



The Song of Saint Francis



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

*Sat, September 6, 10 a.m.-Guided Labyrinth Walk

*Sunday, September 7, Lobsterfest Food Drive Begins

*Tuesday, September 9, September 23, 11 a.m.-Meals on Wheels Prep

*Saturday, September 20, 8 a.m.-Men of St. Francis Fellowship

*Saturday, September 20, 9 a.m.-Churchwide clean-up



Journey of Faith Class

Are you curious about the Episcopal Church—its history, practices, and beliefs? Do you have questions about the creeds, the sacraments, or how to grow more deeply in your spiritual life? Are you considering becoming a member of the Episcopal Church?

If so, we invite you to join Journey of Faith, a six-week class beginning Sunday, October 26, following coffee hour. Together we'll use *Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs and Practices* as our guide.

Please let the church office know if you plan to attend so we can order books and prepare materials. This class also serves as preparation for those wishing to be received or confirmed when Bishop Skirving visits on December 21.

Bring your curiosity, your questions, and an open heart as we travel this path of faith together.

— Rev. Mary Kay+





VESTRY VIEW

It is hard to believe that summer is almost over. The older I get the more time flies. Fall is coming! And with summer past, we look forward to fall and a new chapter in the life of SFBTS. We thank our marvelous Rector Search Committee who have brought us Mother Mary Kay Brown to be our part time rector beginning in October. She is someone most of know and love. She loves us just the way we are. She will make few changes to our very close-knit and energetic congregation, which is what we asked for. She will also guide us into more ways of serving our Lord without minimizing what we already do. So come on Fall. We are ready for you!

In the interim, we have been blessed to have Mother Mary Ogus as our Interim Rector. What wonderful gifts she has given us! I hope we continue to participate in the new opportunities she has shared with us, like Blue Christmas. Singles Christmas brunch, and Agape meals. We will miss her and hope she comes back often to visit!

Sincerely,

Kay Brackins



Towel and Basin

By Deacon Robin

Welcome to September! It's back to school for many, the end of vacation season for some, and a perfect time for everyone to be involved in service in our community.



Our first responders in Indian Beach are always ready to help us at St. Francis by the Sea. We have a great partnership with them; you might see them in our parking lot keeping their skills sharp in maneuvering the boats/jet skis they use in water rescues, or using our outside stairs for practice. They respond quickly any time we need assistance, and they are gracious and professional in their interaction with those experiencing difficulties. Every September 11, we like to show our appreciation for them by providing a meal. This year we will serve ham, side dishes, and desserts. If you would like to help, see the sign-up sheet on the Meals Ministry table in the parish hall. If you provide a dish, be sure to use containers that do not have to be returned. Let's provide a feast for our local first responders on September 11. **Thank you for expressing appreciation for those who serve.**

On September 7, we will begin our ***Lobsterfest food drive*** for Martha's Mission. The need in our community continues to increase, and the number of households served grows nearly every month. For instance, last month, 165 kids' backpacks were distributed, thirty more than the month before. Every item you donate goes directly to hungry families in Carteret County, all of whom are vetted by DHS or local churches, and families/individuals visit the food bank only once each month.



This year, the needs include: jelly (no glass containers), soup, pasta, canned vegetables/beans, tea bags, saltine crackers, condiments (no glass containers), peanut butter, instant potatoes, grits, and Hamburger/Tuna/Chicken Helper.

Please bring food drive items any Sunday in September through October 19, and place them on the Meals Ministry table. **Thank you for feeding the hungry in our community.**

Our wonderful Meals Ministry Team continues to prepare delicious meals for Meals on Wheels recipients every other Tuesday. In September, we will cook on the 9th, when the menu will be baked pasta, green beans, and dessert; and again on the 23rd, when we will make chili, corn muffins, and dessert. Please help us by providing ingredients (signup sheets in the parish hall on the Meals Ministry table), by contributing, and/or by praying for those who prepare, deliver, and receive the meals. **Thank you for feeding the needy and elderly in our community.**



What a generous response for Carteret Preschool! We are providing a large load of snacks for these precious preschoolers, and the staff is so appreciative. Many children will be served by your generosity. **Thank you for caring for children in our community.**



The Daughters of the King of Saint Francis have been making prayer beads that are available to everyone. They are downstairs on the table with the prayer shawls. There is no cost for these but we ask for a donation to



cover our cost of supplies. Anglican prayer beads, sometimes called the Anglican rosary, are a relatively recent innovation in the spiritual practices of the Anglican Communion. These beads have become an increasingly popular tool for prayer, meditation, and reflection among Anglicans and other Christians seeking tactile aids to deepen their devotional lives. While prayer beads have a long and varied history across religions, the specific form and use of Anglican prayer beads is rooted in late twentieth-century efforts to enrich individual and communal prayer.

