



The Song of Saint Francis



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

*Tues, June 2, 16, 30, 10 a.m.-
Meals on Wheels Prep

*Wed, June 17, 5:30 p.m.-Play Ball
with the Marlins

*Sat, June 20, 8 a.m.-MOSF



No matter how many years it has been since I have been out of school, the start of summer feels like something shifts. Semesters and program years end. Our pace slows. We get to settle down, take a break, and breathe.

In the church, we end the Easter season filled with the wind and fire of Pentecost and gifted with the Holy Spirit. We start the long 'green' season of what the church calls 'ordinary time'. There are not many special holidays or seasons in ordinary time. This is a time to take a breath, and attend to the Holy Spirit at work in our lives and in our church.

How do you experience the Holy Spirit? Some of us come from church traditions in which the Holy Spirit played a prominent part. To others of us, the Holy Spirit is less familiar. Take a moment to consider how you picture Spirit. Wind? Fire? Water? Dove?

The Holy Spirit is often described as feminine. She is wisdom, presence and joy. She is as close as our breath and as vast as creation. She is always around us. Like our breath, she fills us, sustains us, whether we are aware of her or not.

The Holy Spirit comes to us in so many forms: A quiet moment of connection with nature. Awe at God's creation. A sudden or subtle change in perspective. An inspiration or opening of the heart. A wave of gratitude. Deep peace. Hope. Comfort.

Sometimes the 'holy gust' unsettles us. She nudges us - or sometimes shoves us out of our comfort zone. She makes us uncomfortable with the way things are. She emboldens us to change our thoughts, our lives, and our world to better align with the dream of God, and equips us every step of the way.

If you are wondering where to find the Holy Spirit, look no further than our worship Sundays - the music, the word, the meal, the warmth, the fellowship. That spirit sustains us as we build and grow St. Francis By the Sea. The Holy Spirit is infused in our life together, and St. Francis is a conduit of that Spirit to all who are open to her.

As summer stretches ahead of us, allow yourself to connect to Spirit. Take a summer breath. Pause a moment to be still.

Breathe in the Holy Spirit;
Breathe out love.

Breathe in forgiveness;
Breathe out compassion.

Breathe in healing;
Breathe out gratitude.

Breathe in the Holy Spirit;
Breathe out peace.

Blessings,
Mary Kay+





VESTRY VIEW

Did you ever wonder who opens the church and starts the coffee on Sunday morning? Or who locks up when the last goody is consumed after coffee hour? Those responsibilities, and many others, belong to the Vestry of the Day (VOD). Each Vestry member takes a turn as VOD. As a newcomer to the Vestry, this year has been a time of learning for me.

Each Vestry member has an area of responsibility they have gravitated to or been assigned. An area I enjoy immensely is hospitality. I especially enjoy working with others who so generously give of their time and talents to pull off these events. Last fall started with the tailgating potluck, then the chili cook-off and culminated with Friendsgiving! We have had tremendous turnout, and everyone seems to have enjoyed themselves. Our next event is going to see the Morehead City Marlins Baseball Team play the Holly Springs Salamanders in Big Rock Stadium at 2714 Mayberry Loop Road in Morehead City on Wednesday June 17. The park opens at 5:30 and the game starts at 6. Tickets are \$30 each. That covers a seat on the 3rd base line, all the hot dogs, hamburgers and other ballpark food you can eat and all the Pepsi products you can drink under the Dive Deck Party Tent! That's right, we'll be in the shade!!!! The food and drinks will be available from 5:30 to 7:30. Plan to join us and root for our local team! Sign up in the Parish Hall and pay for your ticket no later than Sunday, June 14.





