

The FRANCISCANS

A Newsletter of St. Francis Episcopal Church

December 2011

Dear Friends,

Advent is upon us. It is a season in the church year where anticipation, expectation and hope are the dominant themes leading us to the event of Jesus' birth. Elton Trueblood describes the Feast of the Nativity as "the merciful stooping down of perfection into our broken world." Every year it is the same thing and yet, in my experience, there is always a newness about it, even though we know where we are headed.

Well, I have to say this is the first Advent where that "newness" is magnified a hundredfold and I have absolutely no idea what to expect! Becoming a part of the life and ministry of Saint Francis has honestly thrown me for a loop. I never anticipated that I would be going back into parish ministry. I considered at this time in my life, other than some unexpected event like breaking my leg figure skating or finding it increasingly more difficult to get up off the floor after playing with my grandchildren, that life would simply go from one day to the next without any real twists or turns. Go figure!

So here we are together and not one of us knows what God has in store for us. And that is as it should be. Living in the unknown heightens our spiritual and physical senses allowing us the opportunity to see life around us as it really is; to hear the cries of those in need and to reach out in order to bring wholeness to broken lives. As the prophet Micah says, "You know what is pleasing to God; to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God."

So, while we may not know what the particularities are that the future holds, we do know that we are being called by God to proclaim in word and deed God's message of love and peace, healing and wellness, hope and grace.

Funny thing, usually I am a bit nervous stepping out when new adventures come my way. That is not the case for me this time round. You have been so gracious inviting me to be part of the life and ministry of this community and I thank you so much for all your help.

Keep an open mind, open heart and open spirit this Advent.

Peace to you all
Doug

Wait

Pray

Prepare



Dear St. Francis Family,

Thank you for all your concerns and prayers during our loss of Dean. You fed us spiritually and also our bodies. Dean loved St. Francis and would have been so proud of the service and reception.

Many commented about how beautiful everything was. Brad and I appreciate all the kindness shown.

Jackie, Brad and Meredith (Gurley)



HAVE YOU SIGNED UP TO HOST AT ST. FRANCIS?

We have Social Teams assigned to set-up and clean-up at St. Francis functions and we are looking for new members to add to a Team.

If interested in joining a Social Team, please see Barrett Parker or email her @ BPT30@aol.com

If you are new to our parish, its a great way to get to know others and its not a burden on your time!

ECW NEWS



► December 13, Tuesday — 7:00 PM Women's Book Club Meeting

The Women's Book Club will meet Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m. in the Library at St. Francis. The book is [Caravans: A Novel of Afghanistan](#) by James A. Michener.

Published in 1962, the story is set in Afghanistan immediately following World War II. Mark Miller is stationed in Kabul at the American Embassy. Mark is tasked with the job of finding American Ellen Jaspas, who has disappeared after her marriage to an Afghan thirteen months previously. Miller's travels reveal the similarities of human nature across cultural and social boundaries. Discussion Leader: Marylee Lannan



A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The deadline to submit items for the next newsletter is December 10th for the January 2012 issue. The deadline is earlier due to vacation time.

— Corinne Stewart, Parish Administrator

The Frantastix's Christmas Party

Friday, December 16th at 6:00 pm

at Jeff and Sarah's Merritt's house
(1501 Evergreen Ave)



Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share
and a pillar candle to decorate.

(Supplies for decorating the candles will be provided)

We will exchange the candles
after decorated.

If you have a favorite
beverage, bring that too!



Picture of decorated candles are shown here
for clarification.

Please let us know if you are planning to come!!



Send an email to Sarah at
sknisely_merritt@hotmail.com
or Barrett at bpt30@aol.com
by Monday, December 12th at the latest.

We look forward to seeing everyone
and celebrating the Season!!

CHRIST CHILD CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 18, 2011

5:00 PM



Join us at the party for our Hispanic children!
Fr Tony Rojas and his wife, Lucia,
will help us present the gifts at the party.



