



# The Franciscans

March 2022

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

**SERMON PREACHED FEBRUARY 6, 2022  
AT SAINT FRANCIS, GOLDSBORO  
By Rev. Margaret Pollock  
ISAIAH 6:1-8, 1 COR 15:1-11, LUKE 5:1-11**



The other day, I went downtown in New Bern, to pick up a repaired ring at Mike's Downtown Jewelers on Middle Street. The parking place I found was way at the end of the street, and Mike's was somewhere further up. I got out of the car and began walking up the street, not finding Mike's, until I came to Bear Plaza. There a man was waiting for me, almost as if we had an appointment. What I noticed first was that he wore only a sweatshirt, which was not nearly warm enough for the frigid weather. Then I noticed that he had a bulbous skin protrusion on one eye.

I said, "Hi there. How are you doing?"

"Doing OK," he replied. But clearly he was in need. "I just got surgery for my eye."

"That's good! Here's something for you," I said, opening my wallet and pulling out the only cash I had, a \$20.

"Thank you; you are a good lady," he said "Last night I slept under the bridge. If I get twenty dollars more, I can sleep indoors tonight."

"That's good; I'm glad," I said.

"Can I hug you?" he asked.

"Can I hug you?" I asked in return. We hugged and said goodbye, and he crossed the street and walked on.

It turns out I had walked way past Mike's, so I turned around and retraced my steps. At Mike's I related my experience to Zach, the counter man.

"Oh, that's Tom," he said. "Tom's a good guy. We help him out from time to time."

Later, driving home, it occurred to me that the Holy Spirit had caused me to miss Mike's the first time to arrive at my meeting with Tom so I could speak with him, hug him, and help him out. And so Tom could speak with me and hug me as well. The knowledge made me glad that God brought us together this way. I blessed and thanked God. It was a small experience of call, of serving God.

In today's readings, we have three great experiences of a human encountering God, of being called into the divine Presence to serve God's purpose.

Isaiah the prophet has a vision of God on the heavenly throne, surrounded by angelic creatures, seraphs. Isaiah's reaction is to become overwhelmed by the presence of God, and he immediately feels his unworthiness. "Woe is me!" Isaiah says, "I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

In his first letter to the church in Corinth, Paul recites all the appearances of the risen Christ, finally arriving at himself: "Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God."  
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In today's reading from Luke, Jesus told Peter to let down the nets, even though the fishermen had been unsuccessful in their night's fishing. So many fish swam into them that the nets threatened to break, and it took not only the men in Peter's boat, but also those in another boat to haul in the catch. At that, the boats were so full they began to sink. Then Peter recognized the divine in Jesus, and: "...he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!'"

These are what I call "Biblical" stories of call. Each one is momentous enough to be recounted in holy writ, and each encounter concludes with God placing upon the individual a mission. For Isaiah, it was famously with these words: "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'" With that, Isaiah is sent on a prophet's mission.

Paul is sent on a mission to the Gentiles, as he describes in the Acts of the Apostles: "[Jesus said] I will rescue you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you, to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God."

Peter, and James and John, the sons of Zebedee, are given a mission of evangelism: "Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.' When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him."

This is the stuff of Biblical story. Thus it may be difficult to imagine something similar happening in post-Biblical times. Of course, there are the saints, who experienced a momentous call from God, and were charged with a mission. But those are "Saints" with a capital-S, many of whom lived in ages past. Oh, wait:

"I sing a song of the saints of God, patient and brave and true,  
Who toiled and fought and lived and died  
for the Lord they loved and knew...  
"They lived not only in ages past;  
there are hundreds of thousands still;  
the world is bright with the joyous saints  
who love to do Jesus' will.  
You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea,  
in church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea;  
for the saints of God are just folk like me,  
and I mean to be one too."



As children we learn that saints can be and are ordinary people. This is so, and the effort is not all on the human side – "and I mean to be one too." God takes the initiative. God in fact does the reaching out and the calling. As Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel remarks in "Man is Not Alone":

"God is not always silent, and man is not always blind. In every man's life there are moments when there is a lifting of the veil at the horizon of the known, opening a sight of the eternal. Each of us has at least once in his life experienced the momentous reality of God. Each of us has once caught a glimpse of the beauty, peace and power that flow through the souls of those who are devoted to Him."

