



The Song of Saint Francis



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

*Sun, December 1, after church-
Newcomers Class

*Wed, December 4, 3 p.m.-Anglican
Prayer Beads Workshop

*Thurs, December 5, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
-Blood Drive

*Sun, December 8, after church-
Parish Annual Meeting

*Sun, December 15, 4 p.m. (New
Moon)-Guided Labyrinth Walk

*Sun, December 15, 5:30: Angel
Tree Celebration Potluck

*Sat, December 21, 9:00 a.m.-
Parish Family Breakfast put on by
the Men of St. Francis



Song of St Francis December 2024

The season of Advent when we wait for God to come, we hear from the Old Testament prophets of God’s promise to send a redeemer to lead Israel out of captivity.

The prophets Jeremiah, Baruch, Zephaniah, Micah and John the Baptist

show up in the readings this Advent to get our attention so that we will be on the lookout for the Messiah in our own day, into our own lives.



It has been said that the role of a prophet is to comfort the afflicted and to afflict the comfortable.

That means the redeemer whom we expect to find in the manger under the star where we know to look,

Is more likely to find us by getting in our way so that we have to notice him. Any vulnerability in the situation is likely to be our own.

And what we will be vulnerable to is an awareness of our own great need, not his.

The prophets were the kind of difficult people who got in everyone’s way, often saying what no one wanted to hear;

But always they ended their discomfoting message of God’s displeasure with God’s promise of mercy, of rescue and reconciliation.

Love always has the last word.

One of the most famous hymns of Advent expresses the deep longing of the Church for the coming of the redeemer promised by God through the prophets.

It is based on the O Antiphons, which are very old (8th century) prayers based on the various titles for Jesus Christ found in scripture.

Listen for it on the fourth Sunday of Advent, when we sing:

“O Come O Come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the son of God appear..”

Mary+



Vestry View
December 2024

Kay Brackins

It has been a challenging year for St. Francis by the Sea. We have lost some beloved parishioners, others have become ill, there is war and unrest in the world. There were disasters and hardships in our country. We have shared in the sad emotions for all of God's beloved children who are hurting this year.

We have also shared in joy. We are blessed to have new members in our parish family, who have joined right in to support our endeavors. Our Outreach has grown, our choir is expanded, more parishioners are participating in lay ministry, more are participating in outreach. And what a wonderful Lobsterfest. This is truly an amazing parish!

Father Everett has retired and we have the good fortune of having a wonderful interim priest. We have an enthusiastic and open-minded Search Committee, and with the help from past Senior Wardens, we are developing a more efficient way for the vestry to operate.

Despite the uncertainty of this coming year, I choose to look at the positive and know despite some obstacles, God is with me and each parishioner, and with our wonderful Parish. Jesus is with us to light the way, The Spirit will fill our hearts with joy this Christmas Season and throughout the coming year.

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All.



Towel and Basin

By Deacon Robin

We are busy in outreach at St. Francis by the Sea! Where is God calling you to serve?

Our Meals Ministry Team will prepare three meals in December for Meals on Wheels recipients. On December 3, we will make hash brown casserole with vegetables, baked apples, and muffins. On December 17, we will prepare ham, macaroni and cheese, and mixed vegetables with dessert. We will celebrate New Year's Eve by making chili with corn muffins and dessert. If you would like to help, we begin with prayer at 11:00 AM, and we have a good time while we cook; all are welcome! **Thank you for providing food for shut-ins in our community.**

The **Christmas Angel Tree** is up in the parish hall and ready for you to choose your angels. Once again, we are supporting families from **Carteret Preschool**. Many of the students in the preschool are from military families or families with low incomes or limited English; some have identified developmental or educational disabilities or chronic health conditions. Learn more about Carteret Preschool at <https://carteretcountycpc.ss19.sharpschool.com/>

For our Angel Tree, please pick your angels, find the sheet with a matching angel number, purchase any of the items listed (spending roughly \$30 per child), and bring your wrapped gifts back to church by Sunday morning, December 15, when the gifts will be blessed in the morning service. Be sure to attach the angel tag to your package so we know for whom it is intended. Like last year, we are spending less on gifts for each child, but serving more children, so if you are able to do so, please take more than one angel. We will also use outreach funds to purchase Food Lion gift cards for some of the needier families. **Thank you for helping families in our community.**

We will celebrate the giving of these gifts with a potluck supper and carol sing on Sunday, December 15, at 5:30 PM in the parish hall. Bring something delicious to share, and join us for fun and Christmas carols. There will be a holiday quiz and prizes for the winning table, so do not miss the festivities!



