



# The Franciscans

December 2023

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Advent is upon us whether we are ready or not. Some view it as a countdown of how much time they have to “prepare” for Christmas, but Advent is a holy and vital time. It is a crucial season in the life of our faith, not to mention that it informs and prepares us for the celebration of Christmas. Advent in itself is a time of waiting and preparation, not only in the more understood reality of waiting for and preparing for the Christmas season but also, more importantly, in preparing for the second coming of Jesus Christ.

We often dread waiting; we live in a world that moves fast and usually requires us to move at its speed. Waiting goes against so much of what the world pushes us to be or do when we decide purposely to slow down and rest in our waiting. I don’t mean that we do nothing while we wait; I mean quite the opposite, actually. We must rest in our waiting because we know the outcome: We know Christ will come again; we know that Christ has already won the great victory.

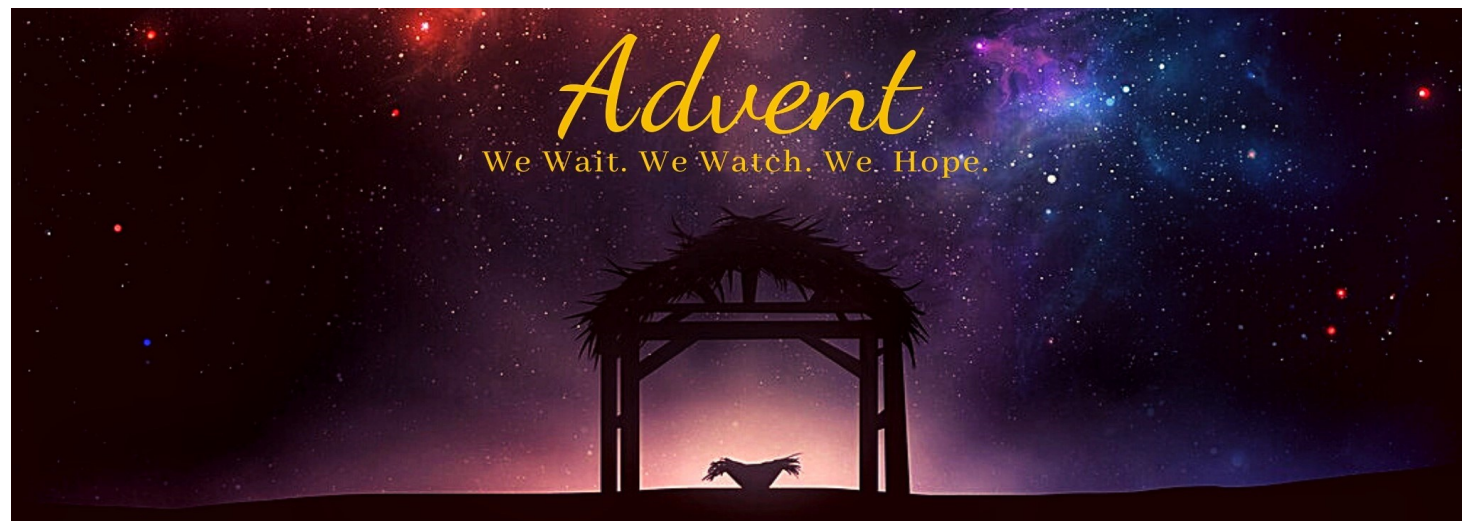
Therefore, in this time of waiting, we are called to reflect and prepare. Advent is a time when we can reflect on relationships. Our relationship with God, our relationship with our loved ones, and our relationship with our enemies all can be reflected upon in Advent. If we find that those relationships aren’t fulfilling in a way that deepens our faith and relationship with those around us, we may be called to change something.

Famed theologian and writer G.K Chesterton comments on waiting by saying, “Around every corner is another gift waiting to surprise us, and it will surprise us if we can achieve control over our natural tendencies to make comparisons, to take things for granted and to feel entitled.” Chesterton is calling us to take stock of where we are. We should be grateful for the blessings that have been given to us and take our worries and concerns to God.