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# March 2022



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<p><b>1</b> Office Open 9am-3pm</p> <p>6pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper</p> <p>SHROVE TUESDAY</p>	<p><b>2</b> 10-11am</p> <p>7pm Ash Wednesday Service</p>	<p><b>3</b> 4:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>6-7pm</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p>
<p><b>6</b> FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT 10:00am Rev. Margaret Pollock Holy Eucharist Coffee/Social Hour</p>	<p><b>7</b> Office Open 9am-3pm</p>	<p><b>8</b> Office Open 9am-3pm</p>	<p><b>9</b> 10-11am</p> <p>5:30pm THE WAY OF LOVE—St. Stephen's</p>	<p><b>10</b> 4:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>6-7pm</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b> Move your clock ahead before bed!</p>
<p><b>13</b> SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT 10:00am Rev. Dave Davis Holy Eucharist Coffee/Social Hour</p> <p>ECW </p>	<p><b>14</b> Office Open 9am-3pm</p>	<p><b>15</b> Office Open 9am-3pm</p>	<p><b>16</b> 10-11am</p> <p>5:30pm THE WAY OF LOVE—St. Stephen's</p>	<p><b>17</b> St. Patrick's Day 4:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>6-7pm</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>
<p><b>20</b> THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT 10:00am Morning Prayer Coffee/Social Hour VESTRY</p>	<p><b>21</b> Office Open 9am-3pm</p>	<p><b>22</b> Office Open 9am-3pm</p>	<p><b>23</b> 10-11am</p> <p>5:30pm THE WAY OF LOVE—St. Francis</p>	<p><b>24</b> 4:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>6-7pm</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p>
<p><b>27</b> FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT 10:00am Rev. Gene Carpenter Holy Eucharist Coffee/Social Hour</p>	<p><b>28</b> Office Open 9am-3pm</p>	<p><b>29</b> Office Open 9am-3pm</p>	<p><b>30</b> 10-11am</p> <p>5:30pm THE WAY OF LOVE—St. Francis</p>	<p><b>31</b> 4:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>6-7pm</p>		



Lay Server Schedule March 2022	March 2 <i>ASH WEDNESDAY</i> Rev. Margaret Pollock Holy Eucharist	March 6 <i>FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT</i> Rev. Margaret Pollock Holy Eucharist	March 13 <i>SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT</i> Rev. Dave Davis Holy Eucharist	March 20 <i>THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT</i> Morning Prayer	March 27 <i>FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT</i> Rev. Gene Carpenter Holy Eucharist
	7:00 pm	10:00 am	10:00 am	10:00 am	10:00 am
WORSHIP LEADER	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
SERMON READER	N/A	N/A	N/A	TBD	N/A
LECTORS	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
USHERS	John Koegel Dave Meador	John Koegel Dave Meador	John Koegel Dave Meador	John Koegel Dave Meador	John Koegel Dave Meador
ALTAR GUILD	Barrett Rae Barbara Pedersen	Barrett Rae Barbara Pedersen	Barrett Rae Barbara Pedersen	Barrett Rae Barbara Pedersen	Barrett Rae Barbara Pedersen
FLOWER GUILD	David Powell	David Powell	David Powell	David Powell	David Powell
TELLERS	Patti Donnelly Brandon Robbins	Patti Donnelly Brandon Robbins	Patti Donnelly Brandon Robbins	Patti Donnelly Brandon Robbins	Patti Donnelly Brandon Robbins
SOCIAL HOUR	Liz and Dave Meador	Liz and Dave Meador	Liz and Dave Meador	Roger Brogneau	Roger Brogneau



- 6...Terrye Aycock
- 8...Jackie Gurley
- 10...Larry Miller
- 21..George Moye
- 22..Brenda Chambers
- 29..Judy Moye



# MARCH

## Vestry


**2022**  
Liz Meador  
(Junior Warden)  
George Moye  
(Senior Warden)

**2023**  
Debbie Stedner  
Dave Meador  
Brandon Robbins

**2024**  
Jill Brogneau  
Patti Donnelly


*Al Elmore, Treasurer  
Shelley Mills, Clerk*

*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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But these sound like revelations of the “Biblical” sort, the kind that puts acknowledged, greater saints on Church calendars. Does it ever really happen in these days to ordinary people? I can attest that, yes, it does. Without going into detail: as I was discerning my call to priesthood, I received a visitation from the risen Lord one Christmas. He appeared to me transfigured, a being of light, a man, not quite as tall as I am, standing on the light blue linoleum of my kitchen floor.

At that moment, which lasted an eternity, our beings penetrated, one into the other. I knew this Jesus better than I knew anyone else. I was known by Him more fully than anyone knew me ever before. And I was given to understand that my calling was true. At the time I was alone in the kitchen, preparing to serve the Christmas feast for the Christ child, about as close as I could come as a layperson to celebrating Holy Communion – a foreshadowing of my priestly life to come.

Unlike the calls of Isaiah and Paul and Peter, which caused them to become overwhelmed by an awareness of their sinfulness, my call was gentle and encouraging.

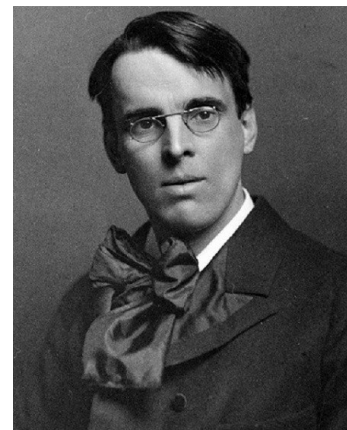
This is the first time I have told this story, except to a very few people. It caused me great trouble in the Church, as I proceeded toward ordination. A process that normally takes about five years took me twelve. Church elders did not like to hear that such a thing was possible, and that it happened to me, and that they might have to deal with the consequences. I was a hot potato. As it happened, I was refused ordination three times in two dioceses, until finally I was accepted in a third. Thank God!

