

Clerk of the Vestry

Korin Gagnon

Music Director

Craig Everett

Art Gallery Director

Tim Bradford

Vergers

Marion Morris

Communications

Penn Perry



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