



The Song of Saint Francis



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

*Sunday, November 2, All Saints Day

*Sunday, November 2, Ingathering Meal after service

*Tuesday, November 4, November 18, 11 a.m.-Meals on Wheels Prep

*Saturday, November 8, 10 a.m.- Guided Labyrinth Walk

*Saturday, November 15, 8 a.m.- Men of St. Francis Fellowship

*Wednesday, November 19, 5:45 p.m.-Friendsgiving



Song of St. Francis

As the days shorten and fall comes in earnest, we approach the season of thanksgiving, a time to express gratitude for all that God has given us.

For followers of Jesus, gratitude should be a familiar and common response. Scripture reminds us in both Old and New Testaments to give thanks to the Lord. Jesus modeled and taught gratitude. When we celebrate communion, our Eucharistic Prayer (eucharist means 'thanksgiving') we hear:

'It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.'

Always and everywhere, to give thanks to God. That is a tall order. We find it easy to express gratitude when life is smooth, we have enough, and the future looks bright. We may find it harder to give thanks when the road is rough, we can't seem to catch a break, or loss and grief consume us. When the world around us seems chaotic, when the news is bad, when we get hurt or defeated and hope seems distant, how can we give thanks?

More than an emotion or platitude, gratitude is a rich and deep spiritual discipline - a practice. We are called to practice expressing gratitude, even in the worst of times. This is not a naive hope or denial, but an acknowledgement that everything, absolutely everything comes from God. Everything is a gift, to be held lightly and with awe. Gratitude in tough times means remembering and trusting that God is in control, trusting that God's promises are good and true, that God can be counted on, and has 'plans that are good' for us.

Whatever happens, we can be grateful for God's abiding presence and constant care.

Looking through the lens of faith, we see in all of life the abundance of God's hand in good and hard times. We recognize the angels that have appeared when we needed them most. We appreciate the community of faith that holds us up and prays with us and for us. We celebrate the promise of resurrection even when what is dear to us appears to be dying.

In this season, I am grateful for God's call for me to serve this vibrant, spirit-filled community of faith. I'm especially thankful for the warm wonderful welcome I have received. I look forward to getting to know each one of you.





VESTRY VIEW

When 3 or 4 Episcopalians are gathered together, with sometimes a fifth..WE MUST ALWAYS BE PREPARED!!

As members of the vestry at St Francis, we recognize the importance of preparedness training and to be ready to help members of the church if an emergency should arise. Vestry members recently participated in CPR and preparedness training taught by Captain Ryan Lang of the Indian Beach Fire Department. Captain Lang was enthusiastic and extremely knowledgeable and guided us through step by step, hands-on, emergency training procedures. We spent four hours using lecture, video and practice.

CPR, or cardiopulmonary resuscitation, is an emergency procedure that can help save a life if someone's heart stops beating or if they stop breathing. It's a simple technique that can greatly improve a person's chance of survival if you are able to perform it, but it must also be done within minutes.

Captain Lang taught us that the old mouth to mouth procedure does not have to be used and that we have a breathing apparatus stored along with the AED (Automated External Defibrillator) He made sure we knew where the AED was stored at church (upstairs next to the bathroom) and explained how to use it. We also practiced on a mannequin that let us know how hard you really have to push for each compression, and it was quite difficult for some of us!

Captain Lang also reminded us that help can arrive within minutes when we dial the 911 Call Center in Morehead City. A dispatch will be sent immediately from Salter Path which is less than a mile away.

The Vestry feels strongly that the more individuals trained to administer CPR and to use the defibrillator machine the safer our church gatherings will be.

Robin always reminds us before each service...we are not gathered here at St Francis by accident.... We are gathered here because God is working in our lives.

Lisa Park



Towel and Basin

By Deacon Robin

Beautiful November is one of my favorite times of the year. It's also a great time to be involved in service to our community!

I am always amazed at what I find when I clean out closets. Do you have gently used coats, scarves, gloves, boots, and other cold-weather wear that is taking up space in your closets? You can share those items with someone who will enjoy having them by placing them on the Meals Ministry table in the parish hall. They will be distributed at Martha's Mission, and someone will be warmer and more comfortable because of your generosity. **Thank you for helping those in need.**

Our Meals Ministry Team continues to serve those in our community by providing hearty meals for those who receive Meals on Wheels. We also offer meals to parishioners and friends; feel free to take the frozen meals on the top shelf of the upstairs freezer for yourself or share them with anyone at any time. On Tuesday, November 4, we will prepare chicken pie with vegetables and dessert. The menu for Tuesday, November 18 will be ham with macaroni and cheese, vegetables, and dessert. If you can help provide ingredients, signup sheets are in the parish hall on the Meals Ministry table. If you would like to help cook, we meet at 11:00 AM in the kitchen. This vital ministry operates because of your generosity and dedication. **Thank you for feeding the hungry.**