Please join me in being intentional in letting Advent be a time of holy preparation and waiting. Christmas will come; there is no doubt about it. But make an effort to be intentional in engaging in the mysteries and preparations Advent calls us to. If you want to take on an Advent practice to prepare yourself, feel free to reach out to me, and we can find something that will benefit you in your walk with Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Whit Stroud





**St. Francis Caring Cart!**  
 Beginning Sunday, December 3,  
 Patti and Nina are asking  
 everyone to bring nonperishable  
 items for the St. Francis Caring  
 Cart! The Cart will be under the  
 breezeway near the Sanctuary  
 doors every Sunday. Patti and  
 Nina will deliver these  
 nonperishable items to  
 4 Day Movement by

December 31st. In January we will support United  
 Church Ministries with our Caring Cart.



**Christmas Poinsettias**

Deadline to order is Tuesday, December 12. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia for the church adornment, please complete this form and turn it in with payment to the church office. The cost of each plant is \$20; please make check payable to St. Francis and note on the memo line for poinsettias.



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

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

And/or

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

Total # plants ordered: \_\_\_\_\_ Total cost: \_\_\_\_\_

Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_

# December 2023



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<p><b>Every Sunday in December, the St. Francis Caring Cart will be in the breezeway for you to place your nonperishable items for the 4 Day Movement. Thank you in advance for your donations.</b></p>				<p>1 10:30am Coffee with saints!</p> 	<p>2 9am Garden Clean-up</p>
<p><b>8:30am Annual Parish Meeting</b> 3rd Meeting 1st Sunday of Advent 9am Holy Eucharist Coffee/Social Hour</p>	<p>4 9am-3pm Office open</p>	<p>5 9am-3pm Office open 12noon Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>6 10-11am  6pm Advent Series @Holy Innocents</p>	<p>7 4pm Choir 6-7pm </p>	<p>8 10:30am Coffee with saints!</p> 	<p>9</p>
<p>10 2nd Sunday of Advent 9am Holy Eucharist Coffee/Social Hour</p>	<p>11 9am-3pm Office open</p>	<p>12 9am-3pm Office open 12noon Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>13 10-11am  6pm Advent Series @St. Andrew's</p>	<p>14 4pm Choir 6-7pm </p>	<p>15 10:30am Coffee with saints!</p> 	<p>16</p>
<p>17 3rd Sunday of Advent 9am Morning Prayer Coffee/Social Hour ECW</p> 	<p>18 9am-3pm Office open (Beverly's last day in office until January 8)</p>	<p>19 12noon Holy Eucharist 7pm</p> 	<p>20 10-11am  6pm Advent Series @St. Francis</p>	<p>21 4pm Choir 6-7pm </p>	<p>22 NO Coffee with saints!</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 4th Sunday of Advent 9am Holy Eucharist Coffee/Social Hour 6pm Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist with Candlelight</p> 	<p>25 9am Holy Eucharist OFFICE CLOSED</p> 	<p>26 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>27 10-11am </p>	<p>28 4pm Choir 6-7pm </p>	<p>29 NO Coffee with saints!</p>	<p>30 9am St. Francis at the Soup Kitchen</p> 
<p>31 1st Sunday After Christmas 9am Service of Lessons and Carols</p> 	<p><b>December 31st 5th Sunday Trivia re-scheduled for Sunday, January 7 at 5pm.</b></p>					