VESTRY VIEW

Another project I'm involved with is to look at the future needs at St. Francis. Currently, we have only one Sunday School room for toddlers to teens. Our nursery doubles as a prep kitchen. At the Agape dinner, we were squeezed in like sardines! We have no office space for our Deacon. The following members of St. Francis have agreed to serve on this Working Group:

Stover Morris

Pam Ball

Dave Phillips

Mary Kay Brown, Ex Officio

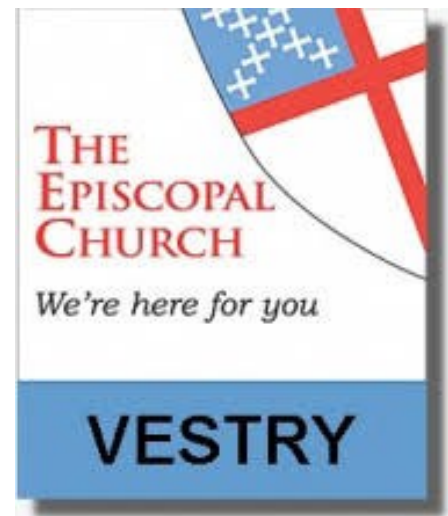
Beth Beswick

Kathy Driver

Bruce Jobe

We have just begun to think about this and commit to you that we will not only keep you informed but will solicit your thoughts and ideas at every step along the way. If you have thoughts about this issue, feel free to speak with anyone on the working group.

Kathy Bunch Driver



Towel and Basin

By Deacon Robin

After an amazing Ordination and Installation service for our new Bishop and a glorious Pentecost Sunday, it's time to think about June and the summer that stretches out before us - ready or not!

Our Lenten food collection was a huge success! We donated more than 1,000 pounds of food to Martha's Mission to help our neighbors, including many boxes of cereal and hundreds of cans of vegetables. Thank you for your generous donations!

In May, we treated the staff at Carteret Preschool to Dunkin' Doughnuts and Coffee in observance of Teacher Appreciation Week. They were pleased to be remembered for their hard work and the love that they share with the precious children at the preschool. They send their thanks and gratitude for our support throughout the year.



In June, the Meals Ministry Team will cook three times. On June 2, our menu is hash brown casserole, apples, and muffins. On June 16, we will prepare ham and macaroni and cheese with green beans and dessert. Summer chili with corn muffins is planned for June 30. Join us on any of these days at 11:00 AM to cook, and if you would like to help with ingredients, the signup sheets are on the Meals Ministry table in the Parish Hall. We send 90 meals each time for distribution to those receiving Meals on Wheels. Thank you for your ongoing support of this ministry.

Through June 7, we are collecting items for children who come to Camp Trinity without all the things they need. We are providing swim wear, sunscreen, beach towels, swim goggles, insecticide spray - all the things you would want to have for a summer week of camp at the beach. Please add your donations to the pile on the Meals Ministry table, and we will deliver them right after June 7.



Education for Ministry, or EfM, offers courses for small-group engagement and transformation developed by the School of Theology at the University of the South at Sewanee. EfM is based on the belief that our relationship to God matters and is a means of living in a complex world with faith, hope, and love. We believe in creating space for curiosity, community, and looking at life through the lenses of our relationships with God. The classic EfM program is four years of intensive study, and there is a one-year option, Wide Angle, for those who have completed EfM or who want to experience EfM before committing to the classic program. This year we celebrate our four-year graduate, Marion Morris, as well as those who completed Wide Angle, Pam Ball, Debbie McLean, and Nora Webb. We will begin our next year of study in September, and enrollment will open later in the summer. If you have questions about EfM, see me, or talk to one of our continuing participants: Frances Jenkins, Kathy Driver, Terry Smith, Jackie Shertzer, Craig Everett, Nora Webb, Debbie McLean, or Marion Morris.

It is a joy to serve with you. Thank you for all the ways you show love to one another.

John 13:34 I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."



A Glorious Day

Saturday, May 23, 2026 was a glorious day in the life of the East Carolina Diocese! Sarah Kathleen Fisher was ordained and consecrated as our ninth Bishop. SFBTS was well represented with 21 attendees! Kelly Sheeks carried our banner in the procession, Terry Smith and Nora Webb sang in the choir, and Robin Smith served as Deacon at the Table for the Eucharist.