The Franciscans

St. Francis Episcopal Church

(503 Forest Hill Drive)

P.O. Box 11406

Goldsboro, NC 27532

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Web Page: www.stfrancisgoldsboro.org

The Rt. Rev. Clifton Daniel, III, Bishop
& The Rt. Rev. Santosh Marray, Bishop Assisting
of the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina

The Rev. Doug Culton, Priest-in-Charge
William Hayes, Organist/Choirmaster
Corinne Stewart, Parish Administrator

The Franciscans:

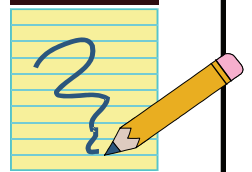
Corinne Stewart, Editor

The Franciscans is published 11 times a year.
The **deadline** for items to be considered for inclusion
is the **15th of each month.**



St. Francis' Wish List

- 1) Paper Towels
- 2) Post-it Notes



Thank you for your Continued Support!



Items of Note



ADVENT Supper/Program	Advent Covered Dish Supper/Programs Wednesdays, Nov. 30, and Dec. 7 & 14 at 6:00 PM. On December 21 we begin at 5:00 PM with a hot dog supper. See more detailed information on page 6 of this newsletter. Sign up sheet on Tower.
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING	Our Annual Parish Meeting is Sunday, December 4 immediately following the 10:30 am service.
VESTRY SUPPER	Vestry supper on Monday, December 5 at 6:00 PM at The Campbell's home.
POINSETTIAS DEADLINE	If you would like to order Poinsettias to adorn the church for Christmas, you must order no later than December 11 in order for it to be included in the bulletin insert.
CHAIR AEROBICS CLASS	Liz Howard's next Chair Aerobics class is Thursday, December 15 at 9:30 am.
FRANTASTIX'S PARTY	The Frantastix's (20's, 30's & 40's) Social Group are having their Christmas Party on Friday, December 16 at 6:00 PM at The Merritt's home.
CHRIST CHILD PARTY	<u>Return wrapped gifts by morning of Dec. 18.</u> Our Project Christ Child Christmas Party is Sunday, December 18 at 5:00 PM in the Parish Hall. Everyone in the parish is invited to attend.
CHRISTMAS EVE	Our Christmas Eve service is Saturday, December 24 at 5:00 PM.
CHRISTMAS DAY	The ONLY services on Christmas Day are 8:30 am (said) and Santa Missa at 4 PM.
PARISH OFFICE	The Parish Administrator will be on vacation December 15 through 28. The office will only be open a limited amount of days/times.
SOUP KITCHEN	St. Francis volunteers at the Community Soup Kitchen on Saturday, December 31 beginning at 9:00 am. Sign up on the Tower in the Parish Hall.



Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia for the church adornment, please complete this form and turn it in with payment to the church office. The cost of each poinsettia is \$10.00; please make checks payable to "St. Francis."

Your Name: _____

In Memory of: _____

OR

In Thanksgiving for: _____

Total # ordered: _____ Total Cost: _____ Cash: _____ Check: _____

Deadline to Order is Sunday, December 11th



SUNDAY LAY SERVER SCHEDULE**DECEMBER 2011**

December 4
2 Advent
Merritt Family
lights Advent candles

December 11
3 Advent
Faust Family
lights Advent candles

December 18
4 Advent
LeChot Family
lights Advent candles

December 24
Saturday
Christmas Eve Service

10:30 am**10:30 am****10:30 am****5:00 PM**

VERGER	Chris Cowan	Barrett Parker	Jodi Baker	N/A
SUBDEACON	Jodi Baker	Jim Howard	Debbie Stedner	Jodi Baker
CHALICE BEARER	Nick Cunningham	Jacob Sarvey	Jodi Baker	Jacob Sarvey
LECTOR	Jill Brogneaux	Liz Howard	Pat Biggers	Sharon Sarvey
CRUCIFER	Quincy Cunningham	Jodi Baker	Mikaela Freeman	Jacob Sarvey
TORCH BEARERS	Jacob Howard Jillian Faust	Jacob Howard Lauren Howard	Max Tapiz Izabelle Casey	Jillian Faust Hannah Coor
USHERS	Mitch Baker George Moye	Mitch Baker George Moye	Mitch Baker George Moye	Mitch Baker George Moye
EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS	Jill Brogneaux	Karen Witt	Dave Meador	Liz Meador
ALTAR GUILD	Brenda Chambers Katherine Phinizy Sarah Merritt	Brenda Chambers Katherine Phinizy Sarah Merritt	Brenda Chambers Katherine Phinizy Sarah Merritt	Brenda Chambers Katherine Phinizy Sarah Merritt
FLOWER GUILD	Sharon Sarvey Jeannie Siler Charlotte Campbell	Sharon Sarvey Jeannie Siler Charlotte Campbell	Sharon Sarvey Jeannie Siler Charlotte Campbell	Sharon Sarvey Jeannie Siler Charlotte Campbell
TELLERS	Liz Meador Dave Meador	Liz Meador Dave Meador	Liz Meador Dave Meador	Liz Meador Dave Meador
COFFEE HOUR	Liz & Dave Meador	Liz & Dave Meador	Liz & Dave Meador	No Coffee Hour

