



# The Franciscans

February 2024

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Lent comes early this year, not to mention Ash Wednesday, which coincides with St. Valentine's Day. Following that, we enter the season of Lent. It is a season filled with time for seeking repentance and reflection in preparation for the glories and joys of Easter. It goes without saying that if we fully embrace the Lenten season, we are going to be faced with, at minimum, a great deal of discomfort and, most likely, a wide array of emotions we would rather live without. To some, it could seem like focusing on the parts of ourselves that are sinful could lead us into depression or melancholy. While it is difficult to do this reflection, we must always remember that it is not intended to be oppressive. It is quite the opposite; we should always remember that the battle has already been won. Jesus Christ took on the final consequences of sin and cast them down on the Cross. We must always remember that forgiveness is always offered to those who come to Christ repentant.

Again, the reflection and work it leads to will be difficult, but knowing we do it to strive to be like Christ makes the strife worth it. Saint Catherine of Siena said, "Nothing great is ever achieved without much enduring." So, if being like Christ is the goal, we can trust that we must endure much. We all know the tradition of giving something up for Lent, such as chocolate or soda. While I agree that, for some, that denial can help bring about keeping a Holy Lent, I have found that taking on something new is more helpful. I know we all live busy lives and that free time is hard to come by. Yet, Lent is a time in which we should, by our own admission, know that we fall short of the glory of God and seek to find ways to grow closer to Him. Taking on a discipline of prayer or study is something I have found to help focus my Lenten disciplines. For example, I may give up some time I use to watch TV and instead read a book focusing on theology or devotional that strengthens my mind and faith to live a more Christ-like life.

If you want to decide on something to give up or take on to help yourself focus your Lenten discipline, I'd be more than happy to help you discern something that will help. As a final side note, due to its repentant nature, Lent is a wonderful time to get in the habit of making a Sacramental confession. Please let me know if you feel the Holy Spirit is urging you to make a Sacramental confession. There is no reason to think that if you've never done it before, you can't; Lent is a great time to begin.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Whit Stroud



Sunday, January 14, our new Vestry members were commissioned during the worship service. Jane Anthony, Nina Silverthorne and Paula Wills will serve in the class of 2026. Jill Brogneaux (Senior Warden) and Barbara Pedersen serve in the class of 2024 and Patti Donnelly and Lamar Aycock (Junior Warden) serve in the class of 2025. We are grateful for our Vestry and the gifts of their talent and time.



Thank you to the ECW for the delicious lunch and my beautiful parting gift. I am so blessed.  
*Beverly Anderson*

**Thank You Thank You Thank You**  
The Church Staff of St. Francis sends a huge “Thank You” for our Christmas bonuses. We are so fortunate to serve among such generous brothers and sisters in Christ.  
*Fr. Whit, Bill, Beverly and Luz*




Huge thanks to St. Francis members who donated items, chopped vegetables, packaged and



helped sell soup AND to our friends who bought it! We will make the Soup Sale an annual event, thanks to your support.  
*Liz Meador, ECW President*

# February 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
				<p>1 4pm Choir 6-7pm</p> 	<p>2 10:30am Coffee with saints!</p> 	<p>3 9am Garden Clean-up</p>	
<p>4 The Presentation 9am Holy Eucharist Coffee/Social Hour</p>	<p>5 Fr. Whit in office</p>	<p>6 Fr. Whit in office 6pm Christian Formation 7pm Vestry</p> 	<p>7 10-11am</p> 	<p>8 4pm Choir 6-7pm</p> 	<p>9 10:30am Coffee with saints!</p> 	<p>10</p>	
<p>11 Last Sunday After The Epiphany 9am Holy Eucharist Coffee/Social Hour</p>	<p>12 Fr. Whit in office</p>	<p>13 Fr. Whit in office NO CHRISTIAN FORMATION UNTIL AFTER EASTER</p>	<p>14 10-11am</p>  <p>5:30pm Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes</p> 	<p>15 4pm Choir 6-7pm</p> 	<p>16 10:30am Coffee with saints!</p> 	<p>17</p>	
<p>18 1st Sunday in Lent 9am Holy Eucharist Coffee/Social Hour ECW</p> 	<p>19 OFFICE CLOSED</p> 	<p>20 Fr. Whit in office</p>	<p>21 10-11am</p>  <p>6pm Lenten Formation @ Holy Innocents</p>	<p>22 4pm Choir 6-7pm</p> 	<p>23 10:30am Coffee with saints!</p> 	<p>24</p>	
<p>25 2nd Sunday in Lent 9am Holy Eucharist Coffee/Social Hour</p>	<p>26 Fr. Whit in office</p>	<p>27 Fr. Whit in office</p>	<p>28 10-11am</p>  <p>6pm Lenten Formation @ Good Shepherd</p>				

