



The Song of Saint Francis



Saint Francis by the Sea Episcopal Church, Salter Path, NC September, 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, September 8, after church, DOK Informational Session

*Tues, September 10, September 24 11:00 a.m.-Meals on Wheels Cook Dates

*Sat, September 21, 8:00 a.m.-Men of St. Francis Fellowship Breakfast

*Sun, September 22, 4 p.m.-Guided Labyrinth Walk with Amanda Todd



Song of St Francis September 2024

Last weekend during the choir conference we were treated to Evensong by the Schola Cantorum of the Diocese of East Carolina. Their anthem took its text from Julian of Norwich, a favorite saint of mine. I was especially moved by the words woven into deeper meaning by the choral singing, "And by giving and yielding ourselves, through grace, to the Holy Spirit we are made whole."

Dame Julian lived from 1342-1416 in England. At the age of 30, she fell very ill and, near to death, she received sixteen revelations about Christ's Passion, after which her sickness left her. For the rest of her life she pondered the meaning of those revelations. The record of her interpretation has become a classic of Christian spirituality.

Very little is known about Julian beyond what we read in her *Revelations*; what we do know is that she lived most of her adult life as an anchoress, withdrawn from the public eye, yet living attached to the cathedral in Norwich, focused on prayer and contemplation of the love of God. During this period, Julian would have been sealed into a dwelling attached to the wall of the church. There she would have lived alone, with only a view of the inside of the church and window to the outside so she could receive visitors looking for spiritual counsel. She may also have had access to a garden and may have had a cat, with which she is pictured in many icons.



Europe at this time was unsettled to say the least, by religious wars between England and France, and the Black Plague, among other cultural upheavals across Europe. Norwich was a busy city of international trade and Julian would have been very aware of what may have felt like the end of the world. Yet her writing brims with the certainty of God's all encompassing eternal love.

Many people turn to one of her most famous texts for comfort in difficult times: "All shall be well and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well."

After years of contemplating her visions, Julian wrote what I find to be the most profound yet simply beautiful meaning of our faith:

“What, do you wish to know our Lord’s meaning in this thing? Know it well, Love was his meaning. Who reveals it to you? Love. What did he reveal to you? Love. Why does he reveal it to you? For Love. Remain in this, and you will know more of the same. But you will never know different, without end. So I was taught that Love is our Lord’s meaning. And I saw very certainly in this and in everything that before God made us, he loved us, which Love was never abated and never shall be.”

Listening to the voices raised in prayer and praise on Saturday evening and on Sunday morning with the entire conference choir assembled was a reminder of one way we come to know God’s love.

When we come together, working together as the Body of Christ - we both receive and offer God’s love. By listening and learning and loving alongside each other, giving and yielding ourselves to God, we are made whole by, and in, and with, and through that love.

Every voice enriches the work, and we are stronger because we sing together.

Mary+





Vestry View
September 2024

Saint Francis by the Sea Needs You!
Elizabeth Sheeks



Saint Francis by the Sea is blessed with having an enormous amount of talent among its parishioners. It is also blessed with having many people who GIVE of their talents as well as their time to faithfully serve our church. For a relatively small congregation we serve one another and the greater community in a big way, and the people who give so generously of their time and talent are the lifeblood of Saint Francis. The sharing of musical talents each Sunday in the choir, or the cooking of more than 128 Meals on Wheels dinners monthly to help meet the nutritional needs of our community's most vulnerable – these are but two examples where Saint Francis parishioners step up to "Serve One Another In Christ".

Do you realize that every Sunday there are 12 different Lay Ministry volunteers who participate in making our Sunday morning services come to life for those in attendance as well as for those who participate remotely? Crucifers, Lectors, and the like - these persons are assigned their various duties because they volunteered by completing the Time and Talent card that came with their Stewardship packet last year. It is time to volunteer again to serve Saint Francis after the new year – and to encourage new volunteer participation the Vestry is planning a Lay Ministry Fair that will be held after one of our upcoming services. At the Fair parishioners can learn about these Lay Ministry opportunities along with other volunteer opportunities at Saint Francis, and have any questions about these tasks answered by members of the Vestry and others.

Yes, your Stewardship packet for 2025 will arrive shortly after our Lay Ministry Fair is over. It does not need to be emphasized that your financial pledge of support is very important to the operation of the church because you already know that. But, please know that completing your Time and Talent card EVERY YEAR is just as important. If it is not known that you would like to serve as, say, a torchbearer or an Altar Guild member or to read the prayers after the sermon on Sundays – then you will not be asked to serve. Completing the Time and Talent card is THE way you make these wishes known, so please volunteer to help your church by completing and returning that card along with your pledge. Then, there's no quiz beforehand - when you volunteer in this way you WILL be allowed AND SCHEDULED to serve on Sundays in 2025 and given the training you feel you need. Really, once you begin you will realize just how rewarding and, yes, how fun it is to help out on Sundays!