Our fall food drive was a great success, and we provided about 1000 canned/boxed items for Martha's Mission. On Lobsterfest day, cash donations were more than \$400. The need continues to grow in our community, so feel free to bring non-perishables any time and leave them on the Meals Ministry table in the parish hall. Ongoing needs include peanut butter and jelly, canned vegetables, pasta and pasta sauce (no glass containers), and bar soap. Items will be distributed at Martha's Mission. We also need additional volunteers at MM to help organize/distribute food, so if you are interested, please see me for more details. **Thank you for feeding the hungry.**



It's hard to believe that it's time to think about Christmas, but it will be here soon. By the end of November, our **angel tree** will be up in the parish hall. Like the last two years, we will serve the children at Carteret Preschool. Please select an angel or two from the tree and purchase a gift in the \$25-30 range, wrap it, add the angel tag to your package, and return it to church by Sunday, December 14. We will celebrate the opportunity to give with a **potluck supper** in the parish hall at 5:30 that evening, complete with carols and holiday festivities. The gifts will be delivered to the preschool the next day for distribution to the parents. Like last year, we will provide \$25 Food Lion gift cards to the families we serve. **Thank you for helping families in our community.**

As we enter the holiday season and experience colder weather, if you become aware of individuals/families around us who are in need, let's talk about how we can serve them.

Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ in our community. It is a privilege to serve this loving, generous parish, and I am thankful for you!



As a person who became an Episcopalian late in life, I had first been introduced to the church when I attended a funeral and a wedding in Episcopal church. Both services were especially meaningful to me. Now as an Episcopalian, I find particular



comfort in the observance of the seasons of the church year. They provide us guidance and a degree of order (in my opinion). I recall Everett Thomas discussing these seasons during the Confirmation classes that I attended. Advent is my favorite season, with its themes of hope, peace, love, and joy. Recently I ordered an Advent Calendar to share with my young granddaughters as we anticipate the joy of Christ's birth. This year I plan to develop more Advent traditions in my home and personal life, and more reflection on the themes of hope, peace, love, and joy.

Our DOK members are always happy to pray for you, and requests remain confidential. As we each prepare for the Advent season, please join us in praying for the children of the world, remembering the difficult situations and hardships that many children face through no fault of their own.

Thank you,
Beth Parker





LOBSTERFEST 2025 Report to the Parish You Did It Again



Folks, it was a God thing on Saturday October 11. We were blessed with adequate weather, willing and loving volunteers along with our valued customers that support us year after year. We had light rain during our operating time. The winds were never an issue during the day. Our 2025 Lobsterfest was, in my opinion, a huge success by most any measurement you'd like to use. Faith and love made our day. Thank you.

Thank you to the 52 volunteers who worked in the lead up and day of Lobsterfest. This doesn't count so many other parishioners that sold tickets. Every effort expended helped drive our success. For the Monday after our event we had close to 30 parishioners show up to help do final clean up, put away equipment, and pick meat from the remaining lobsters not sold. Wow. This parish family is all about love. Two parishioners I talked to summed up who we are at St. Francis. One said when work needs to happen the people turn out. The other parishioner, still relatively new to the family, said he was never as involved at their previous church home as they are now at St Francis. It just felt right to them.

Thank you to our customers. So many say they've been attending for several years. They look forward to it each year. This was shared: "We looked forward to this for a year. It is the most joyful atmosphere. Everyone is happy and helpful." An online customer thanked the wonderful parishioners who are dedicated to the mission of St. Francis by the Sea.

Thank you to the following vendors that provided or donated goods and services. Trinity Center food service department, Willis Seafood (Salter Path), Captain Willis Seafood (EI), Crab Shack, Deans Gas, Food Lion(AB&EI), Harris Teeter, Lowe's Foods(MHC and Cape Carteret), and Cedar Point Signs. Please consider shopping these partners.

Thank you to our ministry partners at Martha's Mission Cupboard. They were with us all day long collecting food and cash donations. Thank you to our parish family in supporting the food drive. See Deacon Robin's Towel & Basin for those results

I'll close out with the financial results. I didn't lead with that because your effort and the support of our customers is a result measured way beyond dollars.

Our gross income was \$32,459.22. We incurred expenses of \$22,671.95. Our net profit is \$9,787.27. Thank you to Ann Grigg for her tireless efforts as our Lobsterfest accountant.