Our Thanksgiving lunch for Hope Mission was big success! We served the men engaged in treatment programs at Hope Mission as well as community guests who often come to Hope Mission for lunch. Since Hope Mission no longer has a dining room, First Baptist Church was gracious enough to offer their kitchen and dining facilities in downtown Morehead City, a convenient location for those who attended. We served turkey, dressing, gravy, cranberry sauce, green beans, sweet potato casserole, and rolls; First Baptist provided drinks and desserts. Diners were grateful, and the servers were blessed by this opportunity. Thank you to those who cooked turkeys for us, and to the Meals Ministry Team for preparing the side dishes. This was a big undertaking, but our parish rose to the challenge. **Thank you for**



feeding the hungry in our community.



We have more than 25 faithful folks helping regularly with grocery recoveries at Publix, Lowe's, Walmart, and Food Lion for Martha's Mission. These donations are a critical part of what is distributed to families each week. We sort through these donations and immediately distribute the perishables, and most of the meat/chicken/poultry/pork that families receive comes from these grocery store donations. If you have a vehicle that can haul several boxes and are willing to give a couple of hours once or more each month, we can always use additional help. **Thank you for caring about food insecurity in our community.**

In Advent, I look forward to having time to be quiet, to be still, to listen and to hear. As we approach the celebration of our Savior's birth, I am filled with hope and with anticipation of the good things to come and the opportunities to serve with you. Peace and joy to you!



SFBTS Search Committee Report

Submitted by Beth Beswick

It's happening! The search committee has been commissioned and is beginning work right away. Committee members are Skip Kemp, Frances Jenkins, Kelly Sheeks, Marion Morris and Beth Beswick as Chair.

This is an exciting time in the life of SFBTS- a time for reflection and especially for envisioning our future. We will work together as a parish to discover what that future might encompass. Father Everett has left huge shoes to be filled and we will discuss what qualities we want in our new Rector and what we as a parish hope to become.

We have met with Diocesan Canon for Leadership Development Stephanie Allen who will be our Transition Consultant and can provide information on the "clergy market", how the transition process works, and advise on best practices in doing a search. She shared a great deal of helpful information about what we can expect, including a list of questions we will answer as a committee and as a parish. The answers will be used to develop a parish profile that will be placed on our website for any interested candidate to review. Applicants will answer a similar set of questions that will allow us to learn more about them. Canon Stephanie will receive and review all applications and forward them on to us. This part of the process is very confidential and the committee will not be able to share information about candidates with others. As you can understand, any clergy wishing to make a change may not have shared that information with those in their current parish and should be able to do that as they wish.

Information about the Transition Process can be found on the Diocesan website under the Clergy Transitions tab/link.

Although it may seem as if this process is taking a long time, a great deal of work has already been accomplished. The Search Committee will be writing a collect that we will begin using in all our services. Praying together during this period is very important as we seek God's will for us through the Holy Spirit. Parish meetings will begin soon after the first of the year where your input is critical!! Don't hesitate to ask questions.

Pray for us as we begin this journey and ask that we receive wisdom, spiritual guidance, and grace.

Peace be with you!





Lobsterfest 2024

Our St. Francis parish family outdid themselves in presenting such a smoothly operating, beautifully presented, and very successful Lobsterfest. Let's look at the numbers.

We ordered and sold 1200 lobsters. That is 50 more than 2023. We know of only two rejects. We had income of \$33,253.

Our expenses, including the cost of lobster were \$21,147. Our cost for lobster was \$20,400. Other expenses were \$747.

Net profit is \$12,106, which is \$1000 above budget projection.

57% of sales were via check/cash, and 43% were credit/debit card transactions.

The success of these numbers doesn't come close to illustrating the true benefit of the day. We presented love in action. The feedback of our customers was all positive, and that's because of all those working so hard up to and including the day of the event. Every time I walked through the building and grounds checking on take out, dine in, and the outside workers, I saw smiles and I heard laughter.

You've heard Deacon Robin report on the outstanding results of the corresponding food drive supporting Martha's Mission. The food and money collected is love in action. I want to give a special mention to the Prayer shawl group for their generous donation.

I'm always nervous when I mention specific people for fear I'll leave equally deserving people out, so please forgive me. If there is a specific mention of one, I promise you there are several more just like it. Excellence in execution is what we do.

The Men of St. Francis group responded in a big way when we needed help setting up on Thursday and Friday and then packing up on Monday. On Monday, the guys were finishing as other folks showed up to help. It was that fast.

I recall the strong efforts of first time workers Wayne Perry, Terry & Katherine Parish, and Sharon Birmingham. Guess what Wayne? You're in it for keeps! Terry's past life trained as a butcher paid off for us.