Many faiths use beads to focus prayer and meditation:

Christianity: The Catholic rosary, developed in the Middle Ages, guides repetitive prayers.

Orthodox Christianity: Eastern Orthodox Christians use the chotki or prayer rope with knots for the Jesus Prayer.

Buddhism: Mala beads (108) help count mantras or breaths.

Islam: Misbaha or tasbeih (99 or 33 beads) aid remembrance of God's names.

Hinduism: Japa mala beads count mantra repetitions.

These practices highlight a common human tendency to use tangible objects in spiritual routines, which led to Anglican prayer beads.



The person most often credited with the creation of Anglican prayer beads is Lynn Bauman, an Episcopal layperson. Bauman was inspired by the tactile quality of beads used in other faith traditions. In the 1980's, he developed a set of beads arranged in a pattern that reflected Anglican spirituality and flexibility, aiming for a tool that would encourage prayerful contemplation without imposing a rigid structure.

The beads themselves carry symbolic meaning. The number 33 recalls the life of Jesus; the groups of seven represent spiritual completeness and the rhythm of life. The circular arrangement, often with a cross attached, embodies the cyclical nature of prayer and the interconnectedness of all creation.

The tactile process of moving from bead to bead helps to quiet the mind and focus attention, fostering a meditative encounter with the divine. For many, the beads are a bridge between heart and mind, body and spirit, tradition and innovation.

The history of Anglican prayer beads is a testament to the creativity and adaptability of Christian prayer. Emerging from a desire for meaningful ritual, the beads have become a beloved instrument for meditation, petition, and praise. Their story continues to evolve, shaped by the prayers of countless individuals seeking connection with God. As a fusion of ancient tradition and modern insight, Anglican prayer beads remind us that faith is not static, but a living conversation across time, culture, and heart.

We hope you will find this a positive addition to your own prayer life.

Pam Ball





One Month to Go!



Lobsterfest is just around the corner! Ticket sales are going strong, and volunteer sign-ups are beginning to fill. There are still many opportunities to help, so please take a moment to check *This Week at St. Francis* for updates and details on how to get involved. You can also sign up directly here:

[Volunteer Sign-Up](#)

If you are selling tickets, please remind your customers: anyone purchasing live or cooked lobster should bring a cooler for transport. Lobsters are bagged in heavy paper bags, but cooked lobster especially can leak—and no one wants a mess in their car!

A note for dine-in guests: meals will be capped at 325 to ensure the best experience for everyone. Our dining team always does a wonderful job, and this limit helps us provide the excellent service our guests have come to expect.

In addition, we are once again sponsoring a food drive for Martha's Mission Cupboard. Please see Deacon Robin's column for details on specific needs. Monetary donations are also welcome—checks may be made payable to *Martha's Mission*.

Lobsterfest is a lot of work, but the blessings go far beyond profit. Each year, our parish shows its love through this event, and together we make it something truly special.

God's Peace,

The Lobsterfest Team

(Terry Smith, Frances Jenkins, Laura Leslie, Jean Smith, Ann Grigg, and John Clarke)



Lay Ministry Schedule

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	September 7	September 14	September 21	September 28
Lector	Stover Morris	Mary Kurek	Joey Mossor	Katherine Parrish
Prayers	Marion Morris	Carol Holland	Mollie Mossor	Romaine Riddle
Altar Guild	Betsy Randall	Elizabeth Sheeks	Frances Jenkins	Jean Smith
Chalice	Elizabeth Sheeks Kelly Sheeks	Frances Jenkins Terry Smith	Marian Goetzinger Stover Morris	Martha Edwards Terry Parrish
Crucifer	Marian Goetzinger	Bill Blanchard	Terry Smith	Dale Elks
Torchbearers	Frances Jenkins Mary Kurek	Kay Brackins Jami Turner	Liam Mossor Scott Shelton	Kelly Sheeks Don Sparrow
Audio	Larry Castle	Stover Morris	Larry Castle	Stover Morris
Video	John Clarke	John Clarke	Skip Kemp	Skip Kemp
Coffee Hour	Romaine and Dan Riddle / Donna Standley	Betsy and Jay Randall	Kay Brackins / Sarah Criddle / Lisa Park	Sharon Birmingham
Vestry of the Day	Terry Smith	Terry Parrish	John Clarke	Laura Leslie



September Birthdays

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Terry Smith – 1
Jim Turner–6
Rick Watling – 8
Bowen Mossor – 12
Ron Helwig – 16
Scott Shelton–18

Kathy Falandys Tilyard-19
Frances Jenkins – 24
Donna Standley – 25
Katherine Parrish – 28
Jasa Ellis–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 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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Sound side of NC Hwy. 58, between Mile Marker 10 and 10½
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