In our lovely "Prayer of Saint Francis" that we sing after Eucharist each Sunday it states that it is "In Giving Of Ourselves That We Receive". Please stop by and see us at the Lay Ministry Fair – and thanks for considering how you can volunteer to assist Saint Francis through Lay Ministry on Sunday mornings in 2025!



Towel and Basin

By Deacon Robin

St. Francis, great job on the snacks collection for Carteret Preschool Center! We delivered hundreds of items for the children, and the staff was so grateful for your generosity. Many children will be fed from the collection, and we have money set aside to replenish as needed. We also treated the staff to a deli tray, cookies, and chips for lunch on one of their workdays to thank them for the work they do. Thank you for **helping precious children in our community.**



Our Meals Ministry Team loves providing meals for recipients of Meals on Wheels. Every other Tuesday, we meet at 11:00 AM to prepare 64 meals for Meals on Wheels, as well as meals for parishioners who have special needs. On September 10, we will prepare baked pasta, green beans, and desserts. On September 24, the menu includes chicken broccoli cheese casserole with desserts. Each time we cook, we add a few Love Meals to the top shelf of the freezer; these are

for sharing with anyone at any time. Please feel free to take them to neighbors, friends, or family members who would enjoy having a meal. Do not hesitate to get one for yourself; everyone deserves a break from the kitchen from time to time! Thank you for **feeding the hungry in our community.**

Calling all good cooks: on September 11, we will honor our Indian Beach/Salter Path first responders and public service workers. These skilled and caring folks help our parish in so many ways, and we want to express our appreciation to them. We will serve ham (provided again by a generous donor), sides, beverages, and desserts. There is a signup sheet on the Meals Ministry Team table if you would like to contribute a dish. We will serve 15-20 people. Please indicate what you will bring, and place your food in a container that does not have to be returned. If your dish is served hot, the (non-returned) container should be microwave-safe. All food should be at the church no later than 11:15 AM for delivery. Thank you for **honoring the heroes in our community.**



In conjunction with Lobsterfest, we will sponsor a **food drive** for Martha's Mission Cupboard. Recent data collection shows that the number of people served at MMC continues to grow. If you would like to start bargain hunting for this now, the food items especially needed are:

Boxed cereal	Hamburger/chicken/tuna Helper
Canned meats/tuna/chicken	Rice mixes - Rice a Roni, Knorr, etc.
Canned soup	Condiments - ketchup, mustard, mayo
Canned vegetables (NOT corn and green beans)	Pasta and sauces
Shampoo, bar soap, disposable razors	Salad dressing
Kids' bag items: pudding, fruit cups, crackers, canned pasta, juice boxes, milk boxes, snack packs, cereal bars, tuna pouches, etc.	

We have had a busy summer helping others in the name of Christ in our community, and the fall will give us more opportunities to serve. Because of the love shown by our parish, St. Francis has become known as a loving,



giving church that cares for those in need. We are the hands and feet of Christ as we minister to others, and it is my privilege to serve with you.





Saint Francis by the Sea Episcopal Church Stewardship Campaign 2025

*And taking the five loaves and the two fish,
he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke them,
and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd.
And all ate and were filled. Luke 9:16*

Dear Friends of St. Francis by the Sea,

Our annual stewardship season at St. Francis is quickly approaching. This year, our giving theme is *MORE THAN ENOUGH*, and it comes from one of our recent Gospel Readings a few weeks ago. At the end of Luke's version of the feeding of the five thousand. Responding to Jesus' call, the gathered crowd turns their pockets inside out, shakes out their blankets, and rummages through their parcels to find enough to take care of the needs of their community. And what did they realize? That by the miracle of FAITH and the action of LOVE, there was *MORE THAN ENOUGH!*

Our fall campaign is like that ancient story: each of us contributing what we can provide; enough – enough to fund our operations and an abundance more to take care of our neighbors and plan for the future. Every gift is a miracle, a chance to change the world. And every gift is LOVE, the kind of love that protects, trusts, hopes, and perseveres.

How many more lives can we change?
How many more stories can we rewrite?

In the coming weeks, we will have meaningful dialogue, timely communications, and gentle friendly reminders that stewardship season at St. Francis is a time to celebrate God's goodness and thankfulness for allowing our parish to continue to be a bright light in this sometimes dark world on Bogue Banks and beyond.

