

I THANK MY GOD UPON EVERY
REMEMBRANCE OF YOU...

PHILIPPIANS 1:3

The Franciscans

October 2021

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

Dear St. Francis Family:

I wanted to take a moment to give my gratitude to you all. I feel a bit like St. Paul in doing so (Philippians 1:3-12; Romans 1:8-12; Colossians 1:3-8 to name a few), as I truly do give thanks to God every day for your ministry, your commitment, and your love of God and neighbor. I believe and hope you all know that through this pandemic it has been your dedication to our church family and parish that has allowed St. Francis not only to survive, but (I would argue) to thrive, especially as we have become more flexible and willing to try new things, like zoom and our three-church initiative. Many churches believe they desire change, but when change comes, they find they are too hesitant to welcome it with open minds, hearts, or arms for whatever reason. You, St. Francis, are NOT one of those churches. You embrace the opportunity to grow, learn, and change. You welcome the challenge of continuing to follow the movement of the Spirit, which guides us to new, challenging, and unpredictable spaces. And it is these qualities that will continue to serve you all as you move into the future.

My last Sunday at St. Francis will be October 31st. And, while I will greatly miss you all, I know we will remain in one another's life through prayer and the connections of our small Episcopal Church family (plus I am only a 35 min drive away). Even more so, though, I know you all will continue to be a blessing to one another, to the Episcopal Churches of Goldsboro, and to this community, because it is obvious that you care for and love one another, the church, your community, and God. And this love is such a blessing to all those around you! I know whoever is your next priest-in-charge will be lucky, and I know that until that time you all will continue to minister to one another and beyond.

I give thanks that you welcomed my family and me into yours during these past two years. We have been so thankful for all you have done to support us as we transitioned from a family of three to a family of five, especially during a pandemic. And I have been thankful that you have supported me as I transitioned from an associate to a priest-in-charge. Serving alongside you all at St. Francis has been a gift, a blessing, and a time I will continue to hold close to my heart. Remember "Life is short. We don't have much time to gladden the hearts of those who walk this way with us. So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind" (Henri-Frédéric Amiel). And may God's blessing remain with you all just as you are a blessing to all.

+Kate

October 2021



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 	2 10am Blessing of the Animals 
3 PENTECOST 19 FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS 10:00am Holy Eucharist Social Hour 	4 Office Open 9am-3pm	5 Office Open 9am-3pm	6 10:00am Lectio Divina	7	8	9
10 PENTECOST 20 10:00am Holy Eucharist Social Hour Vestry meeting 	11 OFFICE CLOSED	12 OFFICE CLOSED	13 10:00am Lectio Divina	14	15  	16
	←————— Beverly out of town —————→					
17 PENTECOST 21 10:00am Morning Prayer Social Hour	18 Office Open 9am-3pm	19 Office Open 9am-3pm	20 10:00am Lectio Divina	21	22	23
24 PENTECOST 22 10:00am Holy Eucharist Social Hour "BILL HAYES DAY"	25 Office Open 9am-3pm 5:30-6:30pm 	26 Office Open 9am-3pm	27 10:00am Lectio Divina 10-11am 	28 6-7pm 	29	30 9:00am 
31 PENTECOST 23 10:00am Holy Eucharist Social Hour Rev. Kate's last day		Our Vestry has signed an agreement with Weight Watchers to use our Parish Hall beginning the week of October 24 every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at the times noted above. Weight Watchers will pay a nominal fee each time our facility is utilized. We view this as a community outreach and opportunity for others to become familiar with our location.				

Lay Server Schedule October 2021	Oct 3 <i>Rev. Kate Byrd</i> <i>Holy Eucharist</i>	Oct 10 <i>Rev. Kate Byrd</i> <i>Holy Eucharist</i>	Oct 17 <i>Morning Prayer</i>	Oct 24 <i>Rev. Kate Byrd</i> <i>Holy Eucharist</i>	Oct 31 <i>Rev. Kate Byrd</i> <i>Holy Eucharist</i>
	10:00 am	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	TBD	N/A	N/A
LECTORS	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
USHER	John Koegel	John Koegel	John Koegel	John Koegel	John Koegel
ALTAR GUILD	Barrett Rae Patti Donnelly	Barrett Rae Patti Donnelly	Barrett Rae Patti Donnelly	Barrett Rae Patti Donnelly	Barrett Rae Patti Donnelly
FLOWER GUILD	David Powell	David Powell	David Powell	David Powell	David Powell
TELLERS	Brandon Robbins Liz Meador	Brandon Robbins Liz Meador	Brandon Robbins Liz Meador	Brandon Robbins Liz Meador	Brandon Robbins Liz Meador
SOCIAL HOUR	Patti Donnelly Dave Meador	Liz and Dave Meador	Liz and Dave Meador	Liz and Dave Meador	Liz and Dave Meador