I tell you this story, and the one about Tom, not to set me apart, but rather to give you company on your walk with God. Because I have no doubt that many of you here this morning will have become conscious of the Holy Spirit entering your lives, some in radical ways, some in quieter ones. It strengthens the Church to be aware of the presence and the call of God among her people. Sometimes it is important to share, to be able to express one’s call, great or small.

To conclude, I offer a poem by William Butler Yeats, about the Spirit of God coming in perfect ordinariness:

My fiftieth year had come and gone,  
I sat, a solitary man,  
In a crowded London shop,  
An open book and empty cup  
On the marble table-top.

While on the shop and street I gazed  
My body of a sudden blazed;  
And twenty minutes more or less  
It seemed, so great my happiness,  
That I was blessed and could bless.



When God next enters your life, as we partake of Holy Communion, know that this is true: you are blessed and can bless.

**AMEN.**

**T H A N K  
Y O U**

**Our ECW had our altar cushions recovered!**



- At its February meeting, members agreed upon the second Sunday as the consistent meeting date.
- Members agreed to sponsor a Shrove Tuesday supper on Tuesday, March 1, at 6 pm. Stan Stedner will buy supplies and cook the pancakes while others cook the meats, bacon and sausage.
- Elaine Elmore volunteered to replace Liz as representative at the ECW Diocesan meeting March 16 when Liz will be away.
- Members helped with the details for the 2021 Parochial Report before adjourning.

*Liz Meador, ECW President*



**Life  
Transformed:  
The Way  
of Love  
in Lent**

**Every Wednesday, March 9-April 13,  
5:30pm-Worship, 6:00pm-Simple Supper,  
6:30pm-Program**

**March 9 and 16-St. Stephen's Episcopal  
200 N. James St.**

**March 23 and 30-St. Francis Episcopal  
503 Forest Hill Dr.**

**April 6 and 13-St. Andrew's Episcopal  
901 Harris St.**

**THE WAY OF LOVE**

*Practices for Jesus-Centered Life*

**TURN** Pause, listen, and choose to follow Jesus

**LEARN** Reflect on Scripture each day, especially Jesus' life and teachings

**PRAY** Dwell intentionally with God each day

**WORSHIP** Gather in community weekly to thank, praise, and draw near God

**BLESS** Share faith and unselfishly give and serve

**GO** Cross boundaries, listen deeply, and live like Jesus

**REST** Receive the gift of God's grace, peace, and restoration



FOCUS ON A SAINT



Naturally in March we must consider St. Patrick, patron saint of Ireland and the Irish, whose feast day is March 17. In about 450, Patrick evangelized the country, devoting his life to saving souls. He is known as the “Apostle of Ireland.”

Kidnapped from his father’s farm in Roman Britain by Irish pirates when he was sixteen, Patrick was the son of an Anglo-Roman official (Senator and tax collector) and grandson of a deacon. As a slave to an Irish master, he tended pigs, devoting himself to prayer and meditation while he was working. After six years, he heard a voice telling him that he would soon return home. He managed to escape to England and his family, but he decided to go to France where he undertook religious studies at the abbeys of Tours and Lérins.

He returned to Ireland where his goal was to convert the Irish chieftains from their worship of Druids and their divinities to Christianity. When

Patrick died at more than seventy years old, Ireland boasted of numerous churches and monasteries. Said to have caused the snakes to flee Ireland, Patrick is often pictured with snakes.

Happy St. Patrick’s Day!

(submitted by Liz Meador)



*Easter Lilies*

*If you would like to purchase a lily to adorn the church at Easter services, please complete this form and turn it in with payment to the church office. The cost of each lily is \$12.00; please make checks payable to “St. Francis.”*

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of Deceased: \_\_\_\_\_

— OR —

In Thanksgiving for: \_\_\_\_\_

Total # ordered: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

*Deadline to order is Palm Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>!*

New Address!



Lois Spolio  
136 Livingston Drive  
Goldsboro NC 27530



Nina Silverthorne has a new email address. Please make a note of this change.

[nina0609@currently.com](mailto:nina0609@currently.com)

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P. O. Box 11406  
Goldsboro, NC 27532



A look inside...

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~ The Franciscans — March 2022 ~

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

William Hayes,  
Organist/Choirmaster  
Beverly Anderson,  
Parish Administrator  
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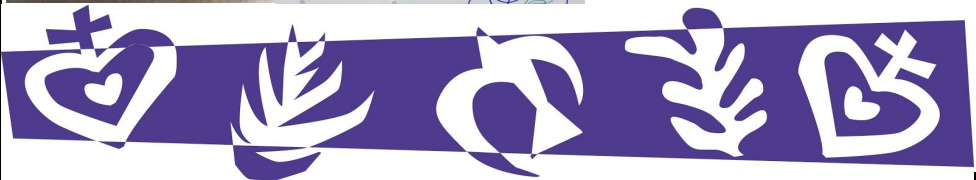
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**6:00 p.m.**  
**March 1st**  
**Parish Hall**

*(donations welcomed)*



**7:00 p.m.**  
**March 2nd**  
**Holy Eucharist**  
**with Imposition**  
**of Ashes**

**Rev. Margaret Pollock**

