

June, 2013

THE FAITHFUL BELL

St. Francis Episcopal Church



STAFF

The Rev. Conor Alexander, *Rector*
Karina Burgos, *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,

Just this past week I had a wonderful conversation with Fr. Anderson making arrangements for the 50th Anniversary Celebration. As usually happens with us, our discussion turned to theology and its impact for our lives. Fr. Jim spoke passionately about how the Fourth of July is coming up, and how his preaching is taking a tone of true freedom and how Christ sets us free. Coupled with that conversation, I just read an article in The Living Church about how our society has grown more and more to individual wants, needs, passions, and we've become a culture of instant gratification. At first glance this may seem like a harmless vice, but the reality is that it robs us of our true freedom.

The problem with instant gratification is that it demands fulfillment – now. You have no choice. In a sense you can become enslaved to your passions. When you're enslaved in this manner, your focus becomes very much towards yourself, and you ignore others. The other thing it does is makes you very vulnerable to outside influences, which can subtly and not so subtly suggest that you need their next fantastic product, and you need it now. If you find yourself trapped in this pattern, one of the most freeing things you can do is say no. When you say no, you put yourself in the position where you can make an actual choice, rather than succumb to influences.

Sometimes the Church is criticized for all of its rules: you must fast during Lent, you can't steal, you can't covet your neighbors' possessions, you must set aside time on the Sabbath Day, you must give to the poor and work for justice, etc. etc. The reality is that these practices are what actually generates true freedom. Of course we already have that freedom through faith, but this is how we live into it. Each of these practices draws you out of yourself, and helps you to see the larger world around you. When you can stand firm in this experience, you develop an incredible sense of self-worth and dignity. Many people even experience joy in this dignity. This is what true freedom is about – knowing that you don't have to fulfill every whim to be okay, but through Christ, your better than okay, right now.

God's Peace
Fr. Conor+

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It has been an interesting year so far with our tornado and hurricane season already taking its toll on Moore, Oklahoma. The devastation of a huge tornado was enormous, and lives were lost. But with God's help, the survivors will pick up the pieces and rebuild their city! The little things in life that we all take for granted do not mean much, until something like a disaster happens! Sharon and I always try not to take anything for granted, especially when we think about our youngest child I would like to take this time to share my thoughts about Andre.

Andre was born with Autism. He gave Sharon and me a run for our money in the early years. But these days he enjoys his laptop computer, video games, action movies, and DVD's. He is a healthy young man that loves the Lord, and is very kind to others. He does not talk much, but he communicates when he has to. He can go into certain places when he needs to purchase food and video games and movies. He is an active participant in Hampton roads special Olympic program, and participates in other local programs that are offered to autistic adults in Virginia Beach. He is a Landstown high school graduate in June, 2010. He is very competitive when he plays team sports like basketball and volleyball. And yes he loves to win! I have to admit in the beginning I did have a hard time accepting that my one and only son had been diagnosed with Autism.

Back in the 90's there was very little information on this form of disability, so it was a rude awakening once Sharon and I started discovering what we were in for. I prayed to the lord for guidance, and he never let me down! There were a few scary situations when I was stationed at Roosevelt Roads Puerto Rico. But we got through each and every one with God's help! I truly believe that God chose me and Sharon to handle raising Andre, and I can honestly say that we did a pretty good job. Sometimes Andre would amaze us demonstrating what he was capable of doing or saying, and Sharon and I would just laugh and shake our heads in disbelief! And one of the reasons is that Andre is very intelligent in what he is capable of doing! God gives us different gifts to use for his glory, and sometime these gifts are hidden away. Unless a missing key opens up the lock to these doors one day. I am very proud of what little things Andre has accomplished so far, and I love him very much!

Senior Warden

Orlando M. Smith

Dear Parish Family,

As you read this article we have just ended our regular schedule of Christian Formation classes for the summer. It was another good year with God's spirit moving throughout each of our classes. Our classes grew only slightly this year with a large increase in our older Youth group. This group was led by Erika Grasse with input from Father Conor and has truly grown into a vibrant community of faith. All of our teachers have given so much of themselves this past year to share the love of Christ through their varied Sunday morning activities. So a huge thanks to Michelle Wise, Amy Imbriale, Twila Leavitt, Susan Clever, Reta Savage, Erika Grasse, Pete Leavitt and Eileen Anderson for all of their many hours of hard work given to our children, youth and adults this past year.

With that being said plans are well underway for Vacation Bible School! Mark your calendars now, Vacation Bible School will be July 22-26! Preschool children through 12 years old and adults are welcome. Any interested Older Youth can volunteer to assist in this year's program. Dinner will be served from 6:00 – 6:30 and VBS will be from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Our program this year will be, **Everywhere Fun Fair**. During this week long event, children and adults will experience the love of Jesus, meet welcoming friends from the Bible and reach out to our neighbors from Japan, Zimbabwe, the United Kingdom, Australia and Mexico. Special weeklong activities will demonstrate God's welcoming love to each of us! Each day we will find new ways to be a neighbor to the world while loving and serving God. Registration forms and additional information will be available in the Sunday bulletins. Block out those dates now and make plans to come to the **Everywhere Fun Fair**.

