



# The Song of Saint Francis



**Saint Francis by the Sea Episcopal Church, Salter Path, NC October, 2024**

## 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

\*Wed, October 2, 6 p.m. (New Moon)-Guided Labyrinth Walk with Amanda Todd

\*Fri, October 4, 5:00 p.m.-Potluck Supper

\*Sat, October 5, 10 a.m.-Blessing of the Animals

\*Tues, October 8, October 22 11:00 a.m.-Meals on Wheels Cook Dates

\*Sat, October 12, Lobsterfest

\*Sat, October 19, 8:00 a.m.-Men of St. Francis Fellowship Breakfast

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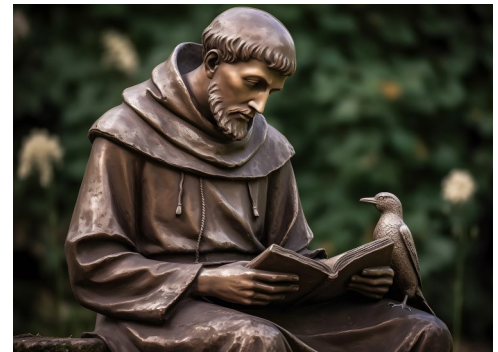


## Song of St Francis October 2024

The feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of St Francis by the Sea, is October 4. It is celebrated in many Episcopal Churches across the country with a Blessing of the Animals. You may have seen photos of great zoo animals out in front of the cathedral of St John the Divine in New York City being blessed. In such a way we celebrate Francis' love of God's Creation.

There are so many legends about St Francis, most of them based upon at least a kernel of truth. He was quite a dandy as a young man, who partied with his buddies; just for the fun of it, he went to war alongside them, too. Unlike his buddies, Francis was thrown into prison. How profoundly this experience affected him we can only know by the turn his life took when he was released.

To rebuild a derelict church near his home, Francis stole expensive textiles from his father's warehouse to pay for materials. When his enraged father demanded repayment, Francis stripped off all his clothing before the Bishop was called to help settle the matter. Francis walked out of the church and what would have been a very wealthy future and walked into a life with God. He claimed as his bride Lady Poverty and committed himself to prayer, living simply and sharing whatever he had with those who had even less.



Francis, like all whom we call saints, set the bar pretty high for the rest of us. But rather than despair of every reaching it, let his life be a reminder of the power of the love of God to transform us in great and small ways, through the love of our pets, by the beauty of Creation, and especially through the commitment we make to share that love with others.

At the end of his life, Francis is said to have blessed those gathered around him with these words: “I have done my part, May Christ teach you to do yours.”

He died on October 3, 1226, at the age of 44.

Mary+



**Vestry View**  
**October 2024**

Scott Shelton

2 Corinthians 4:18 "So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal" (NIV).

Can you define the difference between faith and belief? This has always been a hard one. For me, faith is believing that someone will do something for me or that something will happen. According to Webster's dictionary, Faith is defined as 1: belief and trust in and loyalty to God. 2: belief in the doctrines of a religion. 3: firm belief even in the absence of proof. An example is the woman in Matthew 9:20-22 who had faith that if she touched the hem of Jesus' garment she would be healed...and she was. Hebrews 11:1 says "Now faith is the confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see" (NIV). In faith, we have hope that something will actually happen. It gives us assurance about things we cannot see." We are taught that God will fulfill his promises. Through faith, we believe this.

And Belief, you ask??? The definition is to accept that a statement is true or that something really exists. John 20:29 says, "Then Jesus told him, 'Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'" (NIV). John 6:47 also says, "He who believes in Me has everlasting life" and "Whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16) (NIV).

In my research, I found that these two words are often interchanged. I hope that this may help clear up any confusion you may have. I still have to look at them carefully to understand the difference.

I don't know who to give credit to for the following, but I think it sums faith and belief and some other things pretty well. It is from the Mind Journal which advertises itself as "Your Guide to Better Mental Health Relationships".



up  
and

## 6 Little Stories With Lots of Meanings

Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. That is faith.

When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. That is belief.

Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set the alarms to wake up. That is hope.

We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That is confidence.

We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children. That is love.

On an old man's shirt was written a sentence, "I am not 80 years old, I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience.". That is attitude.

Faith and belief go hand in hand. I still struggle with separating the two, but it makes me feel good to know that I have both.



## Towel and Basin By Deacon Robin

Yay for fall! I'm happy to greet October and look forward to some crisp sunny days on the beach, but we will also be busy with outreach projects that serve our community.