Our stewardship campaign will begin on September 22nd and run through October 31st. On All-Saints Day on November 3rd, we will celebrate the conclusion of our focus on giving by honoring those faithful servants who have served before us by a special In-Gathering Luncheon following our worship service on November 3rd. Please be on the lookout for more information about this upcoming "homecoming" type celebration!

THANK YOU for all that you do for St. Francis by the Sea, our community, and for the world. Today we are asking you to begin considering what you will pledge to our faith community in the coming year to sustain our ministry and serve our neighbors. Every gift of wealth, works and wisdom goes toward our ministry and mission and your financial gifts are vital to us. We humbly ask that you pray with us as we launch our annual gathering of gifts and gratitude, and consider how you will contribute your gift of wealth.

In the spirit of love,
Craig Everett
Stewardship Chairperson



One Month to Go

We are about one month from Lobsterfest. As I write tickets sales are tracking ahead of 2023. We are slowly but surely seeing our volunteers sign up for the varied and many opportunities available for the day of the event. I'm pleading with you to read This Week at St. Francis, our weekly update, to keep up for how to sign up for job and other Lobsterfest news. Too many people are honest enough to tell me they don't read this weekly update of St. Francis happenings. Here are key points to remember for Lobsterfest:

- Here is the link to volunteer: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C4DADA72DABF49-50365161-lobsterfest#/> This list of jobs is periodically updated.
- If you are selling tickets please remind your customers that buy live and cooked lobster, they should bring a cooler to transport the lobster. We bag them in heavy paper bags but the bags will leak especially if the lobster is cooked. A leaking bag will make a mess in one's vehicle.
- We are capping our dine in meals at 325. Our dining room team does an outstanding job but they have their limits as humans. We want to provide the best customer experience we can. Good service requires we limit our capacity.

Finally, please don't forget we are sponsoring another food drive for Martha's Mission Cupboard. Deacon Robin made note of their needs in her column. Make any check donation payable to Martha's Mission.

Lobsterfest is hard work, but the payoff goes way beyond a profit. This parish continually demonstrates love in their efforts year after year.

God's Peace

Terry



Interested in becoming a Daughter of the King? There will be an informational meeting on Sunday, September 8, following worship in the St. Claire Chapel.

From the Diocese of East Carolina:

Daughters of the King wear crosses as an outward and visible sign that we cannot live a day without Christ in our lives. We see our Order as a community of nurturing women, empowered by the Holy Spirit and our vision is to encourage and enable all to be reflections of God's love, reaching out through prayer, service and evangelism to spread His Kingdom. We are a group of women living a Rule of Prayer and Service to our neighbors -- women to whom parishioners can look for love and for help in time of need or loneliness. We seek to walk with God as our guide and try to draw those with whom we come in contact into the Church. We are women who work to spread Christ's Kingdom here on earth. We can never forget that prayer is the foundation from which our service grows. We find the Order of the Daughters of the King to be a safe place in a busy world where we can be together and support each other in Christ's love.

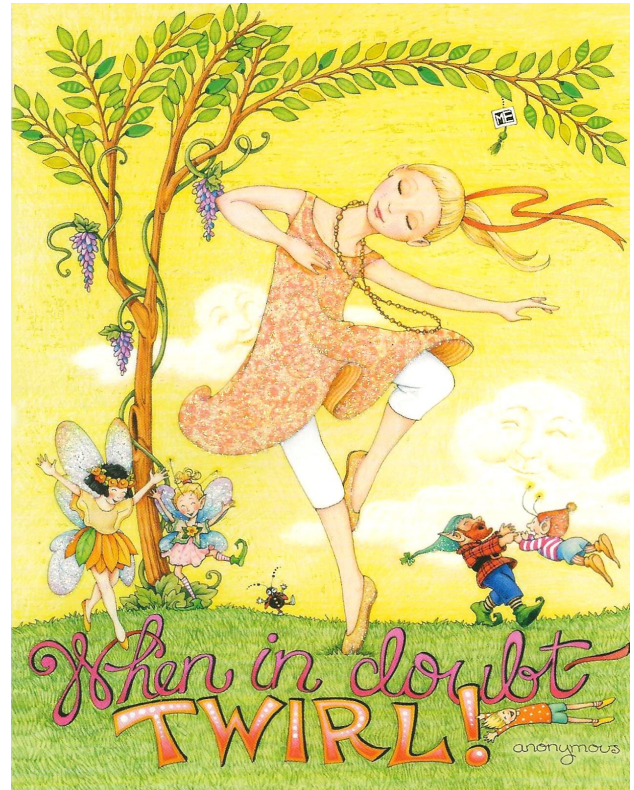


“When in Doubt...TWIRL!”

