



The Song of Saint Francis



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

*Fri, September 4, 5:30 p.m.-Art
Opening (Craving Art Studio
Students)

*Fri, September 4, 7 p.m.-Bill
Stevens Jazz Concert

*Tues, September 8, 22, 10 a.m.-
Meals on Wheels Prep

*Sat, September 12, 10:45 a.m.-
Serving Lunch at Hope Mission

*Wed, September 16 and 23, 5:30
p.m.-Celtic Spiritual Journey
(beginning with a potluck)

*Sat, September 19, 8 a.m.-MOSF



As my husband and I settle into life on Emerald Isle, we're appreciating the small town feel of the area. It seems like the people who live here year-round all know each other, or are connected in one way or another. A parishioner told me the community is like a Venn diagram: circles intersecting, in neighborhoods, organizations, churches, workplaces. Mostly, we find it easy to find something in common - an acquaintance, a pastime or a deeply held belief.

The problem with circles is that they create borders or barriers. We tend to draw our circles to identify our 'tribe'. We encircle those who deserve our attention and time, or those with whom we share an interest or opinion. We get comfortable in our circles. The lines between who is in and who is out can get very dense and rigid.

There are some people whom we would rather keep out of our circles. With all our political and philosophical divides, there are those with whom we think we have nothing in common.

Jesus was insistent about breaking down boundaries that separate us. Jesus erased boundaries and saw each individual as God's beloved child, worthy of being known, accepted and loved. As disciples, we are called to widen our circles in love.

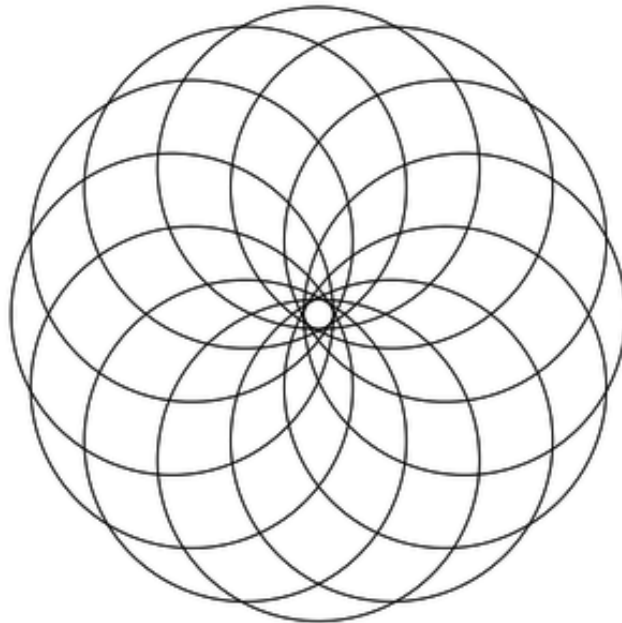
Sometimes widening our circle and finding common ground seems challenging. What divides us seems so much stronger than what we share.

But at the intersection of our circles, there is an almond shaped space where we connect which is called a mandorla. The mandorla is our common ground. A place where we might find our common humanity. The mandorla is sacred space, shared space. Our task is to begin to see God's likeness in each other - sometimes as simple as breathing together, saying the Lord's Prayer together, acknowledging the God who made us, every one of us.

The reality is that all our circles intersect in one way or another. We are all connected in a web of creation and humanity that is of one piece. Our artificial boundaries are as ethereal as lines drawn in the sand. Just as the tide washes away our lines in the sand, so the divisions we create are easily erased by God's uniting hand.

'He drew a circle to keep me out - Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.
But love and I had the wit to win! We drew a circle that took him in.'
Edwin Markham

Peace and all good,
Mary Kay+





VESTRY VIEW

In a recent sermon, Mother Mary spoke about the apostle Peter's faith being tested when he got out of the boat during a violent storm on the Sea of Galilee. He attempted to walk on water towards the outstretched hands of Jesus. Only after walking some distance did Peter think about the danger and start to sink. I have been intrigued by Peter since I was a child and even played the part of Peter in several of the musical performances by our youth group. I've identified with him, though some of the traits we share aren't actually the best...speaking before thinking, making promises not kept, and buckling under pressure.

