

The Franciscans

January 2021

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

Dear St. Francis Family,

As I am writing to you all today, the first Americans have just received the Coronavirus Vaccine. This is a monumental landmark as we look towards returning to a post pandemic life, less than a year after the outbreak of COVID 19. Watching frontline workers receive the vaccine and seeing the joy in their eyes as they witness and experience real hope for our world amid a long and arduous journey—these are true gifts, especially as my own family plans for Christmas apart from my parents and socially distanced with my in-laws. And so, as we enter our Christmas season and look toward a New Year in 2021, even amidst a pandemic, I am filled with hope for the future.

I am filled with hope, not simply because we will soon gather again in the beauty of our sanctuary, but also because we have joined together and found our strength and courage this past year through creativity, adaptability, and dedication to our St. Francis family. We have followed the Holy Spirit's call to move beyond the four walls of our parish and out into the community as we have joined with the Episcopal Churches of Goldsboro Online in worship and fellowship. And we have experienced what it means to be the body of Christ during challenging times, as we have raised our voices in praise of the Lord our God each Sunday on Zoom. We named our sorrows while celebrating our joys during coffee hour, making space for new friendships while continuing to sustain long standing ones. We have had the special opportunity to use our wonderful outdoor space worshipping the Lord in the beauty of God's creation. And we are looking toward the future as we make plans to update our garden and find new ways to invite the community into our space.

While we cannot deny that 2020 has been challenging, we can still give thanks for the opportunities it has given us to realize that our lived faith goes beyond our sanctuary, and that our church body is larger than we had ever imagined (thanks to you and your part in the Episcopal Churches of Goldsboro community). This is why I am hopeful--because, if 2020 has shown us anything, it has shown us that the foundation of St. Francis is built on lasting relationships and sustained by your spirit of dedication, creativity, and love of God and neighbor. You all have remained so faithful in your support of one another and our church. I have seen this in so many ways, from your presence and worship offerings in our Zoom Morning Prayer and Outdoor Eucharist, to the sustained giving in your offerings and pledges, to all the ways you minister to one another and the larger community by giving of your time and talent. I am so thankful for each one of you, for all you give to our church, and all the ways you give me hope. As we enter this Christmas Season and our New Year, may we be filled with a hope as bright, as tangible, and as sustaining as the hope that came into our world through the birth of the Christ child.

Peace, love, and blessings,
Kate+





From the mailbox

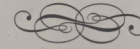


You're a great example
of everything that's right
with the world.

Thank you for all
that you have done
the pansettia is
gorgeous. It must have
a word number of
blossoms for one
plant.

Thank you
especially for
your love &
support - it means
a lot. Susan Helms

St Francis members,
Wishing you a Christmas filled with
Peace, Hope and Joy



Mr + Mrs Jeff Jackson



May your Christmas be bright
with the light of God's love.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM
DIOCESAN HOUSE STAFF!



with APPRECIATION

We have all received
one gracious blessing
after another.
JOHN 1:16 NLT

Dear St. Francis Church
Family
As the refreshing cool crispness
of the fall season arrived, I received
a beautiful, hand crafted greeting
Praying that God
brings you many
BLESSINGS
for your kindness.

from all of you.

Thank you so very much.

