

June 2014

THE FAITHFUL BELL

St. Francis Episcopal Church



STAFF

The Rev. Conor Alexander, *Rector*
Janice Black, *Admin Assistant*
Bennett Card, *Christian Formation*
John Ickes, *Music Director*
Roland Nave, *Accompanist*
Brett Iwejor, *Nursery Attendant*

Vestry

Chris Anderson, *Senior Warden*
Ron Simmons, *Junior Warden*
Lynn Kennedy, *Registrar*
Ike Iwejor, *Treasurer*
Dosh Jackson, *Finance*
Ken Clarke, *Stewardship*
Susan Clever, *Social*
Robert Savage, *Communications*
Susan Clever, *Christian Formation*
Flavel Blyden, *Outreach*
Suzanne Yatsko, *Evangelism*

Parish Ministry Leaders

Tsu Fullwood, *Altar Guild*
Jackie Clarke, *Acolytes*
Maureen Fuster, *ECW*
Erika Grasse, *EYC*
Sarah Owens, *Lay Readers*
Bob Fullwood, *Men's Group*
Ken Clarke, *Ushers*

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I sit down to write my newsletter article a disturbing story came across my news feed. There was another community shooting this past weekend – this time in Santa Barbara, CA. The young man in question, Eliot Roger, was a student there and killed six people, wounded another eight, and finally killed himself when the police caught up with him. Unlike many of these incidents that have occurred in the past, Roger uploaded a detailed manifesto to the internet describing his life, his struggles, and how he came to the horrible decision he did. I felt compelled to at least skim through the document, wondering what drives a person to commit such acts – to engage in senseless, random violence and murder. What was the most disturbing about the words he left behind was that his struggles and disappointments were not that different from what you or I might have experienced in our lives. He wanted to reach out and connect with other people. He wanted to love and to be loved in return. For whatever reason he lacked the social skills to connect with others, and was unsuccessful in his attempts. Where he differed from most people was that this frustration escalated to the point where he had no qualms about murdering innocent people as his form of “vengeance.”

The memoirs were incredibly dark, depressing, and showed no hope for any kind of life. God, The Church, Spirituality of any kind were also noticeably absent. I find myself with a strange mixture of emotions ranging from complete disgust to empathy for his suffering. Of course nothing gave him the right to do what he did, and at the same time I come back to his struggles being no different to the struggles many of us face.

When I think about why The Church exists or why do we reach out to others and serve outside our walls – it's for the Elliot Rogers of the world. In a place where there is no hope, Christ offers hope. In a world where people feel that they can make up their own rules, we establish boundaries of God's ways. The two concepts working together often have miraculous results. I've seen amazing change happen in people when they encounter both the grace of Christ and the discipline of God's law. It allows a person to renounce sinful behavior and place it in the past without a sense of shame – without it defining who they are. It allows a person like Rogers to make a change in life well before it reaches horrific levels.

This is what I mean when I talk about bringing the light of Christ to the world. So much of the work that we do at St. Francis is to equip you to be that light – be a beacon of hope to world that is sometimes hopeless. If only we had more of this hope in the world, imagine what might occur, or what we might prevent. Perhaps we could get closer to the world that Jesus has always intended for us.

God's Peace,

Fr. Conor+

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From Our Senior Warden

Hello Friends,

In the coming days you will hear a lot about the Strategic Plan for St. Francis. The town hall meeting is on Sunday June 8, following the joint 9AM service. The town hall meeting is a chance to ask any questions about the plan.

The primary reason that we chose to create a plan was so that future vestries would have a road map to follow as they deal with caretaking of St. Francis. The old adage that “failing to plan is planning to fail” often holds true. We do not want to see St. Francis fail in its mission. The plan establishes a long-term vision and a road map for how to achieve that vision. This should allow short-term decisions to coincide with long-term goals.

In 2013 the Vestry authorized the establishment of a long-range strategic plan, and a planning committee. The planning team was made of members of the congregation and Fr. Conor. I would like to thank the members of the planning committee for their help. They were Dosh Jackson, Brad Hawkins and Susan Golden. Let me add that Dosh has been instrumental in this process, and we could not have gotten much accomplished without his leadership.

Now that the Vestry and planning committee have created the plan it is time for us to share this Vision with the congregation. After everyone has had a chance to weigh-in, we will tweak the plan, and then begin the process of implementation. This will not always be easy, nor will it be too hard. It will require some changes. I trust that we will all approach this with an open heart and open mind, and be willing to change if change is required.

Faithfully Yours,

Chris Anderson

Senior Warden

Christian Formation

Dear Parish Family:

At our VBS *Workshop of Wonders: Imagine and Build with God*, our children and adults will discover how the ordinary becomes extraordinary with God! We will meet people from the Bible who used materials on hand to make something amazing with God. We will use our hearts, minds, and imagination to participate in the creative life of God, the one who works wonders!

Day 1 - Imagine with God!

The Story of Esther (Book of Esther)

Day 2 - Build with God!

Rebuilding the Lord's House (Ezra, 3:8-13)

Day 3 - Grow with God!

Parable of the Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:1-2, 31-32)

Day 4 - Work with God!

Feeding the 5,000 (John 6:1-13)

Day 5 - Walk with God!