In conjunction with Lobsterfest on October 12, we have begun our **fall food drive** to benefit Martha's Mission Cupboard, our local food bank. Please spread the word among your neighbors that we will have a tent in the parking lot on Lobsterfest day to collect food and cash donations, and it's open to anyone whether they are purchasing lobsters or not. Volunteers from Martha's Mission will be on hand, including Manager Ginger Wade, to collect items. We have already filled two tables in the parish hall with food items, and I hope we will fill many more! The items most needed include:

Boxed cereal	Hamburger/chicken/tuna Helper
Canned meats/tuna/chicken	Rice mixes - Rice a Roni, Knorr, etc.
Canned soup	Condiments - ketchup, mustard, mayo
Canned vegetables (NOT corn and green beans)	Pasta and sauces
Shampoo, bar soap, disposable razors	Salad dressing
Kids' bag items: pudding, fruit cups, crackers, canned pasta, juice boxes, milk boxes, snack packs, cereal bars, tuna pouches, etc.	



Please bring your donations to the parish hall, or bring them on Lobsterfest day. The need is great among our neighbors.



We need volunteers at Martha's Mission who could work a morning shift (10:00 AM - 12:30 PM) or an afternoon shift (12:30 - 3:00 PM) on Monday, Wednesday, and/or Friday. Volunteers sort and pack food for clients; please see me for more information about this opportunity. Special thanks to several of the Men of St. Francis group who help unload the trucks at Martha's Mission on the second and fourth Mondays around noon, and to the 20+ folks from SFBTS who are involved in food recoveries at local grocery stores. Together we are making a difference! **Thank you for feeding the hungry.**





The Meals Ministry Team will cook twice in October. On October 8 we will make hash brown casserole, carrots, and muffins. On October 22, the team will prepare chili, corn muffins, and dessert. All cooks and helpers are welcome to join us at 11:00 AM in the kitchen as we work together to prepare 64 meals every other week for Meals on Wheels recipients, as well as parishioner meals for those who have needs. We keep the top shelf of the freezer stocked with Love Meals that are available for anyone, so please share them with someone who would enjoy having a meal. The Meals Ministry Team will also prepare friendship dough as part of our stewardship campaign, More Than Enough, and we are making plans for serving Thanksgiving lunch at Hope Mission. **Thank you for caring for the needy in our community.**



The first responders and public service workers in Indian Beach/Salter Path were happy to receive the luncheon we provided for them on September 11. We filled two tables with ham, side dishes, desserts, and beverages to honor our local heroes and thank them for all the good work they do. **Thank you for remembering those who serve others in our community.**

As part of our efforts to protect our island environment, we are making every effort to reduce waste. A generous donor has funded the purchase of reusable dishes that will replace paper/plastic ware for our parish activities. We have dinner plates, bowls, and small plates. If you are hosting coffee hour, the small plates are available to use as a perfect substitute for disposables. The dishes are stored in the kitchenette downstairs, and we will soon have reusable glassware as well. The dishwasher upstairs is available for quick cleanup. Watch for upcoming news about collection of reusable mugs for coffee hours. Every time we reuse these items, we are keeping garbage out of the landfills. **Thank you for helping to protect our fragile island environment!**



St. Francis by the Sea is a loving, giving parish, and it is a privilege to serve with you! If you know of needs that we could address, email me at [sfbtsdeacon@gmail.com](mailto:sfbtsdeacon@gmail.com) or see me after any service. **Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ in our community.**





*And taking the five loaves and the two fish,  
He looked to heaven, and blessed and broke them,  
and give them to his disciples to set before the crowd.  
And all ate and were filled.  
What was left over was gathered up,  
twelve baskets of broken pieces. Luke:16-27*

Dear Friends of Saint Francis by the Sea.

Leading the annual fall giving campaign is never easy, but it has its rewards. One of those is to witness the power of how our gifts fund the mission and ministry of our church in the community. Because of YOU, we can share our message of love, joy, hope, and healing with many, and this is the greatest gift!

As the stewardship chairperson, it falls on me to talk about wealth. Each household has a different financial experience due to inflation, budget restrictions, and a sometime turbulent market. Even so, we remain inspired by the ways you have made and continue to make your financial gifts a priority to sustain our ministry.

Our pledge campaign, that is now underway, focuses on the MIRACLE OF SHARING... how our means meet the world's needs, how we respond to the Gospel, and how we sustain our community. Our theology of giving focuses on the three-legged stool of WEALTH, WORKS, and WISDOM, how we make our gifts to the world.