From the procession to the closing prayer, everyone was excited, engaged and joyful! The service participants processed in to music that was moving, joyous, happy, and easy to dance to as evidenced by the moves displayed by the visiting bishops, priests, and other participants.

The Rt. Rev. Robert Wright, Bishop of Atlanta, preached a powerful sermon on John 20:19-23. His style as well as his dynamic sermon itself were engaging, meaningful, and (here's that word again!) joyful! The standing room only congregation responded with a hearty "Amen!" and enthusiastic applause.

Seven current and former bishops from around the country, including Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church, the Most Rev. Sean W. Rowe, served as Consecrators of our new Bishop. While the consecration portion of the service called upon our Bishop-elect to kneel before the Chief Consecrator, Sarah Fisher chose to prostrate herself. She lay on the floor with her arms outstretched throughout that portion of the service, a visible and highly meaningful and moving symbol of her devotion to God and to this diocese. When she rose, the Presiding Bishop and other Bishops lay their hands on the Bishop-elect, a powerful visible symbol of apostolic succession.



Following her consecration, the Bishop-elect was vested with gifts of a stole, cross, ring, cope, mitre, Bible and diocesan crozier. In her new vestments, Sarah Kathleen Fisher was presented to the congregation as our ninth bishop. Sarah originally chose the phoenix as the symbol of her time as our bishop. However, after visiting the diocese, she realized the importance of our environment and changed her symbol to water and the creatures that live in and around it. The program cover included water, fish, nets, and the challenge, "Let us be bold in our casting."

Then the new Bishop celebrated communion. Because of the time required for everyone to participate in communion, we were able to sing several hymns from a variety of traditions. As we sang "Wade in the Water," the congregation swayed and the priests and bishops on the stage swayed and danced.

At the conclusion of the service, our retiring bishop, Rob Skirving led us in prayer.

For those unable to attend, we missed you. For those who attended, we received such a gift! We were truly blessed by our being part of such an historic, important, and joyful occasion!



Dearest brothers and sisters in Christ,

Sunday May the 24th was Pentecost. It is the first day of the longest liturgical season of the church year. It can have as many as 25 Sundays. Pentecost commemorates the descent of the the Spirit **upon** the Apostles. It is sometimes is celebrated as the birth of the church. Pentecost Sunday color is red but the rest of the season is green until we change **to** Advent.

The season of Pentecost reminds us to emphasize growth, mission, and the Holy Spirit's empowerment in our daily life. It marks the beginning of the church's public mission. We are called to "evangelize" but not on the street corner! We are to speak, act and live our lives so that others receive and understand the words of Christ. Invite someone to church. Explain what this cross is that we DOK sisters wear or simply listen to someone's pain and fears.

Symbols of Pentecost are often seen at this time. They include the dove, the flame, and the wind. As we become more aware, these can become reminders to make and keep constant contact with our Creator.

As parishioners and DOK sisters we follow the liturgical year. In this season we open our hearts to growth for our parish and our chapter. We search for our continued prayer mission and watch for the Holy Spirit's direction for us as individuals, our parish, and our chapter.

We are always here to respond to your prayer request. Please place a card in the box in the back of the church or ask any of the DOK to add a name to our prayer list. Remember that any information we receive is held in complete confidence.



Blessings to you all.

Marion

DOK members

Pam Ball	Lisa Park	Sarah Criddle	Marion Morris
Kay Brackens	Beth Parker	Kathy Driver	
Joan Gracie	Carol Holland	Robin Smith	



Children's Programs at St. Francis by the Sea

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is being offered each week for children during the first portion of the worship service. The program is based on the Bible lectionary readings being used for worship. The lessons are most suitable for children three years of age through fifth grade. A team of seven people rotate Sundays with two adults serving each session. They have completed or are in the process of completing Safe Church training. If you have questions or concerns, contact Laura Leslie or Elizabeth Jobe.