If you are unable to serve as scheduled, please find a replacement AND notify the church office.

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS****5 Tony Baker****7 Kim Sugg****10 Ruth Kemp
Steve Gregorcyk****11 Ashley Pedersen****19 Jonathon Cowan****21 Max Tapiz****25 Chris Cowan****31 Zeb Jones
Janette Thode
Rev. Doug Culton**

If your birthday has been omitted please notify the church office so that the birthday lists are up-to-date.

St Francis - a year in review - 2011

A Photo Essay ~ How blessed we are...

Starting January 1st two slides will be running on the St. Francis website for several weeks. These slide shows will contain a review of the activities at St. Francis throughout 2011. As part of counting our blessing we are asking members of St Francis if they would like to participate. You can do it two ways (both if you wish):

- 1) If you have a photo or two that you consider a blessing for you and your family you can submit it to be included in the online essay. If possible please submit them in electronic form. Please e-mail them to the parish office at parish@stfrancisgoldsboro.org. If it's a printed photo that can work also. Submit them to the office and ensure you include your name so they can be returned after they are scanned.
- 2) The other way is to submit a 1-2 line sentence on why you and/or your family feel they are lucky. Your full name will not be included but we will use the initials of your first and last name. An example would be: "Our family is so blessed for our new addition -- a granddaughter Devon - and the safe return of our son from Iraq." J.D. Again please e-mail them to the parish office or submit them in writing to the office. Please include your full name so if we have a question we can contact you.

If you have questions please contact Chris Cowan at 222-3103 or ccowan@nc.rr.com.



December/December 2011



Domingo Sunday	Lunes Monday	Martes Tuesday	Miércoles Wednesday	Jueves Thursday	Viernes Friday	Sábado Saturday
CE = Christian Education all ages ESL = English as a Second Language Class HE = Holy Eucharist (Communion) Service Santa Missa = Spanish Mass			Nov. 30 6:00 PM Advent Supper & Program	1 5:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	2 	3
4 2 Advent 8:30 AM HE 9:30 AM CE 10:30 AM HE —Then— Annual Parish Meeting 3:00 PM ESL 4 PM Santa Missa	5 6:00 PM Vestry Supper @ The Campbell's	6	7 6:00 PM Advent Supper & Program	8 5:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	9	10 (Franciscans Deadline)
11 3 Advent Deadline to order Poinsettias 8:30 AM HE 9:30 AM CE 10:30 AM HE 3:00 PM ESL 4 PM Santa Missa	12	13 7:00 PM Women's Book Club	14 6:00 PM Advent Supper & Program	15 9:30 AM Chair Aerobics 5:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	16 6:00 PM Frantastix's Christmas Party @ The Merritt's (Corinne on Vacation Dec. 15-28)	17
18 4 Advent 8:30 AM HE 9:30 AM CE 10:30 AM HE 3:00 PM ESL 4 PM Santa Missa 5:00 PM Christ Child Christmas Party	19 	20	21 (Feast of St. Thomas, the Apostle) 5:00 PM Advent Hot dog Supper & Movie	22 5:45 PM Choir Rehearsal First Day of Winter	23	24 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Service Christmas Eve
25 (Feast of The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ) 8:30 AM HE Said service 4 PM Santa Missa Christmas Day	26 (Feast of Saint Stephen, Deacon & Martyr) Office is Closed 	27 (Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist)	28 (Feast of The Holy Innocents)	29 5:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	30	31 9:00 AM St. Francis volunteers at Soup Kitchen New Year's Eve



Heard it through the Grapevine



PRAYER LIST: (St. Francis Parish) Annette, Paul, Wade, Effie, David, and Dr. Raju . (Friends) Marge, Marilyn, Amy, Rev. Margaret Neill, Katherine, Silas, Catherine, Kelby, Sarah, Ron, George, Brenda, Robert, Ginger, Linda, Anne, Doug, Debbie, Turnage, Peggy, Ariel, Krish, Yvonne, William, Mary, and all caregivers .