As I write this last article for *The Song*, I am reflecting fondly on my journey with this Chapter of The Daughters of the King. We made history together, navigating the pandemic and even becoming the first Daughters to be installed virtually by Zoom, pledging a life-long commitment to serve in a time of unprecedented uncertainty! We have shared from our very souls through discernment, loss, joys and faith-filled contemplation. We continuously connect through deep, abiding empathy for the sickness and troubles of others through our prayer ministry. While I will no longer be present physically, how wonderful it is to know that the bonds I have formed with these “sisters” and, of course, friends St. Francis by the Sea, can never be broken. Love action is the trademark of this church and, especially, the Daughters. However, one of the great comforts of belonging to such an Order is knowing that wherever we end up, we will be received into a community of women who share our calling.

As many of you know, my husband and I recently made a very difficult decision to move to the Raleigh area to be closer to necessary medical resources. After nearly a decade of living our dream on the Crystal Coast and finding our spiritual family at St. Francis by the Sea, the move has been a struggle.

About a month ago, I was feeling especially homesick. I stopped by the mail center on my way to the supermarket. At the stoplight, I opened a little card that I had received. Well...I had to pull over and have what they call a “big ugly cry”, one of those moments when you are so touched that you can’t stop the tears. The image on the front of the card was a whimsical woman dancing in an enchanted forest and the caption said, “**When in doubt - TWIRL!**” Inside was a handwritten message from each of my St. Teresa sisters reminding me that I was MISSED. Immediately, my spirits were lifted!! I recovered, chuckled away the tears and whispered to myself, “carry on and *just TWIRL!*” Truly, the support and prayers of these ladies throughout my transition have been a saving grace!



at
in



No doubt, many of you have received kind words, notes, calls or visits from a Daughter of the King. Know that these actions are not random. They are the results of “listening prayer”. God is faithful to give us divine guidance for how we can be channels of peace and comfort, if we just ask, and then LISTEN. We ALL are carrying heavy loads of concerns these days – for illness and suffering, for our country, for relationships, for those who mourn! I love to center for prayer beginning with the Daughters’ motto: *“I am but one, but I am one. I cannot do everything; but I can do something. What I can do, I ought to do. What I ought to do, by the grace of God, I will do. Lord, what will you have me do?”* One thing I’ve learned from this journey, is that when the needs around you feel overwhelming, **trust God to lay on your heart a need that you CAN fill, and with PERFECT TIMING.** Perhaps He will point you to someone who needs a little encouragement when skies are gray.

Know that Gary and I will thank our God upon every remembrance of you. Until we meet again by the sea (leave the light on:-), I close with this blessing that will forever play in my heart in the voice of Father Everett Thomas. *The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.* Numbers⁰:68-26

For His Sake,

Linda Keeter

Daughters of the King consider it a privilege to pray for your needs. Feel free to drop a request into the prayer box at the back of the church or contact any of our members by phone/email/text.

Marion Morris, Beth Parker, Robin Smith, Lisa Park, Grace Kemp, Pam Ball, Linda Keeter, Rosemary Unger, Susan Johnson, Jerry Rita Brunton, Kay Brackins, Laura Leslie, Carol Holland, Joan Gracie, Marion Youngblood



Lay Ministry Schedule

11

	September 1	September 8	September 15	September 22	September 29
Lector	Frances Jenkins	Beth Beswick	Betsy Randall	Joey Mossor	Libba Shelton
Prayers	Romaine Riddle	Lisa Park	Marion Youngblood	Mollie Mossor	Marion Morris
Altar Guild	Jean Smith	Gay Lea	Frances Jenkins	Carol Holland	Betsy Randall
Chalice	Elizabeth Sheeks Kelly Sheeks	Marion Morris Marian Goetzinger	Libba Shelton Scott Shelton	Terry Smith Marion Youngblood	Sarah Criddle Martha Edwards
Crucifer	Scott Shelton	Tim Owens	Bill Blanchard	Frances Jenkins	Dale Elks
Torch Bearers	Kay Brackins Terry Smith	Mary Kurek Scott Shelton	Tim Owens Marian Goetzinger	Liam Mossor Sarah Criddle	Kay Brackins Sarah Haigwood
Audio	Stover Morris	Larry Castle	Stover Morris	Stover Morris	Larry Castle
Video	John Clarke	Skip Kemp	John Clarke	Skip Kemp	John Clarke
Coffee Hour	Pam Ball Gay Lea	Robin and Terry Smith	Korin Gagnon Beth Parker	Scott and Libba Shelton	Meals Ministry Team
Vestry of the Day	Sharon Birmingham	Terry Smith	Elizabeth Sheeks	Scott Shelton	Stover Morris



August Birthdays

12



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. June 30 is the last day of Sunday School for the summer.

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



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