



THE FAITHFUL BELL

St. Francis Episcopal Church

Dear Friends of St. Francis,



First off let me say what an honor it is to be called as your next priest. I've been on the job a little less than a week now so there's not a whole lot to reflect on, but I will share some of what I've observed and a bit more about myself. For the time being, I see my role primarily as getting to know all of you, and in doing so I'll be able to get a good sense of the community. I've already started making appointments to visit people, but it will take some time to make it to everyone's home. I'll be doing this because I'm really interested in what you value about St. Francis. Obviously this is your Church so it must mean a great deal to you. I'd like to know what some of the best times were, what you think makes this place special now, and what are some of your hopes for the future.

Some people have already started asking me what kind of changes I would like to make, or what my vision is. As I see things, I would like to do this listening work first, so we can have some shared ownership, and when I do make decisions, I'll be confident that I'm making the right decisions. From what I've observed so far this is a community that really, really, loves each other. There is a warmth and a caring amongst the members that is extremely profound. The other thing I've noticed is how much we value our diversity. St. Francis truly is a house of prayer for all nations and it's exciting to see the cultural mix as I look out on Sundays.

So for a bit more about me, I am a person that will spend his whole life going deeper and deeper into the Faith. God certainly isn't finished with me, and I keep learning things from a variety of traditions. One of the reasons I love the Episcopal Church so much is that there's room for all of this diversity within one Communion. I'm hoping in the future to draw on various traditions from Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Evangelicals, and Eastern Orthodox Christians to help us develop our common life. And of course, there's always the teachings and example of St. Francis himself. St. Francis began his ministry with a call from God to rebuild His Church. From there he gave up his earthly possessions, and imitated our Lord in His poverty. St. Francis developed an amazing sense of inner peace and calm before The Lord that allowed him to inspire others to join him in his way of life. It was out of this poverty and his sense of peace that he moved so easily through nature, and created some of the scenes with animals that we are so familiar with.

I share all of this with you as a starting point. Throughout the next several months our conversation will deepen, and together we'll be able to discern where God is calling us over the next several years. I look forward to meeting with all of you.

God's Peace, Fr. Conor+

October 2010

STAFF

The Rev. Conor Alexander, Rector
Mrs. Nakita Thompson, Secretary
Mr. Bennett Card, Christian Formation
Mr. Roland Nave, Accompanist
Mr. John Ickes, Music Director
Ms. Frances Doughty,
Nursery Attendant

VESTRY

Victor Rice, Senior Warden
Al Taylor, Junior Warden
Sarah Owens, Registrar
Roxanne Taylor, Treasurer
Susan Clever, Stewardship/Publicity
Onaye Farrish, Evangelism
Dosh Jackson, Finance
Jill Kridler, Social
Myrna Simmons, Outreach
Clay Wise, Christian Formation

PARISH MINISTRY LEADERS

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

Susan Clever, Faithful Bell Newsletter
Elisa Allen, Website

509 S. Rosemont Road • Virginia Beach, VA 23452

Office Phone: 757-340-6884 • E-mail: stfrancisoffice@verizon.net • Website: www.saintfrancisvb.net

Our Church Family



With Deepest Sympathy

Paul J. Rudy - August 30, 2010

Our condolences to his wife of 38 years, Jean Rudy.



Alexandra Christianna Owens, daughter of Sarah and Steven Owens
 Day of Birth: September 18
 Time of Birth: 11:23 AM
 Weight: 5 lbs, 13 ozs
 Length: 19 inches

Send your birth, death, birthday, anniversary and other special announcements to:
Susan Clever,
cleverinc@cox.net
before the 15th of the month to be included in the next newsletter.

List of Contacts



The Rev. Conor Alexander Rector	conormat@yahoo.com
Nakita Thompson	Receptionist stfrancisooffice@verizon.net
Bennett Card	Christian Formation Director... slurpee-bennett@cox.net
Roland Nave	Accompanist N/A
John Ickes	Music Director johnmickes@cox.net
Frances Doughty	Nursery Attendant N/A
Victor Rice	Vestry - Senior Warden VicDet1@aol.com
Alfred Taylor	Vestry - Junior Warden tholidays@cox.net
Roxanne Taylor	Vestry - Treasurer stfrancistreasurer@verizon.net
Susan Clever	Vestry - Stewardship cleverinc@cox.net
Onaye Farrish	Vestry - Evangelism ofarrish@hotmail.com
Dosh Jackson	Vestry - Finance drjackso@aol.com
Jill Kridler	Vestry - Social jkridler1@cox.net
Myrna Simmons	Vestry - Outreach msimmons@nps.k12.va.us
Clay Wise	Vestry - Christian Formation .. wisegis@gmail.com
Elisa Allen	Website elisa_allen19@cox.net
Jackie Clarke	Alcolytes kenjac2@cox.net
Sarah Owens	Lay Readers sarah_hewitt81@yahoo.com
Ken Clarke	Ushers kenjac2@cox.net
Tsu Fullwood	Altar Guild 486-6291
Charlotte Newcome	ECW (Episcopal Church Women) 340-2551
Erika Grasse	EYC erikagrass@yahoo.com
Bob Fullwood	Men's Group N/A