If you see Stover Morris and Larry Castle please give them a big thank you. Those two pretty much handled cooking and cutting in the afternoon. I take responsibility for that miss on manpower, and it won't happen next year.



We had two non parish members from the community helping upstairs. How cool is that?

Not only does our sexton George Grigg orchestrate set up the process of turning the sanctuary into a dining room and back, he's pretty slick working the truck on Saturday. Well done to the entire material handling team.

Two people do so much behind the scenes every year to make this event happen, and that's our Parish Administrator Ann Grigg and John Clarke. Ann helps make the accounting process sing. She is such a joy to work with because you know what she does is right. John manages our social media and technology efforts.

Jean Smith brought expertise with our Square payment platform. She joined with Romaine Riddle, and Mother Chris to do an excellent job managing a much expanded Will Call ticket process this year. Romaine and Jean make a great team. I appreciate Romaine's willingness to make quick decisions trusting her instincts.

Frances Jenkins led the kitchen and inside dining and did so much more behind the scenes. We are still using the great playbook written by Meg Bradford. Laura Leslie has picked up take out dining, and it continues to flow so smoothly. Geraline Castle built a very good system, and it works well. I simply don't sweat inside operations because we have such good leaders.

We have several local businesses and organizations that donate so much to us: Willis Seafood, Crab Shack, Trinity Center, and Dean's Gas. Please consider supporting them.

Even if your name is not in print, please know that your efforts are so valued. Every person that sold a ticket, particularly those folks that handled in person sales at church, and every single person who worked upstairs, downstairs, or outside was an essential part of our success.

Lobsterfest continues to stand on the shoulders of our founders such as Jess and Trish Randall, and of leaders like Linda Davies, Geraline, Richard and Linda Seale, and Meg.

Our Lobsterfest email remains active. (sfbtslobsterfest@gmail.com) Don't hesitate to send us your ideas for improvement in 2025.

One final and very important point. The Vestry has voted to send \$1,000 of the profit to the diocese of Western NC for use in hurricane relief efforts. I am grateful for their action of love.

Let's look ahead to 2025 knowing we are good at this event. Our community appreciates it and money raised from the event helps St. Francis maintain our inreach and outreach ministries.

God's peace to all
Terry Smith





ANGLICAN PRAYER BEADS WORKSHOP

The Daughters of the King will offer an Anglican Prayer Beads Workshop on Wednesday, December 4 at 3 pm to the parish. Anglican prayer beads were developed by an Episcopal priest, the Rev. Lynn Bauman, and blend the traditional Eastern Orthodox prayer rope with the Roman Catholic rosary. The tactile element of the beads helps to keep focus, moving through chosen prayers without distraction, calmly and at a steady pace. The materials for the prayer beads will be provided; the cost for each participant is \$5. In order to have enough supplies, please inform Kay Brackins or Laura Leslie if you plan to attend by Sunday, November 24. Seasonal snacks and drinks will be provided. What a blessed way to begin the Advent season!

Daughters of the King Chapters are not allowed to raise money in the name of The Order. Chapters support four DOK funds annually through donations made by members and friends. These four funds support the work of The Order worldwide including financial assistance to women for ministry related education, support for outreach and mission projects, and support for our Junior Chapters of the DOK. Our St. Teresa of Calcutta Chapter also donates to various local funds such as Katey's Kits, and also relief funds world wide through Episcopal Relief and Development. Our members make suggestions that we donate to specific funds as they feel led. Recently our Chapter made donations to Hurricane Helene Relief through the ERD. We appreciate the support from St. Francis by the Sea to our Chapter, and we look forward to upcoming discernment classes for those interested in being a part of our Chapter. We continue to welcome your prayer requests. Beth Parker



I believe that JOY is a gift from God. We find it when we focus our hearts and minds to follow the teachings of Jesus. As church musicians, we use our gifts to share the JOY of God by encouraging our choir members and the entire church congregation when we sing together joyfully. In this season of Thanksgiving, I am especially grateful for our *Choir of St. Francis*. They joyfully give their time each week to rehearse our upcoming choral anthems and service music. The choir, in fact, has been preparing for Christmas since early September. I am truly blessed by having these joyful and faithful stewards in my life as they continue to inspire me week after week.

