



# The Franciscans

January 2024

A newsletter for friends and members of St. Francis Episcopal Church  
Goldsboro, NC 27534

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is hard to believe a new year is almost upon us. Many people are used to the idea of setting New Year's resolutions, which, at least in my experience, usually fall through. Some of us have done this with disciplines in regard to our faith. The reality is something that builds a relationship with our Heavenly Father has a bit more weight behind it than going to the gym or learning to play the guitar. It is easy to look at our past of failing to keep resolutions or intended habits or disciplines and become discouraged from even trying again. We need to remember that in Christ, absolution is always found for repentance and for the hope to strive again toward that great example.

Just because the last time you tried to do a Bible study, or take up a reading plan, or to pray daily didn't work out doesn't mean it will this time. The Christian life is not one of stumbling into perfection. It is one of striving for Sainthood and when we stumble, recognize that it is not the end. We are given every opportunity by the grace of Christ to stand up and try again to live into His example.

In the New Year I challenge you to discern in prayer a discipline to take on to grow personally in your faith or to serve others by your faith. Time slows for no one; there is never a right or good time to take on something that requires much of our attention and energy. Yet, the things of the Kingdom of Heaven are always worth the effort, so don't wait until whatever you think needs to change for you to take up a spirit-enriching discipline. Let now bet the time. If you would like to discuss ways to take on a yearly discipline or would like help in discerning, please feel free to reach out to me!

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. Whit Stroud



Dear St. Francis Family:

I am sure you have heard January 30 will be my last day as your Parish Administrator. When I came to serve among you in October of 2019, I had no idea of all the changes ahead. As you remember, July of 2020, my precious husband, Herb, went to heaven. Then in August of 2021, my father, Lesly Holt, went to heaven. January of 2022 brought many challenges with my mother, Rosa Lee, who is now 92 and resides in assisted living. But through it all, God has been faithful and good.

In March of 2021, my daughter, Amber, gave birth to her 2nd child, Eleanor Ruth, and in August of this year, she gave birth to her 3rd, Asher Daniel, who is my 7th and last grandchild they tell me ! I have been so blessed to live near my son, Clifton, while each of his 4 children have been growing up who are now ages 6-17. I have been privileged to be spend quite a bit of time with them, especially in their infant/toddler years.

During my September leave of absence, while being near my daughter's children, I realized how much I have missed spending time with Silas and Eleanor due to their living in Maryland. With all of that being said, I have decided to try and spend a good portion of my time in Maryland for the months of February—May as a trial period. I am not moving, and will be back and forth to North Carolina each month. And if it goes well, I will make a plan for the 2024/2025 school year.

I want each of you to know how very thankful I am for the opportunity you have given me these past 4 years. You have seen me through some very difficult times in my life and I will never forget your kindnesses. I have enjoyed getting to know more about The Episcopal Church and its traditions. But most of all I have loved getting to know you. I have some wonderful memories that I will carry with me no matter where I go. I promise I will pray for you and ask that you do the same for me.

This is not good-bye, just a temporary parting. I will tell you as I tell many folks when we part, "If I don't see you anymore on this side, I hope I will see you on the other side in heaven."

Love and Prayers,  
Beverly Anderson
























Special thanks to  
Terrye Aycocock for the  
beautiful wreaths and  
Advent ties she made  
for our sanctuary doors.

Thank  
You



# January 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>2</b> 10ish-3ish Fr. Whit in office 6pm Christian Formation	<b>3</b> 10-11am 	<b>4</b> 4pm Choir 6-7pm 	<b>5</b> 10:30am Coffee with saints! 	<b>6</b> 9am Garden Clean-up
The battle is on! Join us every 5th Sunday evening at 5pm for some fun! St. Francis vs. Holy Innocents  <small>Started in January 7, 2021; December 31st—Host: St. Francis</small>	<b>7</b> <b>Epiphany</b> 9am Holy Eucharist Coffee/Social Hour 5pm St. Francis host Holy Innocents in Trivia!	<b>8</b> 9am-3pm Office open (Beverly returns)	<b>9</b> 9am-3pm Office open 6pm Christian Formation	<b>10</b> 10-11am 	<b>11</b> 4pm Choir 6-7pm 	<b>12</b> 10:30am Coffee with saints! 
<b>14</b> 2nd Sunday After The Epiphany 9am Holy Eucharist Coffee/Social Hour  3pm St. Francis MOVIE DATE! 	<b>15</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  Newsletter 	<b>16</b> 9am-3pm Office open 6pm Christian Formation 7pm 	<b>17</b> 10-11am 	<b>18</b> 4pm Choir 6-7pm 	<b>19</b> 10:30am Coffee with saints! 	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 3rd Sunday After The Epiphany 9am Holy Eucharist Coffee/Social Hour ECW 	<b>22</b> 9am-3pm Office open	<b>23</b> 9am-3pm Office open 6pm Church-wide Potluck 	<b>24</b> 10-11am 	<b>25</b> 4pm Choir 6-7pm 	<b>26</b> 10:30am Coffee with saints! 	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 4th Sunday After The Epiphany 9am Holy Eucharist Coffee/Social Hour	<b>29</b> 9am-3pm Office open	<b>30</b> 9am-3pm Office open (Beverly's last day) 6pm Christian Formation	<b>31</b> 10-11am 			