From Our Senior Warden

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



First I would like to welcome Father Conor to St. Francis. I know that he will be good for our church. Welcome Father Conor Alexander, we all will have your back.

I know that God cares about all our decisions and wants the best for us.

But he is more concerned about the person we have become than he is about any particular decision we might make. So let us seek his presence rather than just his plan for our life. Because the most important part of his plan is for us to have a close relationship with him.

We all know from the scriptures that we are all God's children. That his specific will for us as an individual will never contradict the principles he mentions in the Bible. But to discover God's specific will for our decisions, we need to consult him with the understanding that God is willing to guide us, and that we are capable of receiving his guidance. We must want to hear what God is saying. We must demonstrate our sincerity by doing what God has already asked us to do and we must be open to acting upon whatever new guidance God gives us.

When I am facing a decision I use at least five ways to consider how God wants me to act: Bible reading, prayer, advice from mature Christians, an assessment of my circumstances and a sense of inner peace. I find that it is best to consider a decision in light of all these elements to be sure of God's leading. I try not to act on the basis of just one or a few of these elements unless I am in a crisis situation that must be handled quickly.

Once you've discovered God's will for a particular decision, be courageous. Act on it quickly and don't second-guess yourself afterward. Know that if you've made a honest mistake. God can always transform your situation to accomplish his purposes.

Victor Rice,
Senior Warden
VicDet1@aol.com



**Meets on the 2nd
Saturday of each
month**

**Saturday, October 9th
10:00 AM in the
Crigger Room
Light Refreshments**

ECW Notes:

- The trip to walk the Labyrinth was enjoyed by all.
- Suggestions for future outings and speakers are welcome.
- The Smile Train contribution is on hold.
- Estimated cost for the microphone for the Parish Hall - \$810.00.
- Outreach for Christ furnished Christmas for 400 children and 830 guardians. This toy drive will be repeated in 2010.
- UTO collection = \$342.00
- Diocesan Fall Meeting is October 30th at St. Aidan's. Attendance is encouraged since it is so near to us.

All women of St. Francis are invited to attend ECW meetings. Newcomers are especially welcome.

**Contact Charlotte Newcome, 340-2551,
for more details.**

**PLEDGE DRIVE
...coming to a neighborhood
near you!**



AVENUES OF COMMUNICATION...

**Submissions for the parish
newsletter should be made before
the 15th of each month to
Susan Clever, cleverinc@cox.net.
Typed or hand-written submissions
will be accepted.**

**CHURCH
WEBSITE!**

Visit our website at
[http://www.
saintfrancisvb.org](http://www.saintfrancisvb.org).

Elisa Allen,
elisa_allen19@cox.net.



Find us on
Facebook

St. Francis has joined the facebook crowd.
Search for "St. Francis Episcopal Church, Virginia
Beach." Post information or photos!



Enjoy the
opportunity
of Worship
through music!

The Chancel Choir gathers members of the Saint Francis parish family who have adopted the mission of worship through the Anglican tradition of song. Formal training or experience is **NOT** required – only a genuine interest in supporting the mission of the Church. The words "I can't sing!" are not an option!

**Choir rehearsals are on Sunday at 10:00 AM
before the 10:30 worship service
and again at 12:00 NOON.**

**Contact John Ickes, Music Director,
johnmickes@cox.net, for more details.**

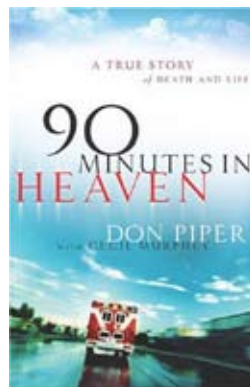
On the Social Calendar...

St. Francis Book Reading Club meets

Monday, October 13th

**at 6:00 PM in the
Adult Sunday
School Room**

Light refreshments served.



