



# The Franciscans

March 2021

A newsletter for friends and members of St. Francis Episcopal Church

## Where is this Journey Taking Us?

Every year as we enter Lent, the experience can feel much like a journey. We begin at Ash Wednesday, hitting the ground running, entering our penitential season with those infamous words, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return," while taking on our Lenten disciplines with excitement and vigor.

Then, around week three or four, we often begin to lose steam. Numbers at the evening Lenten series begin to dwindle, yet another sermon on our need for repentance and reconciliation falls on deaf ears, and compromises begin for whatever we have taken on or given up for the long 40 days and nights. But, as we enter Holy Week, with Easter just over the horizon, we gain traction again and use that last bit of energy to get us through the Last Supper, Jesus on the cross, and the empty tomb. Finally, we arrive at the blessed and glorious resurrection.

Much of life is like this journey as well. We enter spaces and times that require a little more energy and attention. We go to places we never dreamed or imagined we would enter, finding ourselves in uncharted territory or foreign lands. We wander out a little too far, pushing ourselves outside our comfort zones while wondering if we will ever find our way home. Journeys can be both luxurious jaunts to faraway lands or times of prolonged trial and tribulation, but they are always an opportunity to gain new perspective and learn more about ourselves and the world around us.

In the Bible we hear about many different journeys. God calls on individuals and communities to travel away from all they know, requiring them to move beyond the comfort and familiarity of their homes and homelands: from Noah's time spent on the Ark, Abraham and Sarah's journey to Canaan, the Israelites' 40 years in the desert, and Jonah's 3 days in the belly of a whale, all the way to Jesus' 40 days and nights in the desert and his 3 days from the grave to his resurrection. The story of God's people and the story of God's salvation are centered around the journeys that take us from places of familiar comfort and complacency to those of new life and new beginnings.

This past year has certainly been a journey, one that will soon come to an end but is not quite over. We have experienced the pains of leaving behind the familiar. And we have had to face the agony of great loss. But we have also found new companions and partners on the path we have been treading together. We have dropped off old baggage and gained new tools. And we have learned that we are stronger than we may have thought, even more so when we are able to lean on one another.

As we find ourselves in the middle of Lent, a good distance from Ash Wednesday, but still not yet at Easter, how will we take advantage of this time? This time calls us to contemplation on where we have been and where we are going. And this time calls us to connect to that Divine presence at the center of our lives and our relationships with one another.

How will we make use of the end of this journey and the rest of our time in the space before we gather again to sing our song of joy and praise on that glorious Easter morning?

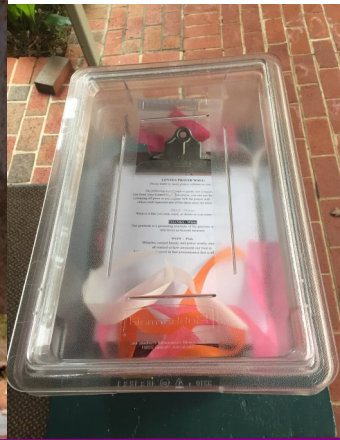
Kate+



Come to the  
St. Francis  
Garden  
throughout Lent.

