



# The Song of Saint Francis



## Saint Francis by the Sea Episcopal Church, Salter Path, NC May 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

Fri, May 2, 5:30 p.m.-Art Opening with Drew Hoover

\*Sat, May 3, 1 p.m.-World Labyrinth Day

\*Tues, May 6, May 20 11:00 a.m.-Meals on Wheels Cook Dates

\*Fri, May 9, 7 p.m.-Carteret Community Sunshine Band

\*Wed, May 14, 5:30 p.m.-Potluck Parish Picnic, Trinity Center

\*Sat, May 17, 8 a.m.-Men of St. Francis Fellowship

\*Sat, May 24, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.-BBQ Chicken Plate Fundraiser



### Song of St Francis May 2025

I have been thinking of death and resurrection lately, don't ask me why.

I have been thinking about how many different ways there are of thinking about what those words mean to us at various times in our lives.

We die many deaths along the way throughout our lives - disappointments,

Change of plans, sudden emergencies send us off into new directions that can be conceived as a death and a rebirth depending on the perspective from which we view them.

Other people are tremendously influential in how we understand these words.

We watch how others come to terms with life and death and we take notes.

I have been thinking in particular lately about the late Oliver Sacks, the neurologist who brought to light through his case studies the lives of people who had been sidelined by disorders of the brain. You may have read one of his books or seen the documentary on PBS entitled My Own Life, in which he summed up his career as he faced his own imminent death at 81 of a fatal melanoma.

Though he died in 2015 Oliver Sacks lives on in his accounts of the lives of those who he resurrected from the margins by telling their stories and giving their lives meaning.

He also lives on powerfully for me in the words he wrote in an essay weeks before his death. (<https://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/19/opinion/oliver-sacks-on-learning-he-has-terminal-cancer.html>)

I quote from that essay here:

*"It is up to me now to choose how to live out the months that remain to me. I have to live in the richest, deepest, most productive way I can...."*

*Over the last few days, I have been able to see my life as from a great altitude, as a sort of landscape, and with a deepening sense of the connection of all its parts...*

*I feel intensely alive, and I want and hope in the time that remains to deepen my friendships.... to achieve new levels of understanding and insight.*

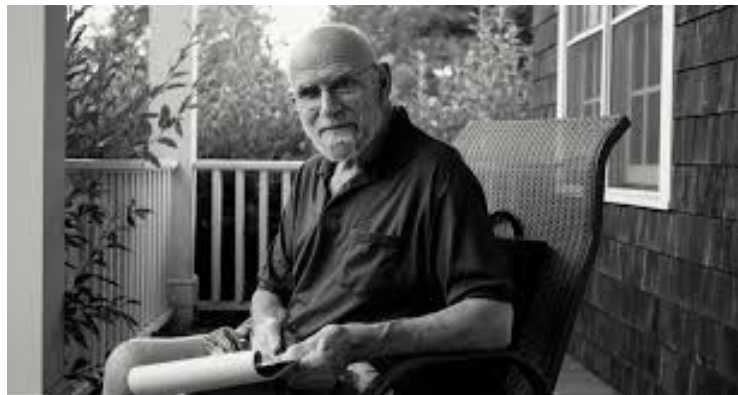
*This will involve audacity, clarity and plain speaking; trying to straighten my accounts with the world. But there will be time, too, for some fun (and even some silliness, as well)*

...

*I cannot pretend I am without fear. But my predominant feeling is one of gratitude. I have loved and been loved; I have been given much and I have given something in return... Above all, I have been a sentient being, a thinking animal, on this beautiful planet, and that in itself has been an enormous privilege and adventure."*

These are words we might all do well to live by, wherever we are on our journey in this life. I hear them as words worth contemplating during an Easter season.

Mary+





I WIN  
(I want information now)  
Terry Smith

In the early 1990s the company I was working at was just starting to transform to a more digital operating platform. I recall the introduction of a software platform called Lotus Notes. The I WIN acronym my company created was a pitch for all the information we needed being available digitally whether it was files, emails, or searching the web. No more paper we thought. Hmmm

Various statistical sources state that the amount of data generated globally doubles every two to four years. 231 million emails are generated every minute and 333 billion emails are generated daily. Now you know why your inbox is always full. The world has gone digital no matter how much we may resist it.

Why bring this up? It's all part of communication. I have information I want to share or where can I find information about X? Communication is a topic that comes up at every vestry meeting. The conversation covers many topics but communication to and about our parish plays an important part of the process. We are a happening group of Episcopalians and that's a great thing.

