

September 2013

THE FAITHFUL BELL

St. Francis Episcopal Church



STAFF

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

Vestry

Orlando Smith, *Senior Warden*
Chris Anderson, *Junior Warden*
Lynn Kennedy, *Registrar*
Roxanne Taylor, *Treasurer*
Dosh Jackson, *Finance*
Ken Clarke, *Stewardship*
Susan Clever, *Social*
Robert Savage, *Communications*
Ron Simmons, *Christian Formation*
Barbera Radford, *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,

Let me start off by saying that I hope everyone enjoyed their summer and is getting back into the swing of things for the fall. As our program year begins, and Sunday School goes into full swing, I'd like to start a conversation that I hope will be helpful to us and to the world around us.

Last winter, our Diocese introduced a program called, "Repairing the Breach" with the stated intention of dealing with the past sin of racism. As you can probably imagine, a topic like racism evokes a lot of different responses, and I have seen more than a few over the past few months. Some feel that a program like this is going to be very helpful, and these conversations need to occur. Others have problems with it, fearing that it accuses people of misdeeds that they personally did not commit. Another wondered why the materials provided did not acknowledge a lot of the work of integration and civil rights that has already occurred.

I'd like to propose another way of viewing this topic – not to dismiss these other points of view, but to examine it from yet another angle. Consider the possibility that racism, from the time of slavery through Jim Crow Laws and segregation, even until the present day, has caused damage to our society, particularly to our African American brothers and sisters. That damage has still not healed, and many people still feel the effects of it. While we may not be individually culpable for the racism that caused this damage, we do have a moral opportunity to heal the damage, and doing good is always a Christian act.

I believe that St. Francis has a unique gift to offer in this work. I love the fact that I can look out on our congregation and so many different faces worshipping together. Perhaps we can take the good work that has begun here and take it a step further. Perhaps we can look our brothers and sisters in the eye and say, "You can tell me whatever you need to tell me, and we're going to be okay." As St. Paul said in his letter to the Galatians, "Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2)." With that in mind, we will be dedicating our Sunday School program on November 3rd to addressing this topic. This should give plenty of time to prepare for our discussions and arrange our schedules. I hope you'll join me on that day, and together we can bring some light to our part of the world.

God's Peace,
Fr. Conor+

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From Our Senior Warden

Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ,

The Lord works in mysterious ways is a favorite line I say from time to time. And miracles happen every day is another statement that is very endearing to me. My wife and I have raised two children of our own, and what a joy it is watching our grandson grow week by week. His expressions are so precious when he makes eye contact. The love that both of us give him, he turns right back around and gives us something special each time we see him.

In Matthew 19:14, Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Our children's future depends on how successful they are taught during their early years. Most of our children will not even remember 9/11.

Unfortunately Sharon and I witnessed how a parent disciplined his son in front of his family and the young man's friend by slapping his son upside the child's head repeatedly! We both agreed that the fathers conduct was unnecessary but maybe that conduct could have been how the parent was raised. My father did not discipline me in that way, so in turn I did not do that to my son! I also believe that our acolytes hold a very important position in St. Francis and should be taught that they are accountable for how they conduct themselves while our church service is in session.

It is so important that all parents raise their children with a good Christian foundation and good Christian values, so that this country will continue to grow without the biases, which still exist today.

It is sad to say that our society still has a long way to go from the continued gun violence around this country. Even with the recent vandalism to our church. I do not feel the nationality of the children made any difference. We are all children in our God's eye; this should be the most important factor I believe. God continues to show us miracles every day.

I think the words of this song, also sums up my thoughts:

Jesus loves the little children
All the children of the world

Black and yellow, red and white
They're all precious in His sight
Jesus loves the little children of the world

Whether you're rich or whether you're poor
It matters not to Him
He remembers where you're going
Not where you've been
If your heart is troubled
Don't worry, don't you fret
He knows that you have heard His call
And he won't forget

All around the world tonight
His children rest assured
That He will watch and He will keep us
Safe and secure
Jesus loves the little children
All the children of the world
Black and yellow, red and white
They're all precious in His sight
Jesus loves the little children of the world

Always love one another
Orlando M Smith
Senior Warden

Christian Formation

Dear Parish Family:

Welcome back to a new Christian Formation program year! We are excited about the introduction of our new curriculum, Feasting on the Word! This lectionary based curriculum, provides a solid connection between education and worship. It is based on the Sunday Lectionary scriptures and it invites both the leaders and the students deep into the rhythm of our church year. Each lesson encourages faithful Christian living and a lifelong spiritual formation. Each age level provides a comprehensive, accessible biblical background from four key perspectives:

What? Are the important things to know about the contexts, language and settings of the biblical lesson?
Where? Is God in the scripture, and His will and activities being expressed?
So what? Does this scripture mean to me?
Now what? Can we do to live out our life based on what the scripture is saying?

