



The Song of Saint Francis



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

*Tues, Feb 10, 24, 11 a.m.-Meals on Wheels Prep

*Tues, Feb 17-Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (MOSF)

*Sat, Feb 21, 8 a.m.-MOSF

*Sat, Feb 21, 4 p.m.-Labyrinth Walk



Song of St. Francis

As we've walked together through this season of Epiphany, I've enjoyed hearing from you about your 'star' words and how they have spoken to you. Remember, Epiphany is a season of revelation, our chance to ponder what it means that God walked on earth with us. Some of you thought your words were perfect; others found them challenging. Isn't that what this walk with Jesus is all about - sometimes challenging, sometimes comforting, always full of learning and growth if we are open to the Spirit. I hope your words continue to inspire and turn your attention to the light.

Take a deep breath and appreciate this season of illumination, the joy of Christ among us. Soon enough, our journey takes a turn. Ash Wednesday is February 18. We eat pancakes, and then are marked with ashes and reminded that we are dust. The season of Lent offers us an invitation to:

- *Solitude, reflection and repentance
- *Ask hard questions: what separates us from God?
- *Change habits that distract us from the presence and love of God
- *Deepen our relationship with Christ.
- *Prepare for the mystery and gift of the resurrection

Please join us for a simple supper and a Lenten study beginning on Wednesday Feb. 25: Our focus will be Keeping a Holy Lent: Journey with Jesus. We will discuss the history and meaning of the season of Lent, and learn of ways we can develop Lenten practices which draw us closer to Jesus. We will dive deeply into the events of Holy Week, from Palm Sunday to Maundy Thursday, the violence of Good Friday to the mystery of the resurrection. We will draw on scripture and tradition for understanding of the passion of Jesus - what he came for, what he cared about, the meaning of his suffering and death. We'll have time for learning and also personal reflection.

The study begins on Feb. 25 and continues on Wednesdays March 4, 11, 18, and 25. Supper starts at 5:30, study at 6:15 and we will end each session with compline.

This journey together with Jesus through Lent promises to be rich in learning, insight and growth. I look forward to continuing to walk with you.

Light and blessings,
Mary Kay+



VESTRY VIEW

SAFE CHURCH, SAFE COMMUNITIES

The Episcopal Church has always strived to be a safe place for all to gather, to learn, and to worship. To that end, for decades we have had programs in place to set standards and provide education for protecting the vulnerable among us.

By our Baptismal Covenant we are called to seek and serve Christ in all persons, to respect the dignity of every human being and strive for justice and peace. That means we strive to improve our protection of children, youth and vulnerable adults. The Diocese of East Carolina updated policies in 2021 which call for a higher level of accountability in our ministries, parishes, and in the diocese. With them, we will be protecting a greater range of people to keep them safe from harm.

Policies for the protection of children and youth and vulnerable adults include Screening, Training and Behavioral Standards.

Screening includes public records checks, background checks, application, interview and references. The ministry position will determine the screening protocol. Training is also specialized and tailored to the ministry function. Ministry positions include staff, vestry members, altar guild, Sunday School, Lay Eucharistic Visitors.

Training involves the completion of Safeguarding God's People modules online through Praesidium. Examples of training include Policies on the Protection of Children, Youth and Vulnerable Adults; Healthy Boundaries; Power and Relationships; Inclusion; Anti-Harassment. Modules must be completed every three years. ✎





Behavioral Standards include that at least two unrelated adults be present at ministry settings for children and youth; creating safe space in relation to alcohol, electronic devices and unused spaces; one-to-one conversations; basic needs; inclusiveness; violence and weapons guidelines; appropriate physical expressions of care.

The Diocesan policies also include responding to concerns regarding children, youth and vulnerable adults – suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation; violation of behavioral standards.

A Collect for Safe Church, Safe Communities

Holy Creator, we offer our gratitude for the opportunity to live in community, where we can take comfort in others and be nurtured when needy, fed when hungry, and protected when threatened. Guide us as we strive to protect those in our midst who are most vulnerable and innocent, respecting the dignity of all humans, so we can more fully and appropriately love our neighbors and ourselves. Help us to be examples in the world in the likeness of your son Jesus, who spoke truth to power, gave hope to the hopeless, and loved selflessly. We humbly ask for all of this through the gift of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Laura Leslie

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Towel and Basin

By Deacon Robin

February may be the shortest month, but there is plenty of time to be involved in service at St. Francis by the Sea!