Parish members want and need the information we generate. Here are all the ways we communicate our information, in no particular order:

Starting each Sunday Deacon Robin will make a general set of announcements of upcoming activities. (Current outreach collection drive, next meals ministry date, special services, upcoming cultural events)

Our services are live-streamed on YouTube and available for later viewing on our YouTube channel. It's a great way to hear the announcements made the previous Sunday or even farther back.

Our printed bulletin. We often have inserts to list various opportunities during the week and beyond. Some announcements are continuing week after week. Others may only appear once.

The bulletin for the next service (generally the upcoming Sunday but it could be a special service) is sent digitally. Often this digital bulletin will contain informational announcements. Our bulletins are digitally archived should you have a need.





This Week at St Francis (TWAS) is sent early in the new week via mass email. It contains a repeat of the past Sunday's announcements plus birthdays, special occasions, prayer requests, and continuing church function information.

The Song of St. Francis is our monthly news letter sent digitally (and now with a limited number of hard copies available in the parish hall). You'll find a variety of thought provoking articles submitted by parish leadership (priest, deacon, vestry, music director and others).

We use Constant Contact email service for a variety of communication needs. There is always an item that needs communicating and distributing in between our normal schedule.

We have an active website refresh program in progress. A dedicated team is working hard to make information more attractive to the eye and easier to navigate to what you are looking for.

Individual ministry groups communicate via group emails or text chains. ( think Men of St. Francis, Choir, Prayer Shawl Group, Daughters of the King and others)

We have a sign in front of our church building that lists various events.

We have a heavy presence on social media announcing upcoming events.

Word of mouth is still a good way to communicate. What other ways would you add?

With all these methods of communication we occasionally hear of folks that missed something. I get it. We live busy lives and it's easy to miss an email. First thing I do each day, when I open my in box, is mass delete all the "junk" that came in overnight. I've accidentally deleted emails I should have read. I often will search all files in my email folders for something I may have missed. I'll dig files out of my trash folder. I have all St. Francis related emails flagged to help me not miss them.

We simply don't want anyone to not have the information they need to keep up with our parish happenings. Make sure your email address is listed in the parish office. Don't use email? Make sure you keep your bulletin each Sunday. Watch our YouTube channel to catch up on announcements. Reach out to a vestry member if you missed something and I bet they can help you find what you need. If you have ideas of how we can improve communication any vestry member would love to hear them.

Ministry is happening at St. Francis by the Sea. We want everyone to know it.





## Towel and Basin

By Deacon Robin

May is truly one of the most beautiful times of the year here on the Crystal Coast, and it reminds us how special it is to be a part of this community. What a privilege it is for us to live and serve in such an amazing place!



The Meals Ministry Team will convene twice in May to cook for Meals on Wheels recipients. On May 6, we will prepare our (almost famous) chili with corn muffins and dessert. On May 20, the menu will include chicken broccoli casserole with carrots and dessert. As the need has grown in Morehead City, the number of meals we prepare has grown to 70 and may approach 80 soon. If you would like to help with ingredients, sign up sheets are in the parish hall. If you would like to cook, join us in the kitchen at 11:00 AM. We often take on other small tasks around the church while we are waiting for the food to cook, and we have a good time while we work, so feel free to become part of this team any time. **Thank you for feeding others in our community.**

The arrival of May means summer is just around the corner, and campers will soon be filling Trinity Center to worship, swim, sail, sing, and experience island life. Some of these precious young folks arrive without all the gear they need, especially beach towels, sunscreen, goggles, bug spray, and flip flops. In May, we will collect these items to support needy campers. Please bring your donations to the table in the parish hall. **Thank you for helping children.**

Our Lenten canned vegetables food drive for Martha's Mission is a big success. We have filled boxes of canned peas, beans, potatoes, corn, and mixed vegetables to share with our neighbors in need. Many families in our community will have vegetables with their meals over the next few weeks thanks to your generosity. **Thank you for feeding the hungry in our community.**



On March 29, we made our first group visit to Carteret Landing to sing and interact with the residents there, including our own parishioner, Anne Clarke. We had 17 enthusiastic and kind folks in our group, and it was a blessing to be part of it. Watch for the next opportunity, probably in June, to participate in this ministry. **Thank you for giving your time to serve others.**