Peace and blessings,
Rev. Mary Reese



January 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY 10:00am-MP (Zoom) 11:30am Vestry Installation Vestry Meeting	4 Office Open 9am-3pm	5 Office Open 9am-3pm FACEBOOK Noonday Prayer	6 10:30am-3:30pm Socially Distanced Pastoral Care 	7 FACEBOOK Noonday Prayer	8	9 10am FAITH and FELLOWSHIP (socially-distanced at St. Francis)
10 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY: Baptism of our Lord 10:00am-MP (Zoom) <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;"> St. Francis FUNDRAISER @ Texas Roadhouse </div>	11 OFFICE CLOSED	12 Office Open 9am-3pm FACEBOOK Noonday Prayer	13 10:30am-3:30pm Socially Distanced Pastoral Care	14 FACEBOOK Noonday Prayer	15 DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE! Newsletter	16
17 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY 10:00am-MP (Zoom)	18 Office Open 9am-3pm 	19 Office Open 9am-3pm FACEBOOK Noonday Prayer	20 10:30am-3:30pm Socially Distanced Pastoral Care	21 FACEBOOK Noonday Prayer	22	23
24 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY 10:00am-MP (Zoom)	25 Office Open 9am-3pm	26 Office Open 9am-3pm FACEBOOK Noonday Prayer	27 10:30am-3:30pm Socially Distanced Pastoral Care	28 FACEBOOK Noonday Prayer	29	30
31 FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY 10:00am-MP (Zoom)				<div style="background-color: #cccccc; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> MP = Morning Prayer </div>		



- 2.....Gerald Herring
- 5.....David Powell
- 11.....Karen Turner
- 15.....Roger Riddle
- 20.....Caroline Jones-Bounds
- 25.....Pat Biggers
- 29.....Mikaela Foss

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

January

New Address!



**Peggy Lewis
Crissie Lewis
752 Tuscan Way
Wilmington 28411**



**WE'VE
MOVED!**

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St. Francis Episcopal Church
(503 Forest Hill Drive)

P. O. Box 11406, Goldsboro, NC 27532
Tel: 919-735-9845, Fax: 919-735-9893
E-mail: parish@stfranciscgoldsboro.org
Web Page: www.stfranciscgoldsboro.org

The Rt. Rev. Rob Skirving, Bishop of the
Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina
The Rev. Kate Byrd, Priest in Charge
William Hayes, Organist/Choirmaster
Beverly Anderson, Parish Administrator

The Franciscans: Beverly Anderson, Editor

The Franciscans is published 11 times a year.

The **deadline** for items to be considered
for inclusion is the **15th of each month.**

Vestry

2021

Barbara Pedersen
(Bookkeeper)
Kimberly Stedner-Clayton

2022

Liz Meador
(Junior Warden)
George Moye
(Senior Warden)

2023

Debbie Stedner
Dave Meador
Brandon Robbins

Al Elmore, Treasurer
Shelley Mills, Clerk

Priest-in-Charge

The Rev. Kate Byrd



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Nina Silverthorne

Nina hails from Warrensburg, MO, where she was born to a father who was an Episcopal priest and a mother who was a social worker, a career Nina herself would undertake at the Wayne County Health Department until her retirement.

Nina Folmsbee Silverthorne's family moved often as her father was variously a professor at St. Andrew's in Laurinburg, SC, a priest in Texas and Oklahoma, and the chaplain at St. Mary's College in Raleigh when Nina was a high school senior. Nina attended Methodist University for two years before transferring to what is now Barton College.

After graduation, Nina worked at Cherry Hospital for three years, married a Vocational Rehabilitation specialist, and moved to GA and SC before returning to Goldsboro where she accepted a position with the Wayne County Health Department. She established the social work program, eventually supervising 16 people. She says that working with the maternal and childcare programs was one of the most rewarding experiences of her career.

Though Nina and her husband divorced in 2003, they remained great friends, and Nina continues a relationship with her stepsons, one of whom lives in Wilson. She also has a brother in Cary.

After her retirement, Nina fell into animal rescue work after she had rescued a blind and deaf dog. She found out about Duffy's Friends in Rochester, NY, a pet adoption agency founded in 1998. Nina's volunteer work consists of fostering then transporting pets once a forever family has been found for them. She explained that sometimes she drives the animals to their new homes, or she takes the potential adoptees to the airport where volunteer pilots working as Pilots 'n Paws fly the pets to their destinations.

Nina says this volunteer work is not just about saving a rescue animal but about changing people's futures because she had a part in placing a pet in their lives. One man told her that his rescue dog saved his life from loneliness and despair after his wife had died.

