

# THE FAITHFUL BELL



## 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

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

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Dear Friends in Christ,

As I write this I'm reflecting on how tomorrow is the first day of September, which means Fall is here, kids go back to school, and our program year gets back into full swing. I really look forward to hearing all of our children's voices as Sunday School starts at 9:15. Each year I'm incredibly impressed at how full our classrooms are and how many people participate. It's a testament to the health of our parish.

Another thing that happens in the fall is stewardship season. This is the time when we reevaluate our time, talent, and treasure and dedicate them to God's work in the world - work like Sunday School which raises up our children in the faith. But as you have heard several times now, our stewardship this past year has not been great. We are down a considerable amount and cannot continue this trend. Each year we go through it and each year our bank account balance is nibbled away at. If this continues we will be in serious trouble before too long.

These past few weeks I've been reflecting on blessings and curses, and so I wonder how that applies to our stewardship efforts. When a Church runs well, it definitely is a blessing. Remember the definition - a blessing is something that is life-giving for you and the other person. The Church provides worship services, outreach ministries, Sunday School, Bible Study and other classes, opportunities for fellowship, pastoral care, weddings, funerals, and other important life events. I think we can agree that these are life-giving activities. But they also do cost money. And if they are not properly resourced they cease to be a blessing. The reasoning is simple. While they remain life giving for the people enjoying these ministries, they end up being life stealing from those who are continually asked to do more and more with less and less.

A world of blessing looks very different that our culture's way of buy, use, and discard. Blessings involve a cyclical relationship where there is constant giving and receiving. And when it's truly a blessing the giving and receiving are both life giving.

When the Church asks you to give its to make sure that what is life giving truly is a blessing. We want to do the life giving ministries and we want to make sure we have the resources to do them. Please consider everything St Francis contributed to your life and make sure you give in such a way that it remains a blessing.

God's Peace,  
Fr. Conor+

# Senior Warden

## **Pulling together** A message from the Senior Warden

Here is a list of ministries, people and blessings we enjoy at St. Francis because of your tithes. I'm sure I've forgotten something or someone. Feel free to tell me what I missed.

Lights on, toilets flush, heat warms and AC cools, worship God together.

Our many ministries have a building in which to function: Altar Guild, Acolytes, Ushers, Counters, LEMs, Sanctuary Choir, Coffee Hour, Church Mice, Grass Mowers, Building Maintenance, Vestry, Food Pantry, ECW, Men's Group, Sunday school, VBS & bible study, Meals on Wheels... what else?

*And we also claim these special people who provide their services, gifts and talents.*

John Ickes, *Music Director*, leads the choir on Sundays at 10:30 – not for money but for love of music and the Glory of God!

Roland Nave, *Organist*, plays beautifully every Sunday at the 10:30 service & choir practice.

Bennett Card, *Director of CF*, works faithfully Sundays and Wednesdays + VBS.

Mia Hurd, our new *Nursery Attendant*, tends to the littlest ones.

Tina Lassiter, *Church Admin.*, conducts church business in the office, M-F, 9 am – 1 pm.

Fr. Conor, *Rector*, carries on God's work for you and the Glory of God, daily and evenings. I'm sure every one of you has benefited from his guidance in one manner or another.

**Here's my point: the church, its ministries and people are constant.**

**However, here's some information I'll bet you didn't know. Giving dropped \$3310 at the end of July! That drop put the *elephant* back in the room.**

**The deficit that you keep hearing about is back up to almost \$10,000.**

*Remember that 20/40/60 additional giving plan? It was created to eliminate the deficite. \$620 came in so far! If you contributed to it, thank you so much! If you didn't – please, commit TODAY to giving more in addition to your monthly tithe.*

**I have many times taken a “leap of faith” with regards to St. Francis.**

FAITHFULLY, I CLING TO IT NOW.