In the New Testament, we are given four lists of the 12 apostles, and in each list, Peter is always the first name. Jesus gave him the nickname Peter, which means "Rock", but he was also referred to as Simon as well as Simon Peter. Usually when Jesus referred to him as Simon, it was a signal that Peter had done something that needed rebuke or correction. Jesus wanted Peter's nickname to be a perpetual reminder to him about who he "should be". By calling him Peter, he was commending him for the way he was acting. I imagine Peter cringed when the Lord called him Simon.

Several years ago I read the book "Twelve Ordinary Men" by John MacArthur. In his book he points out that Jesus chose 12 men who were perfectly ordinary in every way. They were prone to mistakes, misstatements, wrong attitudes, lapses of faith, and bitter failure. In reading this book, I was reminded that as ordinary as the 12 were, they carried on a ministry after Jesus' ascension that left an indelible impact on the world. I also learned that Peter's name is mentioned in the Gospels more than any other name except for Jesus. No one speaks as often as Peter, and no one is spoken to by the Lord as often as Peter. No disciple is so frequently rebuked by the Lord as Peter, and no disciple ever rebukes the Lord except for Peter. No one else confessed Christ more boldly or acknowledged His lordship more explicitly, yet no other disciple ever verbally denied Christ as forcefully or as publicly as Peter did. No one is blessed by Christ the way Peter was, yet Peter was also the only one Christ ever addressed as Satan.





VESTRY VIEW

God took a common man with a vacillating, impulsive, unsubmitive personality and shaped him into a rocklike leader – the greatest preacher among the apostles. I believe there are three elements in Peter’s character that each of us should desire.

Inquisitiveness – Peter asked more questions than all the other apostles combined. God wants us to know more and better understand His will for our lives.

Initiative – When Roman soldiers came to arrest Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, without hesitation, Peter pulled out his sword and took a swing at Malchus. I’m not encouraging violence in today’s society, but we should show drive and energy in all that we do, especially when we are trying to do the Lord’s work.

Involvement – Remember Peter was the first to jump out of the boat! God wants ordinary people like you and me to enthusiastically share the Gospel with the world and be willing to follow the Saviour.

Terry Parrish



Towel and Basin

By Deacon Robin

As summer starts its very s-l-o-w exit (can you tell I'm ready for fall?), I hope you will take advantage of every chance to provide service to our neighbors.

In September, the Meals Ministry Team will cook twice for 90 recipients of **Meals on Wheels**. On the 8th, we will prepare baked pasta with green beans and dessert. On the 22nd, the menu includes ham, macaroni and cheese, green beans, and dessert. We will pray, cook, laugh, and help with Lobsterfest tasks while the entrees are baking. Remember that Love Meals are available on the top shelf of the freezer; share them with anyone any time. We also help parishioners who are in need of meals; let us know if we can assist you. **How can you help?** If you are able to help with ingredients, the signup sheets are in the parish hall, and if you would like to help cook, join us in the kitchen upstairs at 11:00 AM either day.

On September 11, we always provide a meal for the **First Responders** in Indian Beach/Salter Path who serve St. Francis by the Sea. This year, the Men of St. Francis have taken on that project, and I know they will provide a delicious lunch for those who serve our community. Thank you, MOSF!

On September 12, we will prepare and serve lunch at **Hope Mission** in Morehead City. This lunch is provided for unhoused folks and others in need of a good meal. **How can you help?** If you would like to provide a dessert, please sign the sheet on the Meals Ministry table in the parish hall, and bring them to church on Friday, September 11, between 1:00 - 3:00 PM, or bring them to Hope Mission by 10:30 AM on Saturday, September 12. If you would like to go along to serve, please sign up in the parish hall. We will need 6-8 servers/dishwashers to help on Saturday between 10:45 AM - 12:45 PM.

Many of you know Karen Wood, who is the new principal at **Carteret Preschool Center**. I'm happy to say that we will continue our partnership with them. We have provided healthy snacks for the opening of school and will continue to do so. **How can you help?** We will have the Angel Tree up for our Friendsgiving meal on November 18, and we will provide gifts for each child and Food Lion gift cards for families in need.



After September, October rolls in, and you know what that means - Lobsterfest! Our **Lobsterfest food drive** is the largest one of the year, and it's especially important this year since the need for food continues to increase in our community. With the holidays approaching, the food we collect will be needed more than ever. ***How can you help?*** We will be collecting these items:

boxed cereal
spaghetti and elbow macaroni
any canned vegetable other than green beans
canned sloppy Joe
canned chicken or beef
Hamburger/Tuna/Chicken Helper
ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise in plastic containers

Education for Ministry (EfM) resumes in September, and parishioners from St. Francis by the Sea will be engaged in studying Scripture, the history of Christianity, theology, and Christianity in our society. We meet weekly at St. Andrews in Morehead City for prayer, discussion, and reflection as we seek to grow spiritually. ***How can you help?*** Please be in prayer for our participants: Nora Webb, Debbie McLean, George Grigg, Terry Smith, Craig Everett, Jackie Shertzer, Frances Jenkins, Kathy Driver, and Marion Morris from St. Francis, as well as Jim and Kathy Nelson from St. Andrews.