Another advantage of her rescue work is that she has met many wonderful Christian people who love and nurture animals. Nina's own pets include three dogs--Kelsey, Sookie, and Pebbles Francis—and cats named Teddy, Midnight, Howie, and Princess Fluffy Feathers.

Nina came to St. Francis because of her family connection to Nell Kershaw, long-time beloved St. Francis member. Nell was Nina's cousin's aunt for whom Nina provided rides to church.

We wish Nina the best as she recovers successfully from triple bypass surgery. She is working to regain strength so that she can continue her work as a rescuer and hero to animals!

For those interested, Duffy's Friends relies on donations which may be sent to Lori Mufford, 191 Evergreen Road, Brockport, NY 14420. Surgery for rescues can run into the thousands of dollars, so contributions are most welcome!

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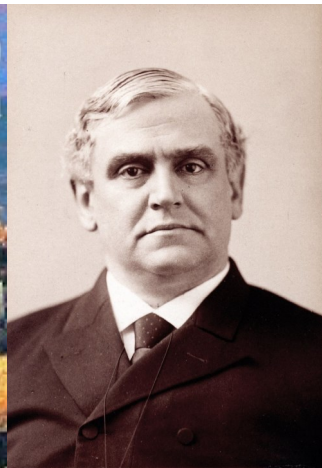
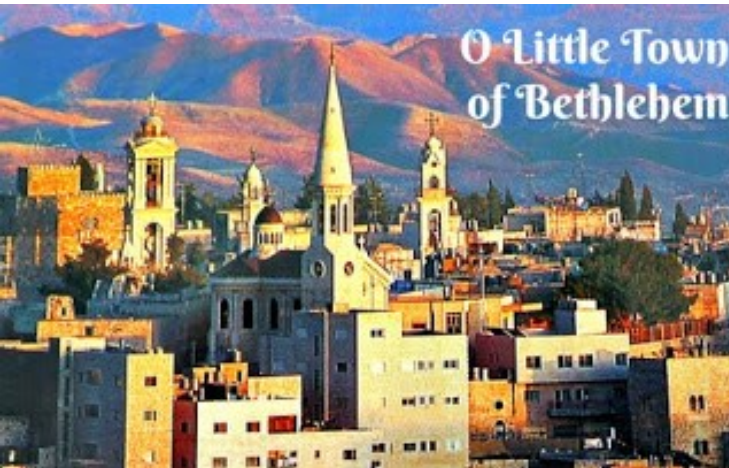
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~ The Franciscans — January 2021 ~

We all love the Christmas Carol “ O Little Town of Bethlehem.”

It was written by an Episcopal priest named, Phillips Brooks who died January 23, 1893. He was born at Boston, Dec. 13, 1835, graduated at Harvard College 1855, and was ordained in 1859. Successively Rector of the Church of the Advent, Philadelphia, and Trinity Church, Boston, he became Bishop of Mass. in 1891, His Carol, "O little town of Bethlehem," was written for his Sunday School in 1868, the author having spent Christmas, 1866, at Bethlehem.



O Little Town of Bethlehem
 Words: Phillips Brooks, 1867. Music: St. Louis' Lewis H. Rehner, 1868. Setting: 'The Chapel Hymnal', 1998.
 copyright: public domain. This score is a part of the Open Hymnal Project, 2005 Revision.

♩ = 100

1. O lit - the town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and go - thed all a - bove,
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous Gift is giv'n
 4. Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,
 5. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray:

A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by,
 While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love,
 So God in pain to hu - man hearts the mes - sages of His
 Have'n
 Where mi - ser - y cries out to Thee, Son of the mo - ther mild,
 Cast out our sins, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light,
 O morn - ing stars to - ge - ther, pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No car may hear His com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 Where char - it - y stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,
 We hear the Chris - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell.

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night,
 And pain - ex - citing to God the King, and peace to men on earth!
 Where mock - ings will re - vive Him still, the dear Christ en - ters in,
 The dark night waits, the glo - ry herald, and the Chris - mas comes once more,
 O come to us, a - hide with us, our Lord! Em - man - u - el!