Lay Server Schedule December 2023	December 3 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT <i>Holy Eucharist</i> <i>Father Whit Stroud</i>	December 10 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT <i>Holy Eucharist</i> <i>Father Whit Stroud</i>	December 17 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT <i>Morning Prayer</i>	December 24 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT <i>Holy Eucharist</i> <i>Father Whit Stroud</i>	December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE <i>Holy Eucharist</i> <i>Father Whit Stroud</i>	December 31 A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS
	9:00 am	9:00 am	9:00 am	9:00 am	6:00 pm	9:00 am
CRUCIFER	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	Barrett Rae/Diana Hammond Jodi Baker/Jimmy Valenzona	Barrett Rae/Diana Hammond Jodi Baker/Jimmy Valenzona
LECTORS	Diana Hammond Paula Wills	Nina Silverthorne Jodi Baker	Liz Meador Barbara Pedersen	Paul Wills Liz Meador	Dave Meador Barrett Rae	Nina Silverthorne Brandon Robbins
USHERS	Eldica Cyrus Lamar Aycock Scott Summers	Eldica Cyrus Lamar Aycock Scott Summers	Eldica Cyrus Lamar Aycock Scott Summers	Eldica Cyrus Lamar Aycock Scott Summers	Eldica Cyrus Lamar Aycock Scott Summers	Eldica Cyrus Lamar Aycock Scott Summers
FLOWERS	David Powell	David Powell	David Powell	David Powell	David Powell	David Powell
ALTAR	Patti Donnelly Paula Wills	Patti Donnelly Paula Wills	Patti Donnelly Paula Wills	Patti Donnelly Paula Wills	Patti Donnelly Paula Wills	Patti Donnelly Paula Wills
EUCCHARISTIC VISITOR	Jill Brogneaux	Eldica Cyrus	Liz Meador	Jane Anthony	Whit Stroud	Whit Stroud
TELLERS	Dave Meador Brandon Robbins	Dave Meador Brandon Robbins	Dave Meador Brandon Robbins	Dave Meador Brandon Robbins	Dave Meador Brandon Robbins	Dave Meador Brandon Robbins
SOCIAL	Liz and Dave Meador	Liz and Dave Meador	Liz and Dave Meador	Liz and Dave Meador	Liz and Dave Meador	Liz and Dave Meador

December



5...Tony Baker

31...Al Elmore

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

Hosts are needed for Social/Coffee Hour!  
Please sign up on the tower . Thank YOU!

Vestry

2023

Dave Meador  
(Jr. Warden)  
Brandon Robbins  
Nina Silverthorne

2024

Jill Brogneaux  
(Sr. Warden)  
Patti Donnelly

2025

Barbara Pederson  
Lamar Aycock

Al Elmore, Treasurer  
Paula Wills, Clerk

Priest-in-Charge

The Rev. Whit Stroud



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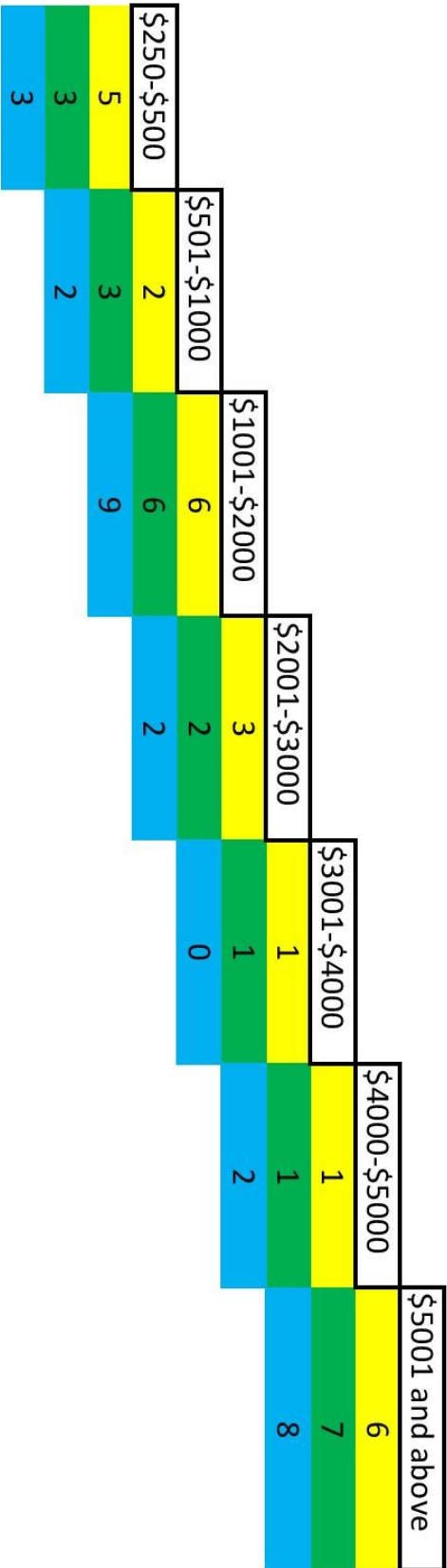
**The Franciscans** is published 11 times a year. The **deadline** for items to be considered for inclusion is the **15<sup>th</sup> of each month.**