IN ABUNDANT GRATITUDE, every time I think of St. Francis by the Sea, I am overwhelmed with gratefulness for you and the members of our parish. We have all witnessed such generosity throughout the years as you contribute ideas, funds, and time to our community of faith. Every dollar we raise, every minute of volunteerism, and every good plan comes from the heart and goes toward our mission. This year, we are asking you to consider pledging even more to our loving parish so we can accomplish even more.

I ask that you pray our STEWARDSHIP PRAYER often as we seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we continue through this Season of Stewardship at St. Francis. Together, we gather our gifts and show our gratitude, so consider how you will contribute your gifts of wisdom and resources to spread the Gospel in 2025.

In Christian Love,  
Craig Everett

*GRACIOUS AND LOVING GOD,  
We know that it is from your hand that we receive all that we have and all that we are.  
We believe that you call us to be the stewards of the gifts you have entrusted to us.  
Help us to respond to your generosity, by our generosity to all in need;  
to respond to your forgiveness, by our willingness to forgive others.  
Lord, help us always to place you at the center of our lives  
and keep us ever grateful for your constant love.  
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.*



## Next Blood Drive – Thursday, December 5!

Our next American Red Cross blood drive at Saint Francis By the Sea is scheduled for **Thursday, December 5 from 10AM to 3PM** in the Fellowship Hall.

Saint Francis members have been SO loyal to this effort since our first drive nearly a year ago, and we are seeing increasing donations from persons outside the church as well. This has been a wonderfully successful outreach effort for Saint Francis, and we appreciate EVERYONE who donates AND volunteers faithfully at our drives.

The link below is active and ready for YOU to schedule your donation. Please share this information with your friends and encourage them to donate as well.

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?dt=WB:PL:DR:PM&ed=12%2F05%2F2024&order=DATE&range=25&sd=12%2F05%2F2024&zipSponsor=28557>

Thanks for your donation on December 5<sup>th</sup> and for giving the “Gift of Life” during the holiday season!

See you there!



# Lay Ministry Schedule

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	October 6	October 13	October 20	October 27
<b>Lector</b>	Kelly Sheeks	Kathy Driver	Stover Morris	Jami Turner
<b>Prayers</b>	Elizabeth Sheeks	Libba Shelton	Marion Morris	Jean Turner
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Betsy Randall	Elizabeth Sheeks	Laura Leslie	Gay Lea
<b>Chalice</b>	Martha Edwards Sarah Criddle	Marion Morris Marian Goetzinger	Elizabeth Sheeks Kelly Sheeks	Terry Smith Frances Jenkins
<b>Crucifer</b>	Stover Morris	Scott Shelton	Kelly Sheeks	Tim Owens
<b>Torch Bearer</b>	Tim Owens Scott Shelton	Sarah Haigwood Sarah Criddle	Mary Kurek Frances Jenkins	Bill Blanchard Kay Brackins
<b>Audio</b>	Larry Castle	Stover Morris	Larry Castle	Stover Morris
<b>Video</b>	John Clarke	John Clarke	John Clarke	John Clarke
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Family Baby Felix Oviatt	George and Ann Grigg	Beth Beswick/ Sharon Birmingham	Larry and Geraline Castle
<b>Vestry of the Day</b>	Kay Brackins	Dale Elks	Pat Jones	Pam Ball



## October Birthdays

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Geraline Castle-4  
Penn Perry-4  
Betsy Elkins-Williams-4  
Donald Williams-8  
Pat Jones - 13  
Bobbie Hill - 14  
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.

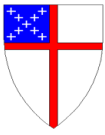
## Art and Music Ministries



*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.  
*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](http://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

**Vergers**

Tim Bradford, Marion Morris

**Parish Administrator**

Ann Grigg

**Treasurer**

Dave Phillips

**Sexton**

George Grigg

**Vestry Class of 2024**

Stover Morris, Senior Warden

Elizabeth Sheeks

Scott Shelton, Junior Warden

**Vestry Class of 2025**

Kay Brackins

Dale Elks

Pat Jones

**Vestry Class of 2026**

Pam Ball

Sharon Birmingham

Terry Smith

**Clerk of the Vestry**

Korin Gagnon

**Music Director**

Craig Everett

**Art Gallery Director**

Tim Bradford

**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  
920 Salter Path Road ● Salter Path, North Carolina ● 28512