Lay Server Schedule February 2024	February 4 <i>PRESENTATION</i> <i>Holy Eucharist</i> <i>Father Whit Stroud</i>	February 11 <i>LAST SUNDAY</i> <i>AFTER EPIPHANY</i> <i>Holy Eucharist</i> <i>Father Whit Stroud</i>	February 18 <i>1ST SUNDAY</i> <i>IN LENT</i> <i>Holy Eucharist</i> <i>Father Whit Stroud</i>	February 25 <i>2ND SUNDAY</i> <i>IN LENT</i> <i>Holy Eucharist</i> <i>Father Whit Stroud</i>
	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>
<b>CRUCIFER</b>	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
<b>LECTORS</b>	Diana Hammond Nina Silverthorne	Barbara Pedersen Patti Donnelly	Dave Meador Paula Wills	Judy Moyer Jill Brogneaux
<b>USHERS</b>	Eldica Cyrus Lamar Aycock Scott Summers	Eldica Cyrus Lamar Aycock Scott Summers	Eldica Cyrus Lamar Aycock Scott Summers	Eldica Cyrus Lamar Aycock Scott Summers
<b>FLOWERS</b>	David Powell Tres Powell	David Powell Tres Powell	David Powell Tres Powell	David Powell Tres Powell
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Elaine Elmore Jodi Baker	Elaine Elmore Jodi Baker	Elaine Elmore Jodi Baker	Elaine Elmore Jodi Baker
<b>EUCCHARISTIC VISITOR</b>	Jill Brogneaux	Eldica Cyrus	Liz Meador	Jane Anthony
<b>TELLERS</b>	Lamar Aycock Barbara Pedersen	Lamar Aycock Barbara Pedersen	Lamar Aycock Barbara Pedersen	Lamar Aycock Barbara Pedersen
<b>SOCIAL</b>	Judy and George Moyer	Judy and George Moyer	Judy and George Moyer	Judy and George Moyer

# February

- 1...Nicolle Robbins
- 12...Norma Powell
- 15...Stephanie Bersabal
- 19...Paula Wills
- 24...Patti Donnelly



## 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

**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.*



**St. Francis Episcopal Church**  
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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.**





Thank you for the donations you contributed to the St. Francis Caring Cart for the month of December. Patti and her helpers (Don, Diana and Nina) delivered them to the 4 Day Movement.

January Trivia was interesting! While St. Francis did not secure the “win” as we had hoped, we did have some lively discussion! Plan now to join us for our next 5th Sunday Trivia scheduled for 5pm, on Sunday, March 17, hosted by Holy Innocents.



Our January potluck was full of good food and fellowship. We will take a break during the Lent/ Easter seasons from our monthly Church-wide potlucks. Plan now to join us when we resume Tuesday, April 23, 6pm!





**Holy Eucharist with**

**Imposition of Ashes**

**5:30pm, February 14, 2024**

**Ash Wednesday**

**— Lent Begins**

**St. Francis Episcopal Church**

**503 Forest Hill Drive**

**Goldsboro, NC 27534**

# Lenten Formation

# 2024

## Wednesday Evenings During Lent with the Episcopal Churches of Goldsboro

**Wednesday, February 21**

Holy Innocents — Intro to Baptismal Vows (Episcopal vs Lutheran)

**Wednesday, February 28**

Good Shepherd Lutheran — Fellowship and Worship

**Wednesday, March 6**

St. Stephen's — Proclaim by Word and Deed

**Wednesday, March 13**

St. Andrew's — Serve Others

**Wednesday, March 20**

St. Francis — Strive for Justice and Peace

### Weekly Format

6:00 p.m. — Dinner

6:30 p.m. — Formation

7:00 p.m. — Worship

Childcare provided.

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~ The Franciscans — February 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

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**If you find yourself available around 9:30am on any 5th Saturday in 2024, join Eldica at the Community Soup Kitchen. Thank you to Roger, Patti and Diana who served with Eldica in December.**



*Matthew 10:40* "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. **41**Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; **42**and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."