MISCELLANEOUS:

***Have you heard? **Sharon and Jeff Sarvey** are awaiting the birth of another grandchild in the spring (in Alaska!).

***It was great to see **Mary Beth Bokop**, **Larue Isehour**, **Terrye Aycock** and **Tom Phinizy** back at church. We missed them when they were absent due to health problems.

***Our very own **Nick Cunningham** recently starred as the noble Aslan in Stage Struck's production of *The Lion, Witch, and the Wardrobe*. Nick's perfect portrayal embodied the spirit and the wonderful roar of the lion. **Quincy Cunningham** joined other thespians in terrific, imaginative costumes as supporters of Aslan.

***Marty Rose (**Zeb Jones's** granddaughter) is dancing the role of Clara in *The Nutcracker*. She is the youngest dancer in Goldsboro to have this role. Congratulations Marty!

***Our high school seniors, **Laura Kelly**, **Jacob Sarvey**, **Colin Coor** and **Nick Cunningham** are making plans for life after high school. Stay tuned for their decisions. **Eldica Cyrus's** grandson, Khari and **Corinne Stewart's** son, Wesley, have been honored by nominations for prestigious scholarships.

***This Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas seasons we remember our deployed members -- **Garrett**, **Bridgett and Michael**, **John**, **Alan** -- and give thanks for their service to our country. We also are thankful for their families who "soldier on" in their absence. See The Tower for their addresses and send them a card during this holiday season.

***Our former parishioner and friend, **Marge Eichelberger** has started chemo again. Please keep her in your prayers and send a card to: 4511-102 Crabtree Court, Raleigh, NC 27612.

***Mary Ellen Kearney visited Christmas in the Forest bringing news of her parents **Effie and Wade Kearney** and thanking St. Francis for cards and *The Franciscans*. Their address is: Spring Arbor Assisted Living, 809 John D. Barry Drive, Wilmington, NC 28412

*****Don Skinner** is the very able leader of an adult Sunday school class that meets at 9:30 am, a time convenient to both 8:30 and 10:30 attendees. Don's research and scholarship on the lessons for the day and the insights of all attending make for an interesting discussion that illuminates understanding of those lessons and leaves us with something to think about. Come check it out. The class meets in the Parish Hall adult classroom.

VESTRY NEWS:

***We have a few nominations for Vestry. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor during the meeting on Sunday, December 4. Just be sure you have the permission of the person you are nominating.

***The vestry is sorry to lose three valuable members who are rotating off: **Steve Gregorczyk**, Jr. Warden; **Chris Cowan**, Outreach liaison and webmaster; and **Rick Coor**, Stewardship and Finance chair. We give them hearty thanks for their service and look forward to their continuing to serve St. Francis in many ways.

THE WEDNESDAY ADVENT PROGRAM will connect us to some customs and stories of our different heritages, accompanied by covered dish suppers featuring related foods. **November 30 - 6 p.m.** bring a European dish to share AND bring wreath forms (or use one provided) to make an Advent Wreath (candles will also be available). **December 7 - 6 p.m.** bring an Italian dish. Story of "The Legend of La Befana" and kids will perform a skit. **December 14 - 6 p.m.** bring Latino foods and learn about customs including Our Lady of Guadalupe. **December 21 - 5 p.m.** parents can drop off their children (or stay) for a fun evening of a hot dog supper (provided) and *The Polar Express* movie. At the same time, teens will assist the Altar Guild and the Flower Guild in decorating the Christmas Tree and the church.