Our leadership team of Frances Jenkins, Laura Leslie, Jean Smith, Ann Grigg, John Clarke and me, Terry Smith welcome your suggestions for Lobsterfest 2026. Send your ideas to sfbtslobsterfest@gmail.com

See you in October, 2026. Date TBD.

Terry Smith



Tanner Hahn, son of Roger and Amy Hahn, has loved animals all his life. In January, 2020, as an Eagle Scout, he proposed to the vestry at St. Francis the plan to build a pet memorial garden. The idea was wholeheartedly endorsed.

Soon the country was plunged into the Covid pandemic and shutdown but Tanner and his fellow scouts were able to complete the project.

This year at our Blessing of the Animals service held on the St. Francis labyrinth, Tanner was recognized for this wonderful contribution to our grounds.

A letter from the vestry was presented to Tanner which read in part:

The Pet Memorial Garden stands as a testament to your love of animals and your desire to support those who mourn their loss. We deep appreciate the time, effort, and care you devoted to this project, and we are grateful for the positive impact it will have for years to come.

More information about pet burial in the memorial garden can be obtained by contacting the parish office.



(Ted and Marian Goetzing, Tanner's Grandparents)



**Friendsgiving at
St. Francis by the Sea
5:45 p.m. Wednesday,
November 19, 2025**

What's that, you ask? Friendsgiving is a Thanksgiving-themed feast meal eaten with friends, or in our case, fellow parishioners and friends! For our version of Friendsgiving, turkey and dressing will be provided and everything else will be potluck! Plan now to join us for the food and the fun! Find out what your Turkey Name is and bring your family and/or friends into the Photo Booth using our Friendsgiving props! Best of all, enjoy the traditional meal of this season with us! Sign-up Sheet is in the Parish Hall.



Blood Drive – Thursday, December 4!

An American Red Cross blood drive at Saint Francis By the Sea is scheduled for **Thursday December 4 from 10AM to 3PM** in the Fellowship Hall.

Thanks to ALL our faithful donors and volunteers who have made these critical blood drives so successful.

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%2F04%2F2025&order=DATE&range=10&sd=12%2F04%2F2025&zipSponsor=28557>

Thanks for your donation on December 4 and for giving the “Gift of Life” at Saint Francis By the Sea as the Holiday Season approaches!!

See you there!



Lay Ministry Schedule

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	November 2	November 9	November 16	November 23	November 30
Lector	Kay Brackins	Frances Jenkins	Kelly Sheeks	Romaine Riddle	Beth Beswick
Prayers	Jami Turner	Marion Morris	Jean Smith	Terry Smith	Lisa Park
Altar Guild	Betsy Randall	Frances Jenikins	Elizabeth Sheeks	Jean Smith	Carol Holland
Chalice	Sarah Criddle Marion Morris	Marian Goetzinger Dale Elks	Jami Turner Terry Smith	Terry Parrish Stover Morris	Elizabeth Sheeks Kelly Sheeks
Crucifer	Kelly Sheeks	Tim Owens	Frances Jenkins	Bill Balnchard	Scott Shelton
Torchbearers	Marth Edwards Stover Morris	Sarah Criddle Mary Kurek	George Grigg Sarah Haigwood	Kay Brackins Tim Owens	George Grigg Marian Goetzinger
Audio	Larry Castle	Larry Castle	Stover Morris	Stover Morris	Larry Castle
Video	John Clarke	Skip Kemp	Stover Morris	Stover Morris	Larry Castle
Coffee Hour	Stewardship— Ingathering at the Labyrinth	Geraline/Larry Castle	Gay Lea	Elizabeth/Kelly Sheeks	Marion/Stover Morris
Vestry of the Day	Sharon Birmingham	Terry Smith	Terry Parrish	John Clarke	Laura Leslie



November Birthdays

12



Pat Gallo-5
Sarah King-5
Romaine Riddle - 10
Sara Beck Pruitt-11
Phyllis Makuck-12
Robin Smith - 12
Ainsley Horton-14
Grace Kemp-15

Mary Lou Wilson - 15
Jeanna Tiller - 15
Dona Styron-19
Francesca Styron-19
Robin Scott - 24
Jackson Wright - 26
Buck Suiter - 27
Jeannie Baxter - 30
Kelly Sheeks - 30

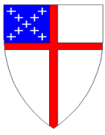
* If you don't see your name above and would like to be added to our birthday list, please email or call the church office.

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.

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



The Song of St. Francis is a monthly publication of
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