The Meals Ministry Team will be preparing food for ***Meals on Wheels*** recipients in our community twice in February. On the 10th, we will prepare chili, corn muffins, and dessert. On the 24th, the menu will be macaroni and cheese with ham, vegetables, and dessert. If you would like to help provide ingredients, sign up sheets are on the Meals Ministry table in the parish hall. If you would like to help cook, come to the kitchen at 11:00 AM, and join our group of faithful volunteers. We have a good time while we prepare the meals, and we welcome everyone. Remember that there are Love Meals on the top shelf of the freezer that are available to anyone at any time. Share them with anyone who would enjoy having a meal. **Thank you for caring for others in our community.**



At the chili cook-off on February 4, we will be collecting a ***cash offering*** for our local food bank, Martha's Mission. There are many folks in our community who are struggling to feed themselves and their families. Please come and enjoy the chili, and give what you can to help others. **Thank you for feeding hungry families in our community.**

The season of Lent will begin in February, and with it comes our ***Lenten food drive***. During Lent, we will be focusing on the Gospel of John, and just as Jesus and the disciples fed the crowd in the familiar passage in the 6th chapter of John, we are also called to feed others. This year, the need is great for cereal. Help our local families by bringing in boxes of cereal; all types of cereal are appreciated. Let's fill some tables in the parish hall! **Thank you for feeding the hungry in our community.**

St. Francis by the Sea is a loving, giving parish, and it is a privilege to serve with you.
Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ in our community.





Good morning and a Happy New Year to each of you. I realize you will be seeing this in February, but it is January while I am writing, and we all need happy wishes from friends.

I am sitting here pondering why my mouth opened and volunteered to write this article. I am not a writer, and I do not always get what I am trying to say across coherently. I often wonder just why I said something instead of being quiet. I am the first to tell you that my mouth is often not connected to my brain but here we go while I attempt to share a little of my journey.

I am one of the newest members of the Daughters of the King and thought I would never say that. I am a cradle Episcopalian. I have known about the Daughters my entire adult life and have been invited to join previously even when my church did not have a chapter. My thoughts were: I already belong to a prayer chain and a prayer group, I do not need a special cross to let folks know that I'm a part of a prayer group (after all, doesn't the Bible tell us our prayers should be in secret), what are prayers without putting some works into them (these folks just sit around and pray).

Then I arrived at St. Francis. After saying no very emphatically, I began to quietly watch and be aware of what these ladies did, and they did a lot. Yes, they do pray intentionally. They also support each other on their journeys. They have meetings, hold different programs for the entire parish, do book studies and discussions, and they do outreach. So, I said yes to the discernment process and then yes to joining the Daughters. My life has been much enriched by this journey.

So if you are curious or think you might be interested in becoming a part of this lay order or if you would like prayers (which are always confidential), please feel free to talk to any one of us: Grace Kemp, Robin Smith, 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.

This is our DOK Motto and it needs no explanation.

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?

Sarah Criddle



On December 21, 2025, Bishop Rob Skirving visited for worship that included confirmation, reception and reaffirmation of Baptismal vows for l to r, Donald Johnson, Mollie Mosser, Melanie and Scott Hum, Elsie Phillip, Ann Hines, Terry and Dave Robertson, Bowen Mosser, Liam Mosser, Craig Everett. Also pictured are Bishop Rob Skirving, Reverend Mary Kay Brown and Rev. Deacon Robin Smith.



Lay Ministry Schedule

8

	February 1	February 8	February 15	February 18 Ash Wednesday	February 22
Lector	Terry Smith	Martha Edwards	Betsy Randall	Libba Shelton	Kathy Driver
Prayers	Mollie Mossor	Marion Morris	Sharon Birmingham	Elizabeth Sheeks	Martha Edwards
Altar Guild	Laura Leslie	Gay Lea	Betsy Randall	Betsy Randall	Carol Holland
Chalice	Marion Morris Stover Morris	Libba Shelton Scott Shelton	Marian Goetzinger Terry Smith	Sarah Criddle Terry Parrish	Elizabeth Sheeks Kelly Sheeks
Crucifer	Scott Shelton	Tim Owens	Bill Blanchard	Kelly Sheeks	Marian Goetzinger
Torchbearers	Mary Kurek Liam Mossor	Sarah Criddle Marian Goetzinger	Kay Brackins George Grigg	Scott Shelton Terry Smith	Stover Morris Tim Owens
Audio	Larry Castle	Stover Morris	Larry Castle	Stover Morris	Larry Castle
Video	John Clarke	Skip Kemp	John Clarke	John Clarke	Skip Kemp
Coffee Hour	Kay Brackins Sarah Criddle Lisa Park	NONE Super Bowl Luncheon	Geraline/Larry Castle	NONE	Ann/George Grigg
Vestry of the Day	Sharon Birmingham	Pam Ball	Kathy Driver	Bruce Jobe	Mary Kurek
					

February Birthdays

9



Win Perry-2
Holt Perry-2
Joey Mossor-7
Barbara Kyle-10
John Marriott-12
Marian Goetzinger-14

Liam Mossor – 14
Terry Parrish – 18
Jackie Shertzer - 18
Tim Owens – 19
Richard Seale-20

* 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

Priest

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

George Grigg

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 Job

Mary Kurek

Kathy Driver

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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Sound side of NC Hwy. 58, between Mile Marker 10 and 10½
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