When you see these folks, thank them for helping with **food recoveries** in our community. Several times each month, these parishioners pick up donated meat, produce, dairy, and bakery items from local grocery stores, including Publix, Food Lion Emerald Isle, Cape Carteret Lowes, Morehead City Lowes, and Walmart. They deliver this food to Martha's Mission, where it is distributed to hungry folks in our area. Last year, volunteers collected about 250,000 pounds of food that would have otherwise gone to waste; instead, it went to those in need. Thanks to Andy Wheatcraft, Jay Randall, Larry Castle, Stover Morris, Bill and Vicki Blanchard, Sterling and Donald Williams, Wayne Perry, Dave Robertson, Terry Smith, Terry and Katherine Parrish, Beth Beswick and Bob Blaylock, Martha and Clark Edwards, Kathy Driver, Laura Leslie, Andy and Sukey Mullins, Scott Shelton, Elizabeth and Kelly Sheeks, Frances Jenkins, and Jim and Carol Holland for being faithful

in this ministry. **Thank you for feeding the hungry in our community.**

Many thanks to all who participated in our Lenten series based on the book, *Will You?* We had great attendance, good discussions about our Baptismal Covenant, and wonderful meals. Thank you to the many folks who helped make Holy Week so special. The Agape Meal was amazing, our services were meaningful, and Easter was glorious. **Thank you for taking an active role in worship and ministry at St. Francis by the Sea!**





On the first Saturday of April the St Teresa of Calcutta Chapter and The Ruth Chapter of the Daughters of the King hosted The Diocese of East Carolina Spring Assembly here at St Francis by the Sea. The Ruth Chapter is from St Andrews in Morehead City. It was the perfect Spring morning weatherwise and by 9:30 the Fellowship Hall was filled with Daughters from as far west as Fayetteville to the ocean in Wilmington. 58 Daughters were present. Most Chapters brought their Chapter Banners and they were a sight to behold! Such creativity and needlework in each banner, coupled with Tim Bradford's artwork on the walls, transformed the Fellowship Hall into a gallery of beautiful creations celebrating God's blessings.



Connie Widney, Diocesan President, presided over the meeting. After the business session ended in the morning, Amanda Todd, our labyrinth guide, gave a presentation including the history of labyrinths and pictures of their different patterns and famous ones throughout the world. Several Daughters had actually walked some of the examples. Our guests were then encouraged to walk our labyrinth. They returned, exclaiming over the beauty of the surroundings and the peacefulness they felt while walking.

The Business Meeting continued for a short while in the afternoon. After it adjourned each Chapter shared studies, projects or programs that they had sponsored in their parishes and communities.

The last event of the day was Holy Eucharist in the Sanctuary. This service included The Daughters of the King "Service of Rededication". During this Service, Daughters renew the vows they made at the Service of Admission and rededicate themselves to The Order, its purpose, and its mission. Participating in the Holy Eucharist were: Chris Carlin, the Celebrant, Robin Smith, our Deacon, Carol Eaton, the Diocesan Chaplain who presented the Homily, and several members of our Chapter who are also vestry members at St Francis.



The Daughters of the King would like to thank the following members here at St Francis who helped so much in making the day a huge success: Chris, Stover, John Clark and Craig, who provided the bulletins and music for the Eucharist.



As Daughters of the King we take a vow to follow Christ's instruction and be faithful in Prayer, Service and Evangelism. This short prayer, attributed to Mother Teresa' is a perfect example of how we feel about fulfilling our vows in today's world.

“I used to pray that God  
would feed the hungry,  
or do this or that, but  
now I pray that he will  
guide me to do whatever  
I'm supposed to do, what  
I can do. I used to pray  
for answers, but now I'm  
praying for strength. I  
used to believe that  
prayer changes things,  
but now I know that  
prayer changes us and  
we change things.”

Our Chapter including: Barbara, Kay, Grace, Lisa, Jerry, Marion Morris, Robin, Beth, Pam, Rosemary, Susan, Linda, Laura, Joan, Marion Youngblood and Carol are here to offer daily prayers for you, your family, your neighbors whenever the need arises. Put your request in our box at the rear of the Sanctuary or ask one of us, and we will pray daily for God's blessings on you in complete confidentiality.

Carol Holland





## St. Francis by the Sea Music Ministry Minute

Craig Everett, music director

***Christ is risen... Christ is risen indeed!*** These words filled our sanctuary during both services Easter Sunday, the highest of holy days. Easter Sunday is supposed to be the pinnacle of joy for Christians and church musicians throughout the world as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection and his conquering of sin and death. Music celebrating the Resurrection can help us remove the burdens of life and replace them with the joy of the risen Lord. Hopefully we did just that for you!