For October
90 Minutes in Heaven by
Don Piper & Cecil Murphy

90 Minutes in Heaven is the runaway best-seller about one man's experience with death and life. As Baptist minister Don Piper drove home from a conference, his car collided with a semi-truck that had crossed into his lane. Piper was pronounced dead at the scene. For the next 90 minutes, he experienced the glories of heaven. Miraculously, Piper came back to life, and the pleasure of heaven was replaced by a long and painful recovery. For years Don Piper kept his heavenly experience to himself. Finally, friends and family convinced him to share his remarkable story.

You are warmly invited to join our discussion group as we examine and explore **90 Minutes in Heaven**.

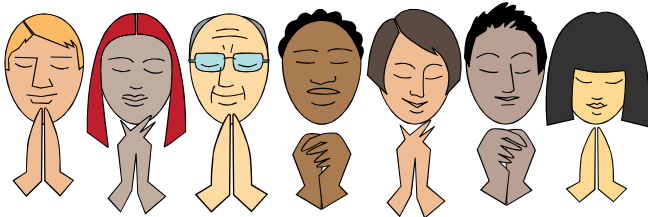
EVANGELISM...

Evangelism isn't so difficult.

I got so excited about the Blessing of the Animals on October 3rd that I invited a co-worker to bring her dogs. In doing this I found out that she had been thinking about visiting St. Francis; my response was, "this would be a great time to visit." I expect to see her at church soon and can hardly wait for you all to meet this wonderful woman. Invite your friends and co-workers to come to the Blessing and experience the fellowship of our community.

On that note, I invited the Plaza Fire Department to attend too. Although they no longer keep dogs at the station, they are posting the event on the bulletin board and extending the invitation to all the firemen and their families. The Virginia Beach Mounted Police are also considering attending.

Blessings,
Onaye Farrish
ofarrish@hotmail.com



PRAYER GROUP **Meets at 6:30 PM every** **Wednesday evening in the Church.**

St. Francis Prayer Group meets every Wednesday evening at 6:30 PM to pray for the concerns of the members of our Parish.

If you have concerns and would like us to pray with you, please email your confidential prayer requests to me at ofarrish@hotmail.com.

Just put prayer request in the subject line. It is not necessary to give reasons, but feel free to share as much or little information as makes you comfortable. What an honor to pray for our friends and neighbors. Join us and share in this blessing.



Thanks to...

- Volunteers who staffed the Ice Trucks at the Neptune Festival. Some of you went the extra distance to make sure that all of the time slots were filled throughout the weekend.
- JILL KRIDLER AND THE HAIRCUT FUNDRAISER. \$200.00 was raised by this event.
- Volunteers who clean up after Sunday services each week or during the week
- Volunteers who mow the grass each week.
- Folks who supply paper and other supplies for church use
- LEMs for participating in worship services on Sunday morning
- LEM 2's who take communion to shut-ins
- Ushers who guide and welcome people on Sunday mornings
- Leaders who volunteer their time to oversee St. Francis' various ministries
- Volunteers who offer their time and talents in the church office
- Choir members who sing on Sundays and for other occasions
- Acolytes who provide a necessary service on Sunday morning
- Church school teachers who teach our children to know Christ by their words, actions and love
- Our webmaster, Elisa Allen

CHRISTIAN FORMATION



WEAVING GOD'S PROMISES



Bennett Card,
Director of
Christian Formation

This year I am excited to tell you about a new curriculum that we are using in most of our CF classes entitled, *Weaving God's Promises*. This new curriculum for ages 3 through the 6th grade was developed and written especially for the Episcopal Church.

Weaving God's Promises teaches children the way of Christ in the church, in the world and then gives them a solid grounding for future formation programs, preparing them for Christian adulthood. It follows a 3 year cycle dealing with the broad themes of Weaving Our Faith, Weaving Together the Family of God and Weaving God's Beloved Community. Holy Scripture, the Church, Christian Living are the three areas emphasized in this curriculum, to help build this important faith foundation in our children.

Each class will consist of gathering together, telling the Sacred Story, Prayer, Sharing and the Dismissal or Sending forth. It is age specific and includes special activities and lessons for the Church Seasons, Holidays and the Church and its Sacraments. Our capable teachers are excited about this new curriculum and it is my hope that you will join with us as we experience, Weaving Our Faith together. Our Youth and Adult classes will continue to use the lectionary based, *Living the good News*.

If you have not yet registered for CF classes, registration forms may be found at the rear of the church and in the commons, attached to the Christian Formation bulletin board. There are many inter-generations events planned throughout the year, details will follow in the Bell and postings on the CF bulletin board.