Walking to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-32)

Crafts, Music and a visit to the Bible Nook will further reinforce how the ordinary becomes extraordinary with God! An Adult VBS class will be offered this year for all interested adults. Dinner will be served from 6-6:30 pm for the nominal charge of \$10.00 per person for a family of 3, families of 4 or more will pay a maximum of \$30.00. There is a registration form located on the back of this letter for your convenience and additional forms are located at the back of the church. Volunteers are always greatly appreciated and if you would be interested in helping us out or making a monetary donation, please contact Bennett at 468-0660 or 646-5795. So mark your calendars now and pencil in the dates of July 21-25 as we visit the Workshop of Wonders.

Faithfully yours:

Bennett Card

Evangelism

Please pray for our visitors:
Kristy & Anthony Sizemore



Outreach: Parish Food Closet

Yes, we still operate our food closet. We are maintained by referrals from Virginia Beach Social Services every five weeks, Monday through Thursday.

We are in need of food supplies:

Canned meats	Canned fruit/fruit cups	Pancake mix (complete)
Boxed potatoes	Peanut butter	Soups
Pasta/canned pasta	Jelly	Rice
Spaghetti sauce	Cereal	Canned vegetables
Dry beans	Dry milk (small pkgs)	Small boxes of raisins
Boxed cornbread mix	Boxed muffin mix	Juice boxes
Boxed biscuit mix		

We do not have facilities for anything but non-perishable items.

****Bring items with you to church and place in basket in rear of Nave.**

Thank you in advance, Doris Naugle & Elinor Ruth

LEM SCHEDULE



June 1

8 am - Bridget Borton

10:30 am - Clay Wise (Prayers)

John Ickes (Readings)

June 8

8 am - No 8 am Service Today

9 am - Carol McCarthy (Prayers)

Terrence Cumberland (Readings)

June 15

8 am - Bridget Borton

10:30 am - Barbara Taylor (Prayers)

Lynn Kennedy (Readings)

June 22

8 am - Susan Golden

10:30 am - Carol McCarthy (Prayers)

Clay Wise (Readings)

June 29

8 am - Cheryl Blyden

10:30 am - Terrence Cumberland (Prayers)

Lynn Kennedy (Readings)



Grass Cutters

May 31

Paul Radford & Joe Ruth

June 7

Brad Hawkins & Peter Ming

June 14, 21 & 28

Kenrick Clark & Chris Anderson

Paul Radford & Joe Ruth

Brad Hawkins & Peter Ming



Altar Guild

May 24 - June 6

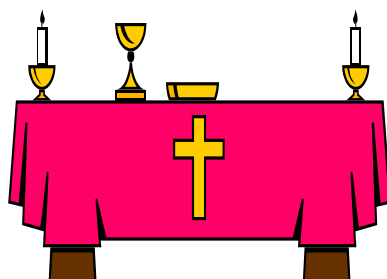
Tsu Fullwood

June 7 - June 20

Sara Grinnell

June 21 - Jul 4

Jerry Hawkins



Acolytes



June 1

- Taylor - Crucifer
- Trevor - Gospel Bearer
- Brooklyn - Torch Bearer
- Selena - Torch Bearer

June 8

- Andre - Crucifer
- Brady - Gospel Bearer
- Isaiah - Torch Bearer
- Azaria - Torch Bearer

June 15

- Emerson - Crucifer
- Rylan - Gospel Bearer
- Trevor - Torch Bearer
- Taylor - Torch Bearer

June 22

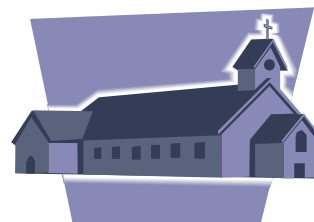
- Spencer - Crucifer
- Brooklyn - Gospel Bearer
- Anna - Torch Bearer
- Brady - Torch Bearer

June 29

- Emerson - Crucifer
- Rylan - Gospel Bearer
- Selena - Torch Bearer
- Andre - Torch Bearer

Building Usage

Need to reserve a room?
Contact our Building Coordinator,
Robert Savage, by email at
Rsavage6@verizon.net
or by phone at (757) 451-4532.



St. Francis Episcopal Church Financial Update

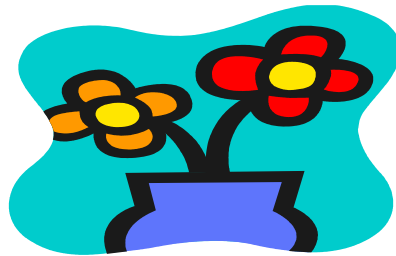
As of April 30, 2014



	Actual	Budget YTD	Difference
Total Contributions	53,787.54	51,833.33	1,954.21
Total Operating Expenses	52,953.19	52,071.33	881.86
Net Income	834.35	-238.00	

Notes: 1 Giving has been picking up and we have a small YTD Surplus.

2 Thank You and please continue your support.



Altar Flowers

The flowers on the Altar are given:

June 1

In thanksgiving for Anna's 10th birthday by Bob & Tsu Fullwood.

June 8

In celebration of the marriage of Edward Golden & Teena Sanders



Vestry Lock-Up

June 1

Suzanne Yatsko

June 8

Ronald Simmons

June 15

Chris Anderson

June 22

Dosh Jackson

June 29

Susan Clever