October



- 10.....Susan Dodson
- 10.....Ashley Valenzona
- 14.....Sandy Siler
- 20.....Ellen Cabral
- 21.....Lamar Aycock
- 30.....Peggy Lewis

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

Vestry

2021
Barbara Pedersen
(Bookkeeper)

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

2023
Debbie Stedner
Dave Meador
Brandon Robbins

Al Elmore, Treasurer
Shelley Mills, Clerk

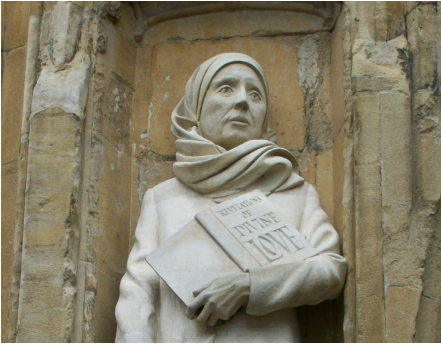
Priest-in-Charge
The Rev. Kate Byrd



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





Having run out of parishioners willing to be the FOCUS feature, I am following a suggestion from Patti Donnelly to write about saints. While we should begin with our own Saint Francis, I will focus instead on Dame Julian of Norwich. A chapel at Trinity Center honors her name and life, as some of us saw on a recent visit to the camp and conference center. Some of her words are inscribed on a sign outside the chapel: “And all will be well, all manner of things shall be well,” words which have become a mantra for many people. So who was Julian of Norwich?

In the Middle Ages, Julian was a girl’s name, but she is also known as Juliana, Dame Julian, or Mother Julian. Authorities are unsure of her birth year but estimate that she was born around 1343 and that she died after 1416.

Julian lived in the English city Norwich, a vibrant religious and commercial center. Details of her early life and education remain sparse, but in 1373 at age 30 or so, when she thought she was dying, she had a series of visions of the Passion of Christ. She wrote about these visions in *Revelations of Divine Love*, the earliest surviving book in English (Middle English) known to be written by a woman. Her book had a short form and a long form written later.

She became an anchoress or anchorite, a word from the Greek that means “to withdraw.” She chose to live permanently shut up in a room called an anchorhold, 12 feet by 12 feet, sparsely furnished with three small windows called squints, attached to a church. Through one window she received meals; through another, she received the Eucharist as this window opened into the church; and through the third window she had a glimpse of the world outside.

Called the greatest English mystic of the Middle Ages, Julian wrote about her visions, or “shewings,” in *The Long Text*, consisting of 86 chapters and 63,500 words. In her theological works, she likened divine love to motherly love: God is metaphorically both our mother and our father, a theme found in other works by Biblical prophets.

She wrote: "For I saw no wrath except on man's side, and He forgives that in us, for wrath is nothing else but a perversity and an opposition to peace and to love." She wrote that God sees us as perfect and waits for the day when human souls mature so that evil and sin will no longer hinder us. "God is nearer to us than our own soul," she wrote. This theme is repeated throughout her work: "Jesus answered with these words, saying: 'All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.' ... This was said so tenderly, without blame of any kind toward me or anybody else."

The Episcopal Church commemorates Dame Julian on May 8.

At a General Audience in December 2010, Pope Benedict XVI discussed the life and teaching of Julian. "Julian of Norwich understood the central message for spiritual life: God is love and it is only if one opens oneself to this love, totally and with total trust, and lets it become one's sole guide in life, that all things are transfigured, true peace and true joy found and one is able to radiate it," he said. He concluded: "'And all will be well,' 'all manner of things shall be well': this is the final message that Julian of Norwich transmits to us and that I am also proposing to you today."

Liz Meador

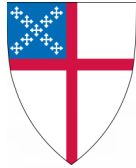
FOCUS ON A SAINT

The Vestry and ECW are planning an Appreciation Day for Bill Hayes to celebrate his nearly 25 years at St. Francis. We’d like to give him a love offering to show him how much we honor his skills, dedication, and care for St. Francis—its music program and its people. Please place a donation in an envelope for the offering plate or for Beverly’s desk, marking your check for BILL HAYES DAY no later than Sunday, October 17. We will have a reception in the Parish Hall following the service on SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2021. Thanks for your support of this event!



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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
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On Tuesday, September 7, some St. Francis ECW members drove to Trinity Center to deliver office supplies and tour the grounds, the first time for Al and Elaine Elmore and Patti Donnelly. Pictured l to r: Patti, Buddy Payne, Assistant Camp Director; Chris Grenier, Group Coordinator; Nancy Reynolds, Registrar; Mary Beth Bradberry, Interim Director; and Elaine. Thanks to Al for driving and to Liz for photo and tour.