

February 2015

THE FAITHFUL BELL

St. Francis Episcopal Church



STAFF

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

Vestry

Susan Moore, *Senior Warden*
Ron Simmons, *Junior Warden (1)*
Ed Silva, *Junior Warden (2)*
Lynn Kennedy, *Registrar*
Roxanne Taylor, *Treasurer*
Dosh Jackson, *Finance*
Ken Clarke, *Stewardship*
Karen Palmerone, *Social*
Robert Savage, *Communications*
Susan Moore, *Christian Formation*
Flavel Blyden, *Outreach*
Susan Golden, *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,

It feels so strange to be writing a greeting for the beginning of 2015. Sometimes it feels like I only arrived yesterday to be the pastor of this wonderful community. And at the same time so much has happened. We've made significant improvements to our physical space (more are coming), we've balanced our budget, baptized new believers, welcomed new faces into our community, developed a strategic plan, the list goes on and on.

It's always my hope that each year we get better and better at the things we do. This makes sense because the Christian faith is a lot like that. We never seem to get things right the first time, but our entire lives become cycles of repentance and refinement. Each year we strive to be more caring, loving, generous, etc., etc.

So with that in mind I'm happy to present this issue of The Faithful Bell. This is definitely one of the areas that we need to work on - if only getting them out on a more regular basis :). I hope you'll find the information contained inside helpful and I look forward to the ministry we'll do together in the upcoming year.

God's Peace,

Fr. Conor+

Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2015

Services at 12 noon and 7 pm

More events inside.

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Dear Parish Family:

The Christmas holidays have passed, the tree has been removed and all of the decorations have been put away for another year. We now enter the long season of Epiphany and also the long season of winter. It is easy to find oneself down and a bit depressed during this time of the year. I would like to suggest that the season of Epiphany in our church can be looked at as the growing season. Much like the trees and plants dormant during this winter season, life continues within, waiting to spring forth in the spring with new growth. I was again reminded of this by our children in their Sunday School classes. During the Sunday School hour I am in awe of the enthusiasm and excitement that our children bring to their classes week after week. Seeing our children renewed and rejuvenated my enthusiasm and excitement about this spiritual period of growth. The end of the Christmas season and the long cold days of winter did not temper their exuberance—just the opposite, they were excited and happy to be in class and also together. Once again children continue to teach me each Sunday that outside the classroom might be a dark cold season but in St Francis it is one of spiritual growth, light and hope! Children never lose this sense of wonder and excitement and I hope as an educator I can take what I have learned from them and focus on this long season of growth as an opportunity for my own spiritual growth and renewal, much as the plants do for their spring rebirth. Join with us each Sunday and experience the spirit of God firsthand, it is there waiting for you!

Happy season of Epiphany!

Registration for 1st Communion Class is underway for children 7 years and up, beginning February 1st for 9 weeks. The signup sheet is on the CF Office door, and if you need additional information you can contact me at 646-5795.

Faithfully,
Bennett



Who Picked That Song, Anyway?

Music has been an integral part of Christian worship in general, and Anglican worship in particular, for centuries. The legacy of music the Episcopal Church in America inherited from our Anglican cousins is broad, deep and majestic. In our hymns, our service music, and our anthems we use music to enhance the worship experience and support each of us along our individual spiritual journeys.

That said, how do we choose the songs that we use, and what's the rationale (if any!) behind those choices? It would be easy to say, "We're Episcopalians ... we've *always* done it that way!" but there is really a little more behind it.

It might be helpful to look at the role of music in a worship service, specifically at Saint Francis. We all have our own spiritual treks, and, like travel in general, there are many ways to accomplish that. If we were travelling from, say, Virginia Beach to a place like Boston, we could do that in a number of ways – by car, by train, by airplane, by boat, on foot ... any number of possibilities. Based on our own needs and preferences, we choose a means that is meaningful to us. Another person might choose another method, and both would be equally valid. What is right for me, or preferred by me, might not have the same impact on someone else. No big deal. Music is not too far removed from that. People have individual preferences in styles of music and (naturally) prefer to hear something in their style more so than others.