Lay Server Schedule January 2024	January 7 EPIPHANY Holy Eucharist Father Whit Stroud	January 14 2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY Holy Eucharist Father Whit Stroud	January 21 3RD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY Holy Eucharist Father Whit Stroud	January 28 4TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY Holy Eucharist Father Whit Stroud
	9:00 am	9:00 am	9:00 am	9:00 am
CRUCIFER	Barrett Rae/Diana Hammond Jodi Baker/Jimmy Valenzona	Barrett Rae/Diana Hammond Jodi Baker/Jimmy Valenzona	Barrett Rae/Diana Hammond Jodi Baker/Jimmy Valenzona	Barrett Rae/Diana Hammond Jodi Baker/Jimmy Valenzona
LECTORS	Jodi Baker Paula Wills	Barrett Rae Scott Summers	Judy Moye Don Skinner	Liz Meador Brandon Robbins
USHERS	Eldica Cyrus Lamar Aycock Scott Summers	Eldica Cyrus Lamar Aycock Scott Summers	Eldica Cyrus Lamar Aycock Scott Summers	Eldica Cyrus Lamar Aycock Scott Summers
FLOWERS	David Powell Tres Powell	David Powell Tres Powell	David Powell Tres Powell	David Powell Tres Powell
ALTAR GUILD	Judy Moye Jackie Gurley	Judy Moye Jackie Gurley	Judy Moye Jackie Gurley	Judy Moye Jackie Gurley
EUCCHARISTIC VISITOR	Jill Brogneaux	Eldica Cyrus	Liz Meador	Jane Anthony
TELLERS	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
SOCIAL	Paula Willis Brenda Chambers	Paula Willis Brenda Chambers	Paula Willis Brenda Chambers	Paula Willis Brenda Chambers

**JANUARY**

- 2...Gerald Herring
- 5...David Powell
- 11...Karen Turner
- 15...Roger Riddle
- 17...John Koegel
- 18...Annette Jackson
- 19...Cory Valenzona
- 25...Pat Biggers

**Vestry**

**2024**  
 Jill Brogneaux  
 (Sr. Warden)  
 Patti Donnelly

**2025**  
 Barbara Pederson  
 Lamar Aycock  
 (Jr. Warden)

**2026**  
 Nina Silverthorne  
 Jane Anthony  
 Paula Wills

Al Elmore, Treasurer  
 Paula Wills, Clerk

**Priest-in-Charge**  
 The Rev. Whit Stroud

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**Hosts are needed for Social/ Coffee Hour! Please sign up on the tower . Thank YOU!**