I felt that we worshiped with a high level of excellence not just on Easter Sunday... but throughout the entire Holy Week. After all... God deserves our very best efforts! None of this, however, would not have been possible without the leadership of Mother Mary, Mother Chris, Deacon Robin, our church staff members, Senior Warden Pam and our Vestry, the Agape Meal committee members, our altar guild members, all worship leaders, and last but not least... the members of the Choir of St. Francis. Between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, these choir members performed 6 new choral anthems. This took extra rehearsal time above and beyond what is usually required to sing with excellence week in and week out. So... when you see a choir member, please thank them for their service and ministry to our parish. Remember, too, to thank everyone who helped produce such a meaningful Lenten, Holy Week, and Easter in the life of our parish. Surely, God is so pleased by our efforts.

We sing because Jesus is alive... Before you take the cup or sing the first "alleluia" on Sunday, remember this love that meets you and all who believe at every moment, in every scene of life, at every turn of good fortune or temporary fear, in the eyes of everyone we love and even of those whom no one loves. Because Jesus is alive, love will guide us through every moment of this life, and love will eventually welcome us home. That's worth some additional alleluias!

Peace and Grace to you this Easter season.



**Men of St. Francis By The Sea  
Chicken Plate Fundraiser**

On Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend, May 24th, the Men of St. Francis (MOSF) will hold their first-ever fundraiser to help support needed repair work and scholarships at the Trinity Center. Some additional investments in the area will be supported, especially those involving assistance with Martha's Mission and Food Insecurity.

Each year, through generous donations from many, the Trinity Center can offer a week of camp to deserving young people in our area. The cost of a single scholarship is over \$700 and provides a child with a wonderful time at summer camp. St. Francis parishioners also provide goody bags for these campers that contain needed beach supplies such as a new towel and sunscreen. The Trinity Center is a large complex of buildings on Bogue Banks that suffered significant damage from Hurricane Florence. While a good amount of the immediate damage has gotten attention, now the extra cosmetic work, such as painting, repairing walkways and fencing, spreading mulch, and more labor needs are being addressed, in part, by the MOSF.

Food Insecurity is a growing problem nationwide, especially in children, and the team of men at St. Francis have donated liberally to support Martha's Mission. Your support of our fundraiser will go towards providing needed food and labor through volunteer work at their facility.

Come out and support these hardworking volunteers with the purchase of a chicken plate:

Included in the plate, which will be cooked and served during the hours of 11 a.m.-2 p.m. or while supplies last, are

- A Grilled Half Chicken
- Coleslaw
- Potato Salad
- Roll
- Dessert
- Cost: \$15

Tickets should be purchased in advance and can be done by contacting the St. Francis office at 252-515-0040. Leave a message, and we will call you back. You may also contact John Clarke at 252-269-1802. We accept cash, checks, credit cards, and PayPal.



# Lay Ministry Schedule

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	May 4	May 11	May 18	May 25
<b>Lector</b>	Marian Goetzinger	Betsy Randall	Martha Edwards	Jami Turner
<b>Prayers</b>	Debbie McClain	Marian Goetzinger	Lisa Park	Romaine Riddle
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Betsy Randall	Gay Lea	Carol Holland	Frances Jenkins
<b>Chalice</b>	Elizabeth Sheeks Kelly Sheeks	Marion Morris Sarah Criddle	Terry Parrish Terry Smith	Libba Shelton Scott Shelton
<b>Crucifer</b>	Scott Shelton	Terry Smith	Tim Owens	Bill Blanchard
<b>Torch Bearer</b>	Kay Brackins Sarah Criddle	Martha Edwards Frances Jenkins	Mary Kurek Don Sparrow	Marian Goetzinger George Grigg
<b>Audio</b>	Stover Morris	Larry Castle	Stover Morris	Larry Castle
<b>Video</b>	John Clarke	John Clarke	John Clarke	John Clarke
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Daughters of the King	Carol/Jim Holland	Kathy Driver Frances Jenkins	Meals Ministry Team (Trinity Center Sunday)
<b>Vestry of the Day</b>	Terry Smith	Terry Parrish	John Clarke	Laura Leslie





## May Birthdays

12



Sharon Culpepper-1  
Kieran Venable - 1  
Beverly Davison - 2  
Bob Gallo-4  
Kyle Venable - 4  
Meg Bradford-6  
Craig Everett-8  
Bob Hunt-8

Rachel Kemp-12  
Betsy Randall-14  
Roger Hahn-16  
Owen Burns-21  
Lavonda Van Benthuisen-21  
Wilton Burns-25  
Jolene McCann-27  
Heather Perry-31

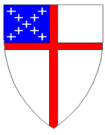
\* If you don't see your name above and would like to be added to our birthday list, please email or call the church office.

## 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

### **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  
St. Francis by the Sea Episcopal Church.  
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