As we transition from the season of Pentecost to Advent, allow us this opportunity to share some of our upcoming church services and events in the life of our parish as we anticipate and wait for the birth of the Christ Child. We are happy to share with you that we are adding two new additional services during Advent and Christmas so be sure to continue reading carefully below:

Sunday, December 15th Christmas Angel Tree Potluck Supper and gift return for the boys and girls of the *Carteret Pre-School Center* beginning at **5:30 p.m.**

Saturday, December 21st Churchwide Breakfast prepared and sponsored by the *Men of St. Francis* beginning at **9:00 a.m.** We have some excellent chefs in this group!

Sunday, December 22nd Blue Christmas Service beginning at **5:30 p.m.** This is a most meaningful service that we are adding for those who may find this holiday season difficult. Please invite your friends and family, and most especially, those who are sad or anxious or lonely or have experience the loss of loved ones as we seek this service to serve also as a community outreach emphasis.

Tuesday, December 24th Annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Holy Eucharist beginning at **5:30 p.m.** This is a very popular service in the life of our parish and also with many visitors.

Wednesday, December 25th Christmas Day Service with Holy Eucharist at **10 a.m.** We are so pleased to offer this additional service this year!

Sunday, December 29th The Choir of St. Francis will present **A Ceremony of Lessons and Carols** during our Morning Worship Service beginning at **10 a.m.**

So, about this thing we called JOY... it's something followers of Christ experience when we, together, focus our minds and our hearts on our God. It's the like-mindedness that emerges when we worship together, when we pray together, when we explore God's Word together, when we join in sacrificial service to other people, and most especially when we sing together. I consider *St. Francis by the Sea* to be a "singing church"... our hymn singing is truly joyful. This is the magic of music. Music helps us grow in our knowledge and experience of God. Singing really is not an option for people shaped by God. Did you know that the word "music" shows up in over 1,100 verses of Scripture and 50 times when "sing" is a direct command? Singing is a natural response to JOY.

JOY is, quite simply, a gift from God.

Peace and Grace to you this Advent season,
Craig Everett



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 5th and for giving the “Gift of Life” during the holiday season!

See you there!



Lay Ministry Schedule

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	December 1	December 8	December 15	December 22
Lector	Libba Shelton	Mary Kurek	Joey Mossor	Terry Smith
Prayers	Lisa Park	Marian Goetzinger	Mollie Mossor	Betsy Randall
Altar Guild	Betsy Randall	Carol Holland	Laura Leslie	Frances Jenkins
Chalice	Elizabeth Sheeks Kelly Sheeks	Frances Jenkins Martha Edwards	Libba Shelton Scott Shelton	Terry Smith Marion Morris
Crucifer	Terry Smith	Frances Jenkins	Kelly Sheeks	Tim Owens
Torch Bearer	Sarah Criddle Bill Blanchard	Dale Elks Scott Shelton	Stover Morris Liam Mossor	Marian Goetzinger Kay Brackins
Audio	Larry Castle	Stover Morris	Larry Castle	Stover Morris
Video	Skip Kemp	John Clarke	John Clarke	John Clarke
Coffee Hour	Ron and Layne Helwig	NONE-Annual Meeting	Gay Lea	Vestry of Saint Francis
Vestry of the Day	Stover Morris	Kay Brackins	Dale Elks	Pat Jones



Lay Ministry Schedule

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	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	December 29
Lector	Kelly Sheeks	LAY	Jami Turner
Prayers	Elizabeth Sheeks	MINISTRY	Jean Turner
Altar Guild	Elizabeth Sheeks	ASSIGNMENTS	Elizabeth Sheeks
Chalice	Libba Shelton Scott Shelton	DETERMINED	Elizabeth Sheeks Kelly Sheeks
Crucifer	Terry Smith	AT THE	Stover Morris
Torch Bearer	Frances Jenkins Kay Brackins	SERVICE	Tim Owens Sarah Criddle
Audio	Stover Morris	TBA	Larry Castle
Video	John Clarke	John Clarke	John Clarke
Coffee Hour	NONE	NONE	Frances Jenkins Kathy Driver
Vestry of the Day	Stover Morris	Pam Ball	Pam Ball



December Birthdays

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Andy Culpepper–3
Wayne Perry–3
Linda Keeter–9
Jesse Randall–9
Marilyn Smetana–9
Dee Fearrington–10
Sadie Pruitt–12
Tracy Pruitt–15
Braylen Venable – 17
Ellen Marriott–18

Libba Shelton–18
Claudia Sulloway–18
Bill Blanchard–22
John Park – 24
Chris Walters–25
Nancy Carpenter – 27
Debbie McLean–27
Matt Dressel – 28
Rick Van Benthuysen–28
John Clarke – 30
Lu Snipes – 30

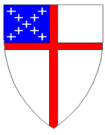
* If you don't see your name above and would like to be added to our birthday list, please email or call the church office.

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

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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