# St. Francis Pledging Units



Can you find your step?  
 We have approximately 40 active participants at St. Francis representing 36 households.  
 If you are not on the chart- maybe this can be the year to begin?  
 If you are on the chart - maybe you can pray about moving up 1 step?







St. Francis scores Trivia Win! Fun was at an all-time high as St. Francis pulled off the win.

2023 Trivia stats now are:

Holy Innocents-2; St. Francis-1.

Our December 31st 5th Sunday Trivia has been rescheduled for January 7, 5pm, and is hosted by St. Francis.



Please plan on staying after the morning service on Sunday, December 24 to help dress the church for Christmas. The tree will already be up and waiting for decorations. Poinsettias will also need to be brought over from the Parish Hall for placement. Many hands make light work!

Thank you in advance for your help and support. Flower Guild

**WE NEED YOUR HELP**



# Join us for Advent Noonday Eucharist on Tuesdays here at St. Francis.

**December 5**  
**December 12**  
**December 19**



## ADVENT FORMATION SERIES, 2023

The Episcopal Churches of Goldsboro and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church invite you to our annual Advent Formation Series. This year we will explore and learn about prayer. Sessions are structured as follows:  
6:00 p.m. Dinner  
6:30 p.m. Formation  
7:00 p.m. Worship



### Weekly Schedule

- Wednesday, November 29 — Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
(532 County Day Rd, Goldsboro) Prayers of Thanksgiving
- Wednesday, December 6 — Holy Innocents Episcopal Church  
(6861 NC-55, Seven Springs) Prayers of Blessing/Adoration
- Wednesday, December 13 — St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
(901 Harris St, Goldsboro) Prayers of Intercession
- Wednesday, December 20 — St. Francis Episcopal Church  
(503 Forest Hill Dr, Goldsboro) Prayers of Petition

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St. Francis Episcopal Church  
503 Forest Hill Drive  
P. O. Box 11406  
Goldsboro, NC 27532



# Merry Christmas

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# And Happy New Year

## ~ The Franciscans — December 2023 ~

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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

Beverly Anderson,

Parish Administrator

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If you haven't yet joined us for Coffee with saints, check your calendar and see if you can squeeze an hour out of your Friday mornings, 10:30-11:30, to be with us.

Since September 8<sup>th</sup> we have looked at St. Francis of Assisi, St. Clare of Assisi, St. Clare of Montefalco, St. Julian the Hospitaller, Dame Julian of Norwich, Alfred the Great, Martin Porres, Martin of Tours, Margaret of Scotland. Our study of a variety of saints proved helpful during a recent Jeopardy episode!

There will be a break over Christmas, the last one will be December 15<sup>th</sup> and we will begin again on January 5<sup>th</sup>.

If you have a favorite Saint(saint) that you would like to share please let me know and we will be excited to have you come and tell us about them, or alternatively drop a word in my ear and I will research your Saint.

Jill Brogneaux 919-920 9973, [jillbrogneaux@hotmail.com](mailto:jillbrogneaux@hotmail.com)