**However, I also use the expression, “heaven helps those who help themselves.”**

**LET US HELP OURSELVES! Let's pull together and eliminate the deficit!**

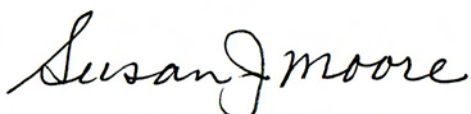
**ALL OF US! Not just the faithful “*every Sunday people*”**

**- every person who receives this newsletter**

As I write this message, my efforts are going into **BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY** that we celebrated this past Sunday, August 30. I hope everyone enjoyed the music, food, fun, fellowship, and the 50/50 raffle. A second parish photo was taken for our new directory.

The Mini Ministry Fair showcased the many ministries that bless our parish. Hopefully, *you* signed up to help and/or volunteer. If you didn't do it Sunday, seek out the contact person and speak to them soon. *You will be glad you did!*

Every day I thank my God for you,



# ***Christian Formation***

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**Dear Parish Family:**

Welcome back to a new Christian Formation program year! We are beginning year 3 of our curriculum, Feasting on the Word! This curriculum has proven to be 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 biblical lessons of our church year. Each Sunday 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?

As we continue our new program year, 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 13. 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 2015-2016:

Pre K-Kindergarten	Michelle Wise and Amy Imbriale
1 <sup>st</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> Grades	Twila Leavitt
4 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Grades	Reta Savage
Youth	Bob Savage
Adults	Pete Leavitt
Director CF	Bennett Card

Children's Homilies continue to be 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 2016 to help our children prepare for this important spiritual milestone.

In addition to Sunday, CF Classes, there will be special Christian Formation offerings throughout this program year to support the spiritual empowerment of our members. These offerings will be of a shorter length and scheduled at various times for your consideration. One of these coming up, will be the 3 colors of Ministry class led by Fr. Conor. The class will begin on September 21st and run for three weeks. Daytime and evening classes will be available and the cost for each participant will be \$12 to cover the materials. There is a sign up sheet in the Commons.

And lastly our weekly Bible study, Footsteps in Faith begins Tuesday, September 8th from 7 - 8 pm. These are exciting times for us at St. Francis as we explore God's call to us, to grow as disciples.

Faithfully yours:

Bennett



## **CHRISTIAN FORMATION REGISTRATION SUNDAY SCHOOL**

CHILD(S) NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHDATE: \_\_\_\_\_

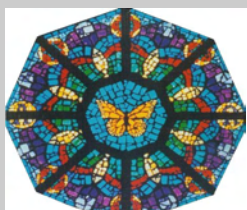
ALLERGIES?: \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

I AM WILLING TO HELP WITH THE CHRISTAN FORMATION PROGRAM THIS YEAR YES\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_

2015-2016



## **CHRISTIAN FORMATION REGISTRATION SUNDAY SCHOOL**

CHILD(S) NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHDATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ALLERGIES?: \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

I AM WILLING TO HELP WITH THE CHRISTAN FORMATION PROGRAM THIS YEAR YES\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_

2015-2016

## ***LEM SCHEDULE***

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### **September 6**

8 am - Cheryl Blyden

10:30 am - Barbara Taylor

(Prayers)

Carol McCarthy

(Readings)



### **September 13**

8 am - Susan Golden

10:30 am - Barbara Taylor

(Prayers)

Clay Wise

(Readings)

### **September 20**

8 am - Susan Golden

10:30 am - John Ickes

(Prayers)

Terrence Cumberland

(Readings)



### **September 27**

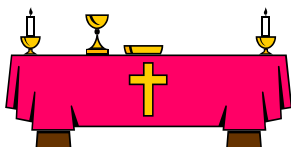
8 am - Cheryl Blyden

10:30 am - Laura Silva

(Prayers)

Twila Leavitt

(Readings)



## ***ACOLYTES***

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### **September 6**

- Emerson- Crucifer
- Rylan- Gospel Bearer
- Caerdwean- Torch Bearer
- Devon- Torch Bearer

### **September 13**

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

### **September 20**

- Andre- Crucifer
- Brooklyn- Gospel Bearer
- Selena- Torch Bearer
- Devon- Torch Bearer

### **September 27**

- Brady- Crucifer
- Rylan- Gospel Bearer
- Isabella- Torch Bearer
- Emerson- Torch Bearer