Let's begin with the hymns. The Episcopal Church has a series of hymns for each Sunday, tied in most instances to the Scripture lesson(s) for that day. The Rector uses that as a guide to choose music for processing, recessing, and to introduce the Gospel reading (technical term: The Gradual Hymn). The Rector may adjust that if desired to acknowledge an event, a holiday, or really for any good reason. By and large, though, they tend to stick with the suggested hymns.

Ditto service music (you know, the stuff to which we chant). Scan the hymnal in the "S" section (not during the sermon ... you should be paying attention!) and you'll see some of the dozens of options. Almost an embarrassment of riches, don't you think? If you were to attend a service at another Episcopal church, you might hear the same part of the service being chanted to a different arrangement. Still, I'm pretty certain that God hears all of them.

That brings us to the anthem (you know, that piece that's done while the ushers take up the offering). At Saint Francis, the choice of the anthem begins with the Music Director and is then approved by the Rector. (Sometimes we pretend the choir is a democracy and take a vote ... doesn't happen often, though.) The way it is selected is based first on the Scripture lesson for that day. If you were to search the Internet on RCL – Vanderbilt you'd find a killer web site hosted by Vanderbilt University that lists all the scripture readings for each of the church years – A, B, or C. Using that as a jumping-off point, we try to find something that will support the message, that can be presented acceptably, and that fits within our choir structure. We've been able to build a pretty robust library of anthems from which to select, and there are all sorts of other venues. As good stewards, we endeavor to find those that fit within our budgetary limits and have been generally successful over the years. Like the choice of hymns, we can make other selections that commemorate special occasions, themes or people. The only criteria are that it be appropriate for church and have some value in supporting our mission.

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The beauty of the Episcopal Church is the staggering number of options we have. We can draw from the musical classics to more contemporary compositions to the rich and exciting world of Gospel and Spiritual. The church is constantly reviewing options and is actually pretty good at sanctioning certain pieces (did you know, for example, that Bob Marley's "One Love" is an approved piece? Pretty neat, no?) Sometimes we can supplement the vocal element of our anthems with instrumental accompaniments that enhance the experience – yeah, that includes bagpipes, too!

We began a program at Saint Francis some years ago that offers the option of dedicating an anthem. You can make a nominal donation (or not) and dedicate a piece to commemorate a person or event. We'll acknowledge that in the bulletin every time the piece is offered. (For example, one of our parishioners – who shall remain un-named – is particularly fond of Antonín Dvořák's "Going Home." You'll know that her husband is trying to earn some points by scheduling it for her!)

Like the possibilities of physical travel, we have a wide variety of musical styles to support our own quest for goodness and adherence to the teachings of Christ. Don't be reluctant to let the Music Director know your preference – at the very least he'll listen to you!

John Ickes
Music Director



Building Usage

Need to reserve a room?
Contact our Junior Warden,
Ron Simmons, at (917)847-6604.



LEM SCHEDULE



February 1

8 am - Cheryl Blyden

10:30 am - Carol McCarthy (Prayers)
Terrance Cumberland
(Readings)

February 8

8 am - Cheryl Blyden

10:30 am - John Ickes (Prayers)
Clay Wise (Readings)

February 15

8 am - Susan Golden

10:30 am - Lynn Kennedy
(Prayers)
Barbara Taylor (Readings)

February 22

8 am - Cheryl Blyden

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



ACOLYTES



February 1

- Spencer- Crucifer
- Andre- Gospel Bearer
- Selena- Torch Bearer
- Anna- Torch Bearer

February 8

- Stephanie- Crucifer
- Emerson- Gospel Bearer
- Spencer- Torch Bearer
- Anna- Torch Bearer

February 15

- Stephanie- Crucifer
- Trevor- Gospel Bearer
- Isaiah- Torch Bearer
- Azaria- Torch Bearer

February 22

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



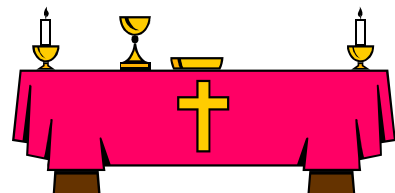
Altar Guild

January 31- February 13

Jerry Hawkins

February 14 - February 28

Lolita Heath



~ Bible Study ~
Footsteps in Faith
Tuesdays at 7 pm

Evangelism

Please pray for our
visitors.