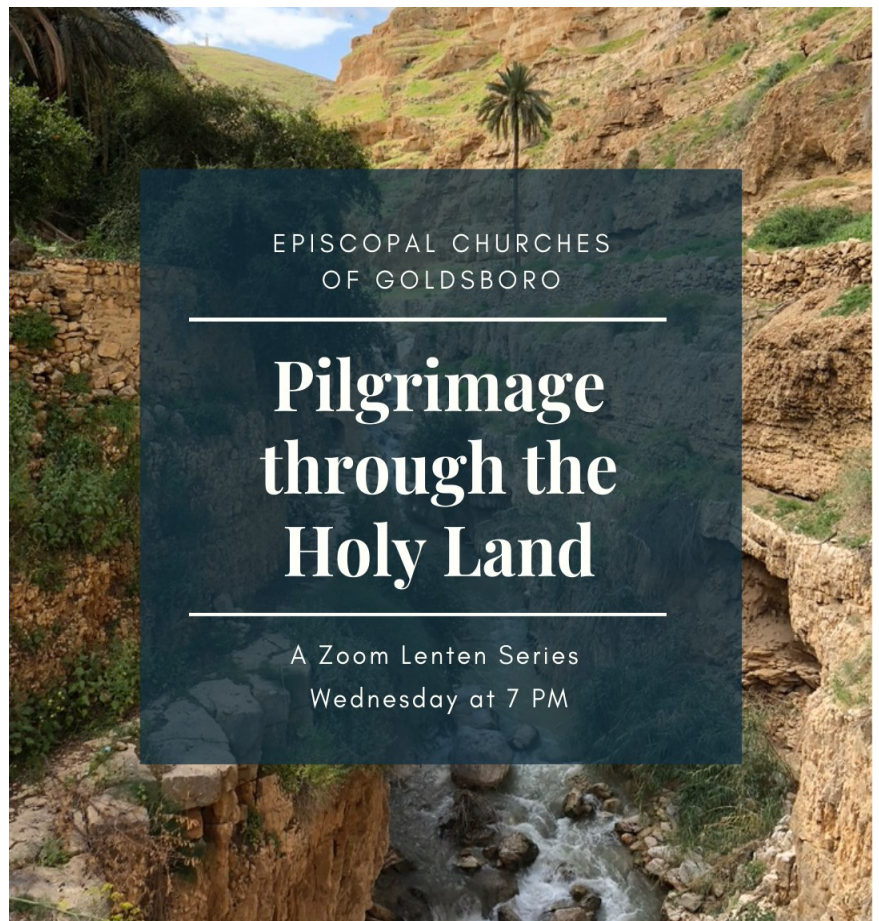


You will find  
the box with  
supplies in front  
of the Sanctuary  
doors under  
the covered  
walkway.



Educational Program- “A River Through the Desert”- Wednesdays during Lent (Zoom) at 7pm. Meeting ID: 836 9527 9208 Passcode: 785097

Note: You can Access any Zoom offering by going to [zoom.us/](https://zoom.us/) sign in and entering the Meeting ID and passcode. You can also access Zoom by dialing (929) 205-6099 Or (301) 715-8592 and entering the Meeting ID and Passcode when prompted.







# March 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> Office Open 9am-3pm	<b>2</b> Office Open 9am-3pm FACEBOOK Noonday Prayer	<b>3</b> 10:30am-3:30pm Socially Distanced Pastoral Care	<b>4</b> FACEBOOK Noonday Prayer	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT 10:00am-Spiritual Eucharist (Zoom) 11:00am-Drive Thru Bread and a Blessing	<b>8</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>9</b> Office Open 9am-3pm  FACEBOOK Noonday Prayer	<b>10</b> 10:30am-3:30pm Socially Distanced Pastoral Care	<b>11</b> FACEBOOK Noonday Prayer	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Faith and Fellowship in the Parish Hall 10am (socially distanced)
<b>14</b>  FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT 10:00am-Spiritual Eucharist (Zoom) 11:00am-Drive Thru Bread and a Blessing  <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">                         St. Francis FUNDRAISER                          @ Texas Roadhouse                     </div>	<b>15</b> Office Open 9am-3pm  	<b>16</b> Office Open 9am-3pm  FACEBOOK Noonday Prayer	<b>17</b> 10:30am-3:30pm Socially Distanced Pastoral Care	<b>18</b> FACEBOOK Noonday Prayer	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 
<b>21</b> FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT 10:00am-Spiritual Eucharist (Zoom) 11:00am-Drive Thru Bread and a Blessing	<b>22</b> Office Open 9am-3pm	<b>23</b> Office Open 9am-3pm  FACEBOOK Noonday Prayer	<b>24</b> 10:30am-3:30pm Socially Distanced Pastoral Care	<b>25</b> FACEBOOK Noonday Prayer	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> PALM SUNDAY 10:00am-Spiritual Eucharist (Zoom) 11:00am-Drive Thru Bread and a Blessing 11:30am—Vestry  Vestry Meeting	<b>29</b> Office Open 9am-3pm	<b>30</b> Office Open 9am-3pm  FACEBOOK Noonday Prayer	<b>31</b> 10:30am-3:30pm Socially Distanced Pastoral Care	 <div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 10px; text-align: center;">                         Before you go to bed                          Saturday night, March                          13th!                     </div>		



Terrye Aycock.....6  
 Jackie Gurley.....8  
 Larry Miller.....10  
 George Moye.....21  
 Brenda Chambers....22  
 Jonathan Espinoza...22  
 Walker Campbell.....26  
 Judy Moye.....29

# March

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

## The Franciscans

**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 **15<sup>th</sup> of each month.**

## Vestry

**2021**

Barbara Pedersen  
 (Bookkeeper)  
 Kimberly Stedner

**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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**Mitch Baker**

You have seen him on the grounds at St. Francis, picking up the innumerable pinecones or twigs or small branches that pepper our churchyard. His efforts result in a cleaner, tidier landscape for the rest of us and for visitors to our grounds.

This caretaker is **Mitch Baker**, who works quietly behind-the-scenes doing the jobs that many of us don't think about and certainly don't like to do! Thank you, Mitch, for this service to St. Francis throughout the years, work hampered just now because of health issues (at 80, Mitch is undergoing cardiac rehabilitation for the next four or five months).