## **Altar Guild**

**August 29 - September 5**

Sara Grinnell

**September 6 - September 25**

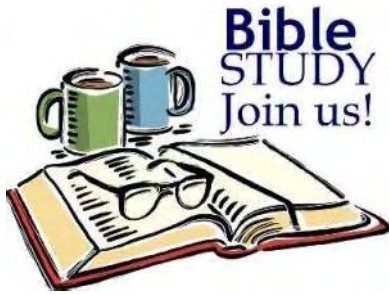
Jerry Hawkins

**September 26 - October 9**

Loleta Heath

# Footsteps in Faith

Please join us on Tuesdays at  
7 pm, starting September 8!



## ***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 the basket in the rear of the Nave.**

Thank you in advance, Doris Naugle & Elinor Ruth

Schedule  
Sept 7-10 Social Services



## ***Food Pantry News***

Thanks to the generosity of your donations, we were able to feed 48 people (18 adults, 30 children) in the month of August! Please continue to donate so we can continue to help feed our community.



## September Events

How has God shaped you for ministry?



What is your unique approach to ministry? What gifts and abilities has God equipped you with? Find out with our special 3 Colors of

Ministry class, led by Fr. Conor. We will begin on September 21st and run the class for three weeks. Daytime and evening sessions are available and the cost for each participant will be \$12 to cover the materials. Come sign up in the Commons and discover how God has uniquely shaped you.



### *The Neptune Festival is coming - Sep 25th thru Sep 27th*

We need volunteers. St. Francis benefits financially from handling ice distribution at the Neptune Festival. Individuals, couples and families can sign up. Everyone who helps receives a cool T-shirt. Free parking is provided - so you can volunteer a few hours of your time and enjoy the festival too! Lei Dunn is coordinating the Ice Concession sign ups this year. See Lei with questions. A sign-up sheet is available in the Commons.



#### Directory Photos

Will be taken on Sept. 11 and Sept. 12. Sign-ups will be done from the website and Facebook page, or see Karen Palmerone, Elinor Ruth, or Barbara Willis.

### Wine & Art

Fundraiser to benefit

Mission of the Holy Spirit

Saturday, September 26, 2015  
5-8pm



The Church of the Good Shepherd  
7400 Hampton Boulevard  
Norfolk, A 23505

Tickets: \$25 in advance, \$40 at the door. Wine & heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served. Art created by Mission Youth and specialty baskets will be auctioned. More info (757) 858-0010.



ECW kicks off the fall season with their monthly meeting at 10AM, Sat., Sept. 12 in the Crigger Room. A

Fashion Show workshop will immediately follow-bring your outfits!

#### New Vestry Members:

We will be having our annual meeting in the fall, at which we will be electing three new people to serve on the vestry. Many thanks go to our outgoing members Dosh Jackson, Bob Savage, and Ron Simmons. If you would like to provide leadership for the Church in this important ministry please speak with Susan Moore or Fr. Conor.

#### Annual Council:

St. Francis needs to send two delegates and two alternates to our Diocesan Council next February. The time commitment will be over a Friday and a Saturday. Delegates will be chosen by the Vestry at its September meeting. Interested persons should speak with Fr. Conor or Susan Moore.

## Upcoming Events

***De Colores!*** A joyful expression heard at a **CURSILLO** (cur • see' • yoh) weekend retreat. **CURSILLO** is a movement within the Episcopal church. It's a method to help us grow closer to Jesus Christ. **CURSILLO** is also a community where we're encouraged to live joyfully and serve faithfully in grace. To help us on this journey we begin with a long weekend retreat.

### **UPCOMING WEEKENDS:**

Co-Ed Weekend #158 - October 15-18, 2015

For more information: <http://cursillodsv.org/about/>



Coming Saturday,  
October 31st  
**TRUNK OR  
TREAT II**

St. Francis will again sponsor this FREE fun outreach event for our children and community children. A planning meeting will take place in the Crigger Room, Sunday, September 13, following the 10:30 service. "Trunkers" had a great time last year. Let's make this year even better!!!