Faithfully:

Bennett

Capital Campaign News

Capital Fund: As of 4-30-2013 we have **\$17,000** in our Capital Fund. We need to get to **\$28,000** before we can get our new parking lot so keep up the good work and we'll keep pounding the pavement! Any donations can be made out to *St. Francis Church* with "Capital Fund" in the memo line. Your vestry has been working hard to assess our needed renovations and balance that against what we can reasonably raise. Following the parking lot, future projects will include leveling and retiling our floors, painting and sprucing up our kitchen, and setting the remainder aside for future roof repairs. More details will follow in subsequent weeks. (Please note, these donations are restricted and may not be used for general expenses.)

**Sharing Faith, Fellowship,
Service, Worship, & Growth**

50th Anniversary Celebration:

June 23, 2013

One Service at 9:15

Picnic to Follow

Sign up to bring side dishes in the Commons



Guest Clergy:

The Rev. Deacon Margery Howell

The Rev. Jim Anderson

The Rev. Canon Ed Tracy

LEM SCHEDULE



June 2

8 am - Susan Golden

10:30 am -

Terrance Cumberland (Prayers)

Carol McCarthy (Readings)

June 9

8 am - Bennett Card

10:30 am - Carol McCarthy (Prayers)

Terrance Cumberland (Readings)

June 16

8 am - Bridget Borton

10:30 am - John Ickes (Prayers)

Barbara Taylor (Readings)

June 23

8 am - Bennett Card

10:30 am - Barbara Taylor (Prayers)

Clay Wise (Readings)

June 30

8 am - Susan Golden

10:30 - David Whitted (Prayers)

John Ickes (Readings)



Altar Guild

May 25-June 7

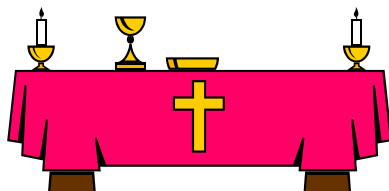
Carol McCarthy

June 8-June 21

Roxanne Taylor

June 22-July 5

Blanche Mouzon



Acolytes



June 2

- Andre- Crucifer
- Alyssa- Gospel Bearer
- Brady- Torch Bearer
- Andre- Torch Bearer

June 9

- James- Crucifer
- Andre- Gospel Bearer
- Sarah- Torch Bearer
- Gaby- Torch Bearer

June 16

- James- Crucifer
- Brady- Gospel Bearer
- Taylor- Torch Bearer
- Trevor- Torch Bearer

June 23

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

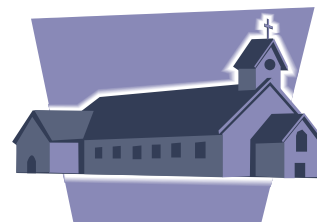
June 30

- Alexis-Crucifer
- Jason-Gospel Bearer
- Sarah-Torch Bearer
- Gabby-Torch Bearer



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.



Evangelism

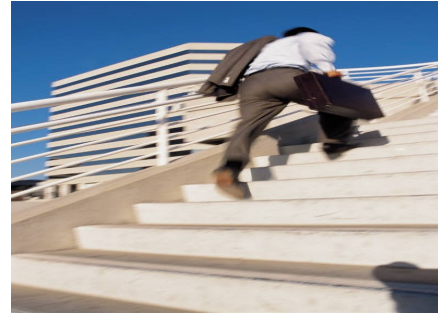
Please pray for our neighbors.



~ Bible Study ~

Footsteps in Faith:

Last Meeting, Tuesday, 6/11
at 7PM.



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

Boxed potatoes

Pasta

Spaghetti sauce

Dry beans

Boxed cornbread mix

Boxed biscuit mix

Canned fruits

Peanut butter

Jelly

Cereal

Dry milk (small pkgs)

Boxed muffin mix

Pancake mix (complete)

Soups

Rice

Canned vegetables

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





St. Francis Episcopal Church Financial Update

As of April 30, 2013



	Actual	Budget YTD	Difference
Total Contributions	49,273.42	50,277.36	(1,003.94)
Total Operating Expenses	57,469.59	59,440.19	(1,970.60)
Net Income	(8,196.17)	(9,162.83)	

Notes: 1 Giving continues to be down, but is catching up!

2 Expenses are slightly below budget.

3 Please stay current on your pledging.

4 Consider giving an extra \$8/week to help balance the budget.



Grass Cutters

June 1

Peter Ming

June 8-15

Kenrick Clark and Joseph
Ruth, Paul Radford

June 22-29

Brad Hawkins, Peter Ming,
Kenrick Clark, Joseph Ruth



Vestry Lock-Up

June 2

Barbera Radford

June 9

Dosh Jackson

June 16

Susan Clever

June 23

Orlando Smith

June 30

Ronald Simmons

Altar Flowers



June 2

In honor of the end of school and the beginning
of summer

by Barbera Radford

June 9

Last Day of Christian Formation

June 16

In memory of Mervan Anderson

by Eileen and family

June 23

To the Glory of God

by the Fusters

June 30

Makye Stewarts

Birthday