Where did this gem come from? His birthplace was on his grandparents' farm in Fowler, Michigan, where he was educated in rural schools in Maple Rapids, graduating from St. John's High School after his family moved to St. John's in 1946.

After working on the farm for three months, Mitch joined the Air Force where he worked in veterinary services, caring for military working dogs and for the pets of military families. He stayed in this work for twenty years but spent his last ten military years in environmental health, specializing in food inspection and sanitation. After his retirement, he worked for Dumas Oil Company for fifteen years.

Married four times, Mitch has seven children, seventeen grandchildren, and twenty-four great-grandchildren. His three older children live in New York and Vermont. While he thought he might retire to Arizona, the military asked if he would be willing to go to Goldsboro instead. He and his then-wife attended the Catholic church here, but they knew only one person there and didn't meet others.

They had seen St. Francis during a drive and became curious enough to visit. Jill and Roger Brogneaux made them feel so welcomed, encouraging them to make St. Francis their church home, that they joined in 1988. Mitch said that being involved in a Christmas-in-the-Forest event that first year drew him into the church, too.

Mitch said of the church, "I love the sermons, how the priests have presented ideas; I am grateful to be in a church that sees the many sides of an issue."

Mitch's hobbies include bird watching, gardening, and coin collecting.

We are grateful for the contributions this quiet, unassuming man makes to the church and wish him Godspeed in his journey to improved health. Bless you, Mitch! You are a blessing to us.



# Ash Wednesday

## in our refurbished Garden!

Many thanks to those who submitted photos!







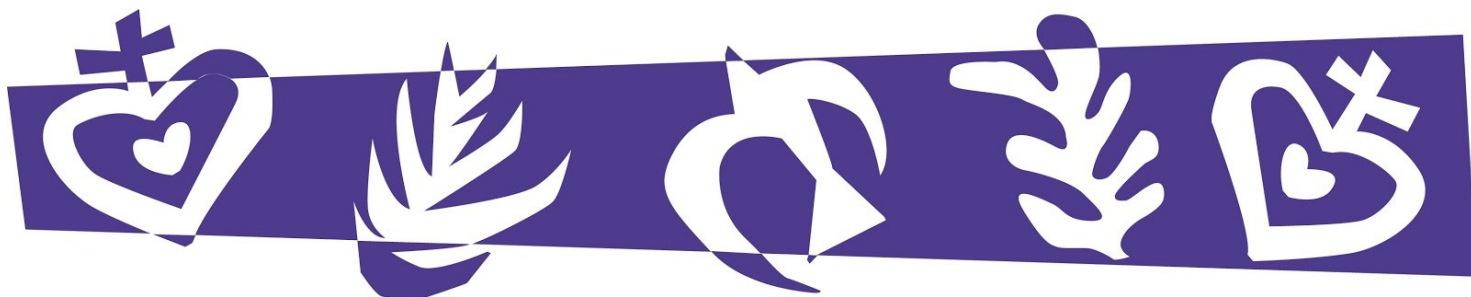
## Impositions of Ashes

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

**Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.**







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Goldsboro, NC 27532



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~ The Franciscans — March 2021 ~

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### Report on the 138th Diocesan Convention

Liz Meador and Kim Stedner served as lay delegates to the 138th Diocesan (virtual) Convention on Saturday, February 13, 2021, along with 124 other lay delegates. More than 200 others joined in the Zoom meeting from 9-11:35 a.m.

The convention went smoothly with few dissenting votes on resolutions and other business. The most interesting reports concerned the Journey Through East Carolina and Trinity Center. The first project involved 335 participants in 37 teams that raised \$216,602. 58 for Trinity Center, which lost 45 employees as a result of Covid-19. Co-directors Stephanie Rudolph and Mary Beth Bradbury praised the work of the remaining 10 employees to keep Trinity running smoothly. Bishop Skirving reported that a parcel of maritime forest on the property will be sold to assure the future of Trinity Center.

For a full account of the Convention, Google "Diocese of East Carolina Convention Materials." You will be taken to all the documents pertinent to the Convention proceedings and to Bishop Skirving's address in which he discussed "cognitive dissonance," relating it to the Gospel writers and to current culture. He said, " We need to dream a little, pray about how God is calling us to support each other better."

Next year's convention will be held at the Hotel Ballast in Wilmington, February 10-12.

### FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP

Seven of the faithful fellows met on February 20 to enjoy conversation and Judy Moyer's goody bag of ham biscuits, brownie, and candies. Liz assembled a brief version of The Journal of the 138th Convention (from a 184-page document) for participants to read and reported on other aspects of the Convention.

We solved all the world's problems in about an hour and had a great time! Thank you, Judy.

Join us next month, please, on March 13.

Liz Meador