Faithfully: Bennett

Christian Formation Calendar of Events • September - December 2010

September 26 Teacher's Installation and Children's Homily, 10:30 AM Service
October 3 St. Francis our patron Saint, observance in each of the CF classes
October 17 Children's Homily, 10:30 AM Service
October 24 Children's Homily, 10:30 AM Service
November 7 All Saints Observance, participation of all classes, details forthcoming
November 14 Children's Homily 10:30 AM Service
November 28 Advent Wreath making during the CF hour, details to follow
 Children's Homily, 10:30 AM Service
December 5, 12, 19 Pageant Rehearsals for Christmas Eve Pageant, during the CF class time

December 12 Children's Homily, 10:30 AM Service
December 19 Children's Homily, 10:30 AM Service
December 24 Christian Formation Pageant, Family Service
 Christmas Eve, Time TBA
December 26 **NO** CF Class

Christian Formation

Bennett Card, Director of Christian Formation

Michelle Wise, Ages 3 to Prek
Twila Leavitt, Grades 1-3
Susan Clever, Grades 4-6

Erika Grasse, Youth - Grades 7-12
Pete Leavitt & Eileen Anderson, Adult Studies
Frances Doughty, Nursery Attendant

LAY MINISTRY

Hello, this is Sarah Owens, your Lay Leader here at St. Francis. I am happy to report that we have a thriving Lay Ministry here at St. Francis full of wonderful people, and I would like to thank each and every one of you for the wonderful job you do every week.

If anybody is interested in joining this ministry, please feel free to either speak with myself or Father Conor at any time. We always love to see new faces "up there" on Sundays and all are welcome.

Sincerely,
Sarah Owens



WHO: All children

ages 3 through *willing* 12

WHAT: *Angel Choir
for children*

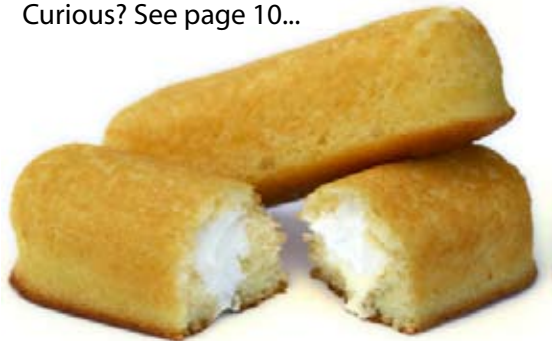
WHEN: Rehearsals follow the 10:30 AM worship service. (This is the same time that the adult choir rehearses.) Rehearsals last approximately 1/2 hour.

WHERE: Rehearsals take place in the Sanctuary

WHY: To hear the angels sing, of course

The Angel Choir of St. Francis rehearsed on Sunday, October 3rd. About 10 kids attended. They learned the words and hand motions to "This Little Light of Mine."

Curious? See page 10...



Continued from page 10

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.

***People come into our lives for a reason, a season,
or a lifetime. Embrace all equally!***

Pictures from Father Anderson's Retirement Activities Available on DVD

Many people have requested copies of the DVD slide shows and individual pictures from Father Anderson's retirement dinner and his last service on Sunday morning.

These items are available by filling out the yellow form found in the commons and returning it to Dosh Jackson in church Sunday mornings.

1. Picture story of Father Jim's Life\$10.00
DVD Slide Show
2. Retirement Dinner and Last Service\$10.00
DVD Slide Show
3. Both DVD's available for.....\$18.00

PICTURE PRINTS are available at from Dosh's website. To order or see all of the dinner and last service pictures go to:

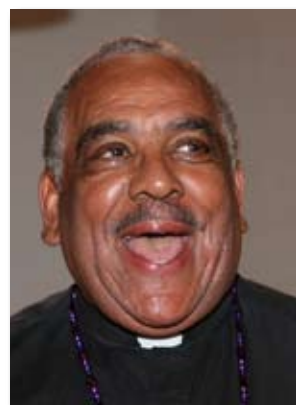
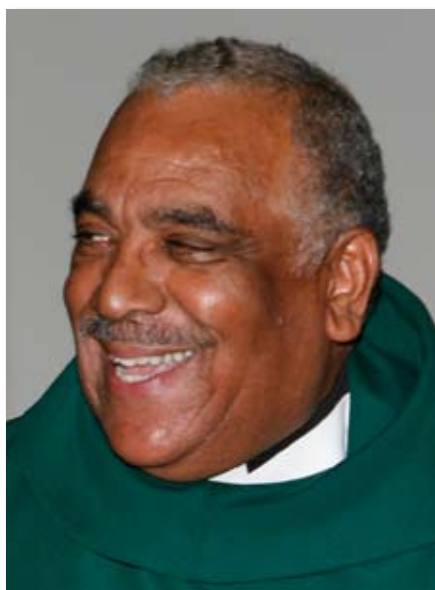
Doshjackson.sumgmug.com/

Click on the Father Jim Anderson's Retirement link. Browse through the 200+ photographs and order any of them. Just click on the picture you want to order then click the "buy" button above the picture.

**ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF THE
PICTURES AND DVD'S GO TO
ST. FRANCIS GENERAL FUND.**



**Forever in
our hearts...**



St. Francis is one of our most beloved saints because



of his humility, his gentleness and especially his joy in God's creation. Francis loved all of creation because he saw that it belonged to God. He called the birds and other animals his brothers and sisters because, he said, "We all have the same Father." The world and everything in it was one big family to Francis. This sense of joyful gratitude gave him

an excitement in living and a gentle courtesy to all that he met—people, animals and birds.

In 1210, Francis and his friends went to Rome to get the blessing of the Pope. Shortly afterward he began the Franciscan order of monks, which still exists all over the world. Many churches give a Pet Blessing in commemoration of St. Francis on the Sunday or any day close to October 4th, his feast day. People bring their pets to church to be blessed by their priest. Then all join in readings, hymns and prayers of thanksgiving for their pets and for all of the earth that God created.

~from *Weaving God's Promises*

PRAYER OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen



**All
creatures
great and
small...**

Animal Blessing 2010



St. Francis Episcopal Church

Financial Update

As of August. 30, 2010 - Year to Date Results

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Total Contributions	\$106,963	\$98,312	\$8,651
Total Operating Expenses	\$112,536	\$113,280	\$717
Net Income	\$-5,572	\$-14,968	\$-9,396
Pledges	\$79,904	\$85,073	\$-5169

The Vestry reported earlier this year that we were headed for a negative cash flow of \$20,927 by year end. We are *happy* to report that your response to the request to keep up your pledges and for additional giving plus keeping expenses down has to date improved St. Francis' financial position.

***However, at the present giving and spending level
we will still end the year with a 10,000 - \$12,000 deficit.***

Please continue your efforts to make St. Francis financially sound.

THANK YOU,
Dosh Jackson, *Vestry Financial Chair*

A little boy wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with Twinkies and a six pack of root beer and he started his journey. When he had gone about three blocks, he met an old woman. She was sitting in the park just staring at some pigeons.

The boy sat down next to her and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the old lady looked hungry, so he offered her a Twinkie. She gratefully accepted it and smiled at him. Her smile was so pretty that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered her a root beer. Again, she smiled at him. The boy was delighted.

They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word.

As it grew dark, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave, but before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the old woman, and gave her a hug. She gave him her biggest smile ever.

When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?" He replied, "I had lunch with God." But before his mother could respond, he added, "You know what? She's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

Meanwhile, the old woman, also radiant with joy, returned to her home. Her son was stunned by the look of peace on her face and he asked, "Mother, what did you do today that made you so happy?" She replied, "I ate Twinkies in the park with God." However, before her son responded, she added, "You know, he's much younger than I expected."

Continued on page 7

VESTRY LOCK-UP SCHEDULE

Through December 2010

October 3 VICTOR RICE
October 10 DOSH JACKSON
October 17 ONAYE FARRISH
October 24 CLAY WISE
October 31 MYRNA SIMMONS
November 7 SUSAN CLEVER
November 14 VICTOR RICE
November 21 DOSH JACKSON
November 28 ONAYE FARRISH
December 5 CLAY WISE
December 12 SUSAN CLEVER
December 19 VICTOR RICE
December 26 DOSH JACKSON

LEM SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 3RD

8:00 – SUSAN GOLDEN
10:30 PRAYERS – TC CUMBERLAND
10:30 READINGS – ONAYE FARRISH

OCTOBER 10TH

8:00 – FRANCES CLARK
10:30 PRAYERS – CAROL MCCARTHY
10:30 READINGS – TC CUMBERLAND

OCTOBER 17TH

8:00 – SUSAN GOLDEN
10:30 PRAYERS – TC CUMBERLAND
10:30 READINGS – ONAYE FARRISH

OCTOBER 24TH

8:00 – SUSAN GOLDEN
10:30 PRAYERS – ONAYE FARRISH
10:30 READINGS – CAROL MCCARTHY

OCTOBER 31ST

8:00 – SUSAN GOLDEN
10:30 PRAYERS – ONAYE FARRISH
10:30 READINGS – BARBERA TAYLOR