2011 ANNUAL REPORTS

SENIOR WARDEN

How wonderful to have welcomed Fr. Doug to his new role at St. Francis. There is a palpable sense of thanksgiving as well as of excitement and promise as we begin our journey together as the body of Christ in this place. Fr. Doug has a lot of names to put with faces so please wear your nametags. (We will put them out each Sunday and for weekday events.)

Have you welcomed new member (Paul Rutter) and those who have returned to Goldsboro (Marylee Lannan, Melissa Prince, Lyn Siler and David Boseman)? The Lippert family jumped into CITF preparations. What a team! These folks are all entering the life of the parish in valuable ways. Be sure to get to know them. We had a number of visitors and people at CITF who are interested in St. Francis as well. Extend them all your special greeting.

Thanks to Liz Meador, our wordsmith for her letter to the congregation and other communications.

The Gospel recently exhorted us to serve Christ by serving "the least of these" and we are attempting to do so. Recently your Discretionary Fund contributions helped a family of 6 who needed food and shelter before going to another city for a job as well as providing assistance with rent for another family. We are fortunate to have Nina Silverthorne, retired social worker, to evaluate these requests. Eldica Cyrus and her Soup Kitchen Team recently served lunch to dozens of hungry people. The Outreach Team has distributed Millennium Development Goals (MDG) funds to Episcopal Relief and Development (getting a matching grant) and to a new hospital in Uganda being built by Dr. Sylvester Odeke of ECU Medical School. The Sunday School children will be choosing a charity for some additional funds. For several years the vestry has set aside 0.7% of the parish income for MDG-related needs of the poorest of the poor and the people of St. Francis have responded to emergency needs as well. Have you considered an "Alternate Christmas Gift" for family and friends who have everything? See the *Gifts for Life* catalogues from ER-D in the narthex and parish hall.

— Charlotte Campbell
Senior Warden

~“ Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.” William James ~

WORSHIP TEAM

Worship Team members: Jodi Baker, Mitch Baker, Jill Brogneaux, Chris Cowan, Bill Hayes, Zeb Jones, Catherine LeChot, Dave Meador, Barrett Parker, and Jeannie Siler.

Responsibilities: Planning and execution of worship services and special events. To assure that all events are staffed and that the appropriate formats are available. To produce an annual schedule of services and events. To plan and staff special events such as luncheons and dinners at appropriate times. To coordinate the music program with Bill Hayes. To assess the effectiveness of St. Francis' worship programs and adjust schedules and events to better serve our members and visitors.

Strengths: The Team is well represented by members who are deeply involved in the worship life of St. Francis and have special skills to offer. We are fortunate to have an enthusiastic group who are more than willing to give their time and considerable experiences to the effort.

Weaknesses: We are aging and it will be well to begin now to actively recruit some younger persons into the team.

— Zeb Jones,
Vestry Liaison

ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild is hoping to replace the festive white hangings and are looking for contributions to accomplish this shortly. New green hangings were donated by Norma Powell and dedicated to the memory of Bill Powell this fall. We also have a matching new green banner for the season of Pentecost thanks to many contributors.

We now have gluten-free wafers available for those who require them — let the Altar Guild know if you need these.

— Jill Brogneaux,
Altar Guild Chair

The Franciscans

St. Francis Episcopal Church
(503 Forest Hill Drive)
P. O. Box 11406
Goldsboro, NC 27532

Of Current Interest . . .

Transfer In:



Paul Rutter



Marylee Lannan



Melissa Prince



Mission Statement

St. Francis Episcopal Church:

As a Christian community, we seek to share the Gospel by welcoming all people, nurturing them through Word and Sacrament, and equipping God's people to serve others in Christ's name.

Dec. 4

Annual Parish Meeting

Dec. 11

Poinsettia Deadline

Dec. 15

Chair Aerobics 9:30am

Dec. 18

Christ Child Party
5:00 PM

Dec. 24

Christmas Eve service
5:00 PM

St. Francis Vestry:

2011

Rick Coor
Chris Cowan
Steve Gregorcyk

2012

Jim Howard
Catherine LeChot
Liz Meador (Clerk)

2013

Charlotte Campbell
Zeb Jones
Dave Meador

(Katherine Phinizy, Treasurer)



Senior Warden -

Charlotte Campbell (919) 735-9090

Junior Warden -

Steve Gregorcyk (919) 429-1930