We are very excited about this new curriculum and we look forward to you our parish family joining with us and experiencing it for yourself. Christian Formation classes for all ages through adult will begin at 9:15 am on September 8. Two registration forms are located on the flip side of this letter, in the Commons, in each of the CF classrooms, and on the door of the CF Office.

Our CF Staff for 2013-2014

Pre K-Kindergarten	Michelle Wise and Amy Imbriale
1 st -3 rd Grades	Twila Leavit
4 th -6 th Grades	Reta Savage
Youth	Erika Grasse
Adults	Pete Leavitt and Eileen Anderson
Director CF	Bennett Card

Children's Homilies will begin on September 08, offered twice a month to further enhance our Children's inclusion into our 10:30 Sunday Liturgies.

During the year look for special parish Intergenerational Events during All Saints, Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. First Communion classes will again be offered in Lent of 2014 to help our children prepare for this important spiritual milestone.

And lastly our weekly Bible study, Footsteps in Faith meets on Tuesdays at 7:00.

There is lot of Christian Formation opportunities for every age group at St Francis and you are encouraged to take advantage as you feel.

Faithfully yours:

Bennett

Evangelism

Please pray for our visitors:

Pamela Gardner
Alex Cota & Jopa
Werner
Kaligya Mamudu



~ Bible Study ~

Footsteps Faith:

Tuesdays at 7:00 pm



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 fruits	Pancake mix (complete)
Boxed potatoes	Peanut butter	Soups
Pasta	Jelly	Rice
Spaghetti sauce	Cereal	Canned vegetables
Dry beans	Dry milk (small pkgs)	
Boxed cornbread mix	Boxed muffin mix	
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

Capital Campaign News

Capital Fund: As of 9-10-2013 we will have \$17,983 in our Capital Fund after paying for the parking lot.

LEM SCHEDULE



September 1

8 am - Bennett Card
10:30 am - Carol McCarthy (Prayers)
John Ickes (Readings)

September 8

8 am - Susan Golden
10:30 am - Barbara Taylor (Prayers)
Sarah Owens (Readings)

September 15

8 am - Bridget Borton
10:30 am - John Ickes (Prayers)
Barbara Taylor (Readings)

September 22

8 am - Bennett Card
10:30 am - Barbara Taylor (Prayers)
Terrence Cumberland (Readings)

September 29

8 am - Susan Golden
10:30 am - Terrence Cumberland
(Prayers)
John Ickes (Readings)



Altar Guild

August 31 - September 13

Eileen Anderson

September 14 - September 27

Sue Risinger

September 28 - October 11

Roxanne Taylor



Acolytes



September 1

- Andre- Crucifer
- Alyssa- Gospel Bearer
- Gabby- Torch Bearer
- Sarah- Torch Bearer

September 8

- Alexis- Crucifer
- Emerson- Gospel Bearer
- Alyssa- Torch Bearer
- Jason- Torch Bearer

September 15

- Spencer- Crucifer
- Brady- Gospel Bearer
- Gabby- Torch Bearer
- Sarah- Torch Bearer

September 22

- Spencer - Crucifer
- Alyssa- Gospel Bearer
- Brady- Torch Bearer
- Emerson- Torch Bearer

September 29

- Spencer
- Alyssa
- Brady
- Emerson



Building Usage

Need to reserve a room?
Contact our Junior Warden,
Chris Anderson, by email at
grillmaster4u@yahoo.com or by
phone at (757)453-4020.





Vestry Meeting—August 18, 2013
Summary of Action

Annual council Delegates and Alternates

The following have been named delegates to the 2014 Annual Council:
Ken Clarke and Nancy Dula with Jackie Clarke and Mike Yatsko as alternates.

The next Vestry meeting is Wednesday, September 18, 2013.

Respectfully submitted, Lynn Kennedy, Registrar

St. Francis Episcopal Church Financial Update

As of June 30, 2013



	Actual	Budget YTD	Difference
Total Contributions	74,404.22	75,416.04	(1,011.82)
Total Operating Expenses	81,859.75	88,104.08	(6,244.33)
Net Income	(7,455.53)	(12,688.04)	

*Notes: 1 Giving continues to be down,
2 Please stay current on your pledging, and give an extra \$8/week to help balance the budget.*



Grass Cutters

September 7

Paul Radford & Joe Ruth

September 14

Brad Hawkins & Peter Ming

September 21 & 28

Paul Radford & Joe Ruth

Brad Hawkins & Peter Ming



Vestry Lock-Up

September 1

Dosh Jackson

September 8

Ron Simmons

September 15

Susan Clever

September 22

Chris Anderson

September 29

Kenrick Clarke

Altar Flowers



September 1

Jean Rudy, In Thanksgiving of Fr. Conor's 3rd Anniversary

September 8

Jean Rudy in Thanksgiving for my birthday, Julia Tucker and for the loving memory of Paul.

September 15

Barbara & Adrienne Taylor in Thanksgiving of our birthday

September 22

Ed & Sue Risinger's Anniversary

September 29

Carlos & Mary Ellen's Anniversary, in memory of Marjorie Suarez