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



Upcoming Schedule

February 16 Open Door
March 2-5 Social Service

Upcoming Events

Communion Class

First Communion class will begin February 1 and continue till Palm Sunday, March 29. All participants will receive their First Communion together as a group on Easter Sunday, April 5, at the 10:30 service. Children aged 7 years and older are welcome to attend, whether they are already receiving communion or not. The class will take the children through all the crucial elements of the Holy Eucharist, helping them to better understand the center and heart of our Episcopal life. The sign-up sheet is on the Christian Formation office door. Student books will need to be ordered, so please register your children so that we can get an accurate count. If you have additional questions about the class, please contact Bennett.



ECW

- Feb. 1-Souper Bowl Sunday Support your team by bringing non-perishable items and placing them in your team basket at the back of the sanctuary. Also, the ECW will be having a Bake & Snack sale on that day.
- Feb. 17-Pancake Supper Volunteers welcome! Monetary donations for supplies can be given to Elinor Ruth or Pat Osmunson.
- Candy Bouquets for Valentine's Day Pre-order yours for only \$15 each. Samples will be on display in the Commons, but each bouquet will be unique, due to availability of materials.

The 6th Annual Acolyte Festival
April 24-26, 2015
St. Andrew's By the Sea, Nags Head



Attention all Acolytes: St. Andrew's by the Sea is hosting an Acolyte Festival next April down in the Outer Banks. We need to start planning now so if you're interested in going please sign up in the Commons!

Vestry Meeting Summary of Action

Vestry Meeting—December 17, 2014

- **Strategic Plan Update**--Fr. Conor & Dosh Jackson

The team will take the goals breakout from the vision document and compare it with the feedback from the town hall and other meetings to find the items that people have a lot of energy around, which seems to be the action-oriented items. The team came up with three things for which Vestry support is needed.

For every initiative we pursue, we need a Vestry member's presence.

Each Vestry member will take on an area and be the driving force to make it happen.

All Vestry members need to verbally support all activities.

- **Stewardship** –Ken Clarke

We are still getting pledges in; 60-70 percent are needed in order to formulate next year's budget, and we're not quite there. Pledge envelopes will be put out early, and information on automatic deduction will be available.

- **Communications** –Robert Savage

The Faithful Bell will be coming back, but will be reinvented. It was being sent by email, as we have not had the budget for mailing.

- **Outreach** –Flavel Blyden

The Food Pantry is full now. It will be open for Social Services December 22-24, and will have an open week later on. We are looking into a project with Episcopal Relief and Development for Lent.

- **Finance Update** –Dosh Jackson

The conclusion of last year's audit was that the church and congregation are to be commended for their hard work. The Vestry improved financial processes and refinanced. Overall, it's a good report, and Dosh is thankful to all who contributed and to God.

Since we do not have enough pledges to formulate next year's budget, the Vestry voted to continue the 2014 budget into January in order to pay the bills.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Kennedy, Registrar

St. Francis Episcopal Church Financial Update

Year End, 2014



| | Actual | Budget YTD | Difference |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Total Contributions | 161,187.54 | 155,500.00 | 5,687.54 |
| Total Operating Expenses | 160,020.77 | 156,214.00 | 3,806.77 |
| Net Income | 1,166.77 | (714.00) | |

Notes: 1 Giving has been picking up and we have made progress on our deficit.

2 Please stay current on your pledging, and give an extra \$8/week to help balance the budget.



Grass Cutters

Will resume in April.



Altar Flowers

February 1

The flowers on the Altar are given to the Glory of God by Pete & Twila Leavitt, who are thankful for Rachel.

February 8

The flowers on the Altar are given to the Glory of God in honor of Heather's birthday by John & Vonja Ickes.

February 15

The flowers on the Altar are given to the Glory of God in thanks.

February 22

The flowers on the Altar are given to the Glory of God in thanks.



Vestry Lock-Up

February 1

Ken Clarke

February 8

Dosh Jackson

February 15

Ron Simmons

February 22

Ed Silva