The **ECW** of St. Francis Episcopal Church presents...

**An event for  
Ladies Only!**

# FAUX

**Tickets on  
sale today in  
the Commons  
following  
each service.**

# Fashion Show

**Saturday  
October 24, 2015  
12:00 - 2:00 PM**

**Come for fun, food, fashion,  
fellowship and fundraising.**

**Advance sales only • Tickets: \$15.00  
Proceeds benefit ECW outreach.**

***Tickets now on sale! Please see  
Maureen Fuster or Shirley***



# ***Vestry Meeting Summary of Action***

Vestry Meeting—June 17, 2015

## Summary of Action

**May Finance Report**—Dosh Jackson: Income in May was slightly higher after appeals regarding the budget deficit, and expenses were lower, largely due to the seasonal lack of demand for much heat or air conditioning. However, we still have a deficit of about \$8,500. Six-month pledge statements will be sent out in July, and automatic deduction for pledges will be encouraged.

**Strategic Plan Update**—Dosh Jackson: The Strategic Planning Team will continue building on the Rule of Life campaign for the rest of the year. The goal will be to get more “hands-on” about the topics in the Rule of Life that were laid out during the Easter season. Ideas include holding events such as a special end-of-summer service and creating a trifold brochure of ministries with contact information to make it easy for people to volunteer.

**Building Renovations:** Arrangements have been made with the contractor to carpet the vestibule, hallway, Commons, Sacristy and short hall, and the two small bathrooms. The carpet is on backorder, but work will begin in early July.

## **New Business**

**Copier:** Since the current copy machine contract ends in July, the Vestry discussed options and voted to lease a copier with color and 11x17 capabilities; repairs would be included in the contract.

**Fundraising/Stewardship**—Ken Clarke: Plans are being made to track visually for the congregation the progress toward raising money to eliminate the deficit this year. Fundraisers, perhaps including the children, are in the works.

## **Ministry Area Reports:**

- **Senior Warden**—Susan Moore: Susan reported that doors to the church have been left open more than once recently. Anyone finding a door open when no one should be in the building should not enter, but should call the police.  
The Parish photo from the picnic was published at the top of the recent diocesan newsletter. Susan commended those who cooked and who assisted with the picnic in other ways.
- **Social**—Karen Palmerone: Newcomer packets are now available at the back of the sanctuary on Sundays.  
Volunteers are needed for the photo sessions for the directory update.
- **Christian Formation**—Susan Moore: Christian Formation Director Bennett Card reports that
  - o This year’s Vacation Bible School program will be G-Force (GOD Force), to be held July 20 – 24.
  - o Bennett will be contributing content materials for the newcomer packets that Karen is creating.
  - o Mia Hurd has accepted the position of Nursery attendant and will replace Brett Iwejor when he leaves for college in August.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynn Kennedy, Registrar

# ***St. Francis Episcopal Church Financial Update***

**As of July 31, 2015**

	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget YTD</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Total Contributions</b>	87,834.71	95,921	(8,086.29)
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	96,037.16	96,234	196.84
<b>Net Income</b>	(8,202.45)	(322.00)	

## **Grass Cutters**

**September 5 - Ken Clarke**

**September 12 - Joe Ruth & Ken Clarke**

**September 19 - Brad Hawkins &  
Karen Palmerone**

**September 26 - Lei Dunn &  
Karen Palmerone**



## **Vestry Lock-Up**

**September 6**

**Dosh Jackson**

**September 13**

**Karen Palmerone**

**September 20**

**Susan Moore**

**September 27**

**Ed Silva**

## **Altar Flowers**

### **September 6**

The flowers on the Altar are given to the Glory of God in celebration of Jean Rudy's birthday.

### **September 13**

The flowers on the Altar are given to the Glory of God in thanksgiving by Barbara & Adrienne Taylor.

### **September 20**

The flowers on the Altar are given to the Glory of God in celebration of Ed & Sue Risinger's anniversary.

### **September 27**

The flowers on the Altar are given to the Glory of God for our many blessings by Bob & Tsu Fullwood.



## **Building Usage**

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