NURSERY

The vestry approved hiring a nursery worker through Nancy's Nannies for Sunday worship. These folks have undergone background and reference checks. There must be the nursery worker and a church member who has had Safe Church training present when there is a child or children in the nursery. Children from birth to three years of age are appropriate for the nursery.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

During the worship service children may enjoy having a Kids Packet with crayons and activity sheets; packets are located in white boxes on both sides of the back of the sanctuary. A new addition is a Children's Table at the back of the sanctuary. There are books, paper, crayons and crafts on the table.



"The Stolen Child"

W.B. Yeats

Where dips the rocky highland
Of Sleuth Wood in the lake,
There lies a leafy island
Where flapping herons wake
The drowsy water-rats;
There we've hid our faery vats,
Full of berries
And of reddest stolen cherries.
Come away, O human child!
To the waters and the wild
With a faery, hand in hand,
For the world's more full of weeping than
you
can understand.

Where the wave of moonlight glosses
The dim grey sands with light,
Far off by furthest Rosses
We foot it all the night,
Weaving olden dances,
Mingling hands and mingling glances
Till the moon has taken flight;
To and fro we leap
And chase the frothy bubbles,
While the world is full of troubles
And is anxious in its sleep.
Come away, O human child!
To the waters and the wild
With a faery, hand in hand,
For the world's more full of weeping than
you
can understand.

Where the wandering water gushes
From the hills above Glen-Car,
In pools among the rushes
That scarce could bathe a star,
We seek for slumbering trout
And whispering in their ears
Give them unquiet dreams;
Leaning softly out
From ferns that drop their tears
Over the young streams.
Come away, O human child!
To the waters and the wild
With a faery, hand in hand,
For the world's more full of weeping than
you
can understand.
Away with us he's going,
The solemn-eyed:
He'll hear no more the lowing
Of the calves on the warm hillside
Or the kettle on the hob
Sing peace into his breast,
Or see the brown mice bob
Round and round the oatmeal-chest.
For he comes, the human child,
To the waters and the wild
With a faery, hand in hand,
from a world more full of weeping than he
can understand.



Lay Ministry Schedule

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	June 7	June 14	June 21	June 28
Lector	Beth Beswick	Terry Smith	Kelly Sheeks	Kathy Driver
Prayers	Debbie McLean	Lisa Park	Kay Brackins	Jami Turner
Altar Guild	Betsy Randall	Gay Lea	Laura Leslie	Carol Holland
Chalice	Elizabeth Sheeks Kelly Sheeks	Vicki Blanchard Marian Goetzinger	Sarah Criddle Jami Turner	Marion Morris Stover Morris
Crucifer	Marian Goetzinger	Stover Morris	Terry Smith	Frances Jenkins
Torchbearers	Frances Jenkins Scott Shelton	Bill Blanchard Martha Edwards	Tim Owens Scott Shelton	George Grigg Sarah Haigwood
Greeters	Beth Beswick Cecile Shenkan	Sarah Haigwood Lisa Park	Melanie Hum Scott Hum	Sarah Criddle Elsie Phillip
Audio	Stover Morris	Larry Castle	Stover Morris	Larry Castle
Video	Skip Kemp	John Clarke	Skip Kemp	John Clarke
Coffee Hour	Carol and Jim Holland	Robin and Ed Miner	Ann Hines and Jean Smith	Christina and Dan Hess
Vestry of the Day	Pam Ball	Kathy Driver	Bruce Jobe	Kathy Driver



June Birthdays

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Donald Johnson - 2
Eric Ellis - 3
Melanie Hum - 3
Stephen Elkins-Williams-9
Marion Morris-9

Jami Turner - 10
Harold O'Briant-14
Jean Smith - 20
Mary Hartman-23
Mary Kurek - 26

* 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

George Grigg

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

Bradford Art Gallery Directors

Terry & Katherine Parrish

Vergers

Marion Morris

Communications

Penn Perry



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