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



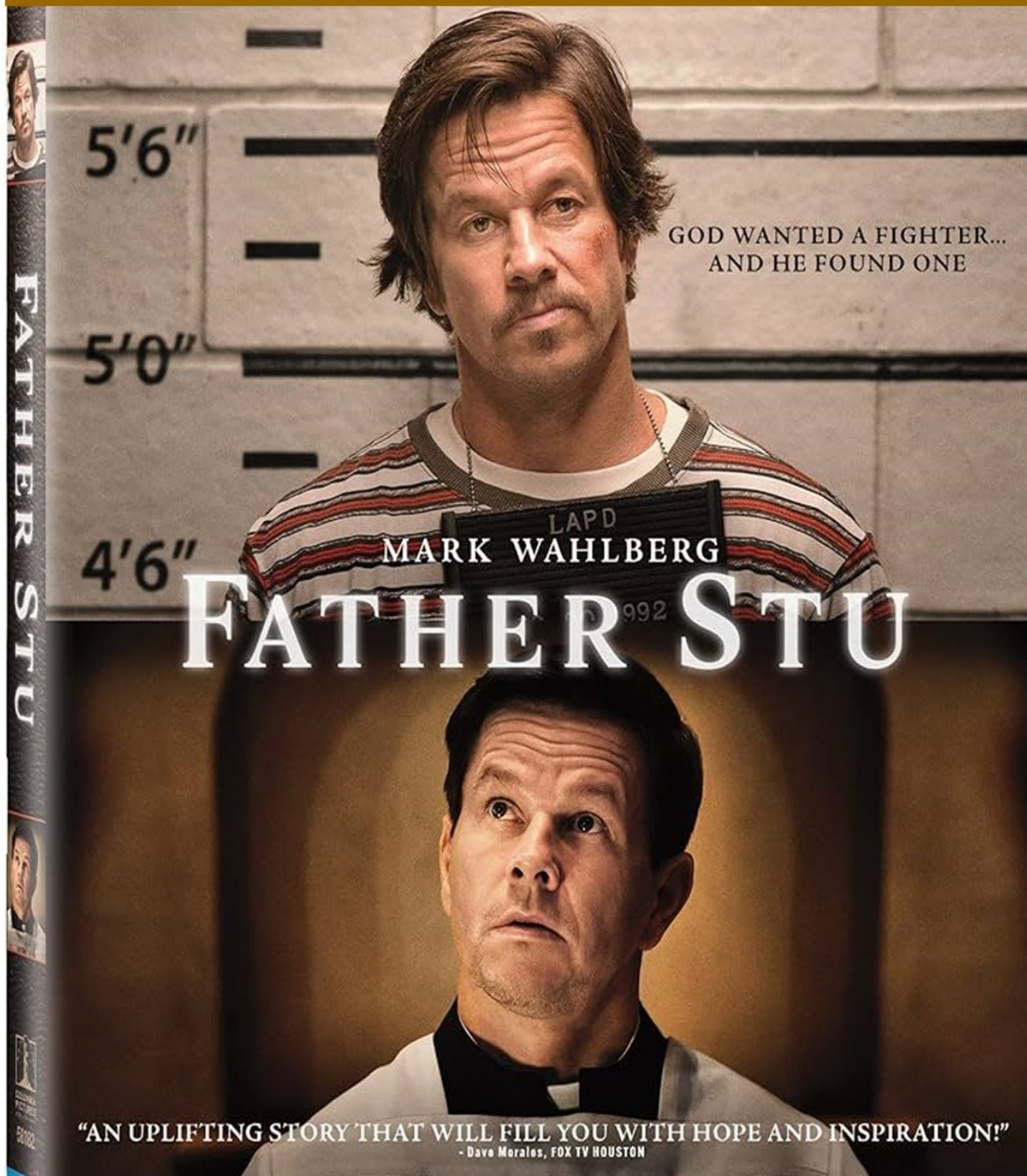
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**The Franciscans** is published 11 times a year. The **deadline** for items to be considered for inclusion is the **15<sup>th</sup> of each month.**



# St. Francis MOVIE Date!

## Sunday, January 14, 3pm



The battle is on! Join us every  
5th Sunday evening at 5pm for some  
fun! St. Francis vs. Holy Innocents

# TRIVIA

(moved to January 7, 2024) December 31st—host: St. Francis

March 31, 2024—host: Holy Innocents

June 30, 2024 □ host: St. Francis

September 29, 2024 □ host: Holy Innocents

December 29, 2024 □ Host: St. Francis



**Join us every  
month on the 4th  
Tuesday at 6pm  
for a church-wide  
potluck! Bring  
your favorite dishes to share dinner  
with the St. Francis Family and enjoy  
some sweet fellowship!**

Advent Noonday Holy Eucharist at St. Francis  
and The Advent Formation Series have been well attended!



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



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~ The Franciscans — January 2024 ~

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The Rt. Rev. Rob Skirving,  
Bishop of the Episcopal  
Diocese of East Carolina

Father Whit Stroud,  
Priest-in-Charge

William Hayes,

Organist/Choirmaster

Beverly Anderson,

Parish Administrator

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*The altar flowers on Sunday, December 10, were  
a gift in memory of Josh Meador from his family.*