It is a joy to serve with you! Pray that we may seize every opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community.



Why St. Francis? A Brandywine Afternoon of Fellowship

On the afternoon of Sunday, August 23, members of St. Francis who live in the Brandywine neighborhood gathered at the Cedarwood Village Pool for an afternoon of fun, fellowship, and getting to know one another a little better.

A special thank-you goes to Donald “Goober” Johnson for making the pool available to us. Everyone brought a snack to share, making for a delicious and relaxed afternoon together.

One of the topics of conversation was a simple but meaningful question: “Why St. Francis? What brought you here?” As we shared our stories, a common thread quickly emerged...the friendliness and welcoming spirit of the people at St. Francis. For many of us, that sense of community is a big part of what makes St. Francis feel like home.

It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow parishioners who live nearby, share some laughs, and enjoy an afternoon together outside the church walls. We hope this will be the first of many opportunities for Brandywine neighbors to gather for fellowship.

We missed those who couldn't join us this time. **Perhaps next time. We hope to see you there!**



The World Is Too Much With Us (1807)

William Wordsworth

The world is too much with us; late and soon,
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers;—
Little we see in Nature that is ours;
We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!
This Sea that bares her bosom to the moon;
The winds that will be howling at all hours,
And are up-gathered now like sleeping flowers;
For this, for everything, we are out of tune;
It moves us not. Great God! I'd rather be
A Pagan suckled in a creed outworn;
So might I, standing on this pleasant lea,
Have glimpses that would make me less forlorn;
Have sight of Proteus rising from the sea;
Or hear old Triton blow his wreathèd horn.

(Ok here's a good one. Wordsworth is considering our growing obsession with things and lamenting our growing disconnection from Nature and the transcendent. In other words, we all need to go outside to connect with that which is outside ourselves.)



Lay Ministry Schedule

9

	September 6	September 13	September 20	September 27
Lector	Stover Morris	Carrie Stroud	Frances Jenkins	Kay Brackins
Prayers	Libba Shelton	Lisa Park	Kathy Driver	Betsy Randall
Altar Guild	Elizabeth Sheeks	Betsy Randall	Jean Smith	Gay Lea
Chalice	Elizabeth Sheeks Kelly Sheeks	Sarah Criddle Marion Morris	Libba Shelton Scott Shelton	Frances Jenkins Jami Turner-White
Crucifer	Frances Jenkins	Kelly Sheeks	Donald Johnson	Tim Owens
Torchbearers	Stover Morris Scott Shelton	Kay Brackins Terry Smith	Sarah Haigwood Kelly Sheeks	Martha Edwards George Grigg
Greeters	Grace Kemp Elsie Phillip	Melanie and Scott Hum	Beth Beswick Bob Blalock	Mary and Dave Phillips
Audio	Larry Castle	Stover Morris	Stover Morris	Stover Morris
Video	David Stroud	John Clarke	Skip Kemp	John Clarke
Coffee Hour	Robin and Terry Smith	Sharon Birmingham/ Vicki Blanchard/Debbie McLean/Cecile Shenkan	Kay Brackins/Sarah Criddle/Lisa Park	Men of St. Francis
Vestry of the Day	Terry Parrish	Laura Leslie	John Clarke	Terry Smith



September Birthdays

10



Terry Smith – 1
Jim Turner–6
Rick Watling – 8
Bowen Mossor – 12
Ron Helwig – 16
Scott Shelton–18
Kathy Falandys Tilyard-19

Dave Stroud - 20
Frances Jenkins – 24
Donna Standley – 25
Avery Stroud - 26
Katherine Parrish – 28
Jasa Ellis–29
Edison Wright - 29

* 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



The Song of St. Francis is a monthly publication of
St. Francis by the Sea Episcopal Church.
Sound side of NC Hwy. 58, between Mile Marker 10 and 10½
920 Salter Path Road ● Salter Path, North Carolina ● 28512