



The Franciscans

December 2020

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

During these uncertain times I often find myself wavering between feeling as if I am standing steady on the ground beneath me, or as though I am free falling down the proverbial rabbit hole. And, while I never know how it will be day to day, hour by hour, I am finding more and more that there are small touch stones I can find throughout the day that give me something to grasp hold of and find my footing on. These touchstones are all the little things in my life that I can recognize I am grateful for because they remind me that there are still so many blessings all around us: Blessings like the comfort my dog brings as she comes over to rest her heavy head on my lap; the warming rays of the afternoon sun as it dances frivolously on my living room floor; the joy of our daughter Libbie as she jumps, skips, and laughs during a walk around our block; the heart warming smiles and giggles of our twins as they greet me in the early morning hours; and the refreshing smell of the crisp fall air as it wafts through an open window.

As I try a little more each day to find grounding, solace, and comfort in the midst of chaos, pain, and uncertainty I can turn my attention to all of these little things that remind me of what a blessing it is to be able to participate in the beauty and gift of God's creation. It is not to say we cannot mourn. Oh no, my beloved, there is so much to mourn, and the mourning is necessary, as it allows us to go through the process of letting go of what we cannot control and sometimes what we need to let go of. This is only to say that among the agony of pain, the groans of tournament, and the tears of loss there are beautiful moments that can turn into seasons of relief, hope, and joy. And these moments and seasons, I believe, are truly possible when we are able to recognize and give thanks for the many blessings that are all around us.

I have recently been meditating on the words of Paul and his letters to his beloved community like those to the Corinthians, as he wrote: "I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus" (1 Corinthians 1:4). Today, I am most thankful for you, my St. Francis community. I am thankful for your continued ministry in our community, and your support of my own ministry. You are such a blessing to each other, to our church, and to me. As we look towards 2021, no matter how uncertain, I am thankful we will enter it together. In this same spirit, I ask you to join me in gratitude for the blessing of Diana Hammond (Sr. Warden), Stan Stedner (Jr. Warden), and Elaine Elmore, and for their dedication to our vestry during their terms. And, with thanksgiving we welcome Brandon Robbins, Dave Meador, and Debbie Stedner to our vestry; and for George Moye our Sr. Warden, and Liz Meador our Jr. Warden. Finally, as our pledge season has come to an end we have almost reached our goal of \$100,000 in pledges (with less than \$6,000 to go as of today). And so, I believe, we have much to rejoice in, to give thanks for, and (most importantly) to look forward to.

As we enter this holiday season, however strange it may be, I leave you with these words from Paul: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).

In thanksgiving for you,

Kate+



Holy Eucharist, Sunday, November 22, St. Francis.





December 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 OFFICE CLOSED FACEBOOK Noonday Prayer	2 10:30am-3:30pm Socially Distanced Pastoral Care PREPARE TO BECOME THE BELOVED COMMUNITY 7pm ZOOM	3 FACEBOOK Noonday Prayer	4 Office Open 9am-3pm	5
6 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 10:00am-MP (Zoom)	7 Office Open 9am-3pm	8 Office Open 9am-3pm FACEBOOK Noonday Prayer	9 10:30am-3:30pm Socially Distanced Pastoral Care 1:30PM FAITH and FELLOWSHIP ZOOM PREPARE TO BECOME THE BELOVED COMMUNITY 7pm ZOOM	10 FACEBOOK Noonday Prayer	11	12 9am Christmas Clean-Up at St. Francis 10am FAITH and FELLOWSHIP (socially-distanced at St. Francis)
13 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 10:00am-MP (Zoom) Holy Eucharist Outside 11:30am <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;"> St. Francis FUNDRAISER @ Texas Roadhouse </div>	14 Office Open 9am-3pm	15 Office Open 9am-3pm FACEBOOK Noonday Prayer NEWSLETTER 	16 10:30am-3:30pm Socially Distanced Pastoral Care PREPARE TO BECOME THE BELOVED COMMUNITY 7pm ZOOM	17 FACEBOOK Noonday Prayer	18	19 RAIN DATE: Christmas Clean-Up
20 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 10:00am-MP (Zoom)	21 Office Open 9am-3pm	22 Office Open 9am-3pm FACEBOOK Noonday Prayer	23 10:30am-3:30pm Socially Distanced Pastoral Care PREPARE TO BECOME THE BELOVED COMMUNITY 7pm ZOOM	24 FACEBOOK Noonday Prayer 	 11am Holy Eucharist Outside	26
27 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY 10:00am-MP (Zoom) 11:30am –Vestry	28 Office Open 9am-3pm	29 Office Open 9am-3pm FACEBOOK Noonday Prayer	30 Socially Distanced Pastoral Care 10:30am-3:30pm	31 FACEBOOK Noonday Prayer	<div style="background-color: #cccccc; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> MP = Morning Prayer </div>	



- 5 Tony Baker
- 7 Kimberly Stedner Clayton
- 21 Max Tapiz
- 25 Chris Cowan
- 31 Zeb Jones
- 31 Al Elmore

December

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

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign: *Behold*, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name *Immanuel*.

Isaiah 7, verse 14

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St. Francis Episcopal Church (503 Forest Hill Drive)

P. O. Box 11406, Goldsboro, NC 27532
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 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 **15th of each month**.

Vestry

2020
 Elaine Elmore
 Diana Hammond (Senior Warden)
 Stan Stedner (Junior Warden)

2021
 Barbara Pedersen (Bookkeeper)
 Kimberly Stedner-Clayton

2022
 Liz Meador
 George Moye
 Al Elmore, Treasurer
 Shelley Mills, Clerk
Priest-in-Charge
 The Rev. Kate Byrd



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Instead of a focus on a parishioner, a recent gift to St. Francis has made several of us focus on the Garden of St. Francis and the people it memorializes.

Tom Norwood, parishioner in the past, had the idea of a memorial garden after his wife Margaret died in 1970. Her friends had given money in her memory, and Tom wrote an account ten years later of his process in creating a place of meditation and repose that we enjoy today.



Tom had been involved in gardens in Washington, DC, and at St. Stephen's in Goldsboro; he envisioned a site in the shape of the Episcopal church shield, a design which required bulldozing trees and leveling the land.

He wanted eight concrete benches (which remain in place today), and he lined the walkways with 32 tons of finely ground lime rock (replaced by grass walkways in the present). His plan included a watering system and lighting with four spotlights, the fixtures for which are still in place though the lights are no longer used.

He planned for each of four quadrants to celebrate festival colors—red, white, purple (imagine blue), and green with plantings the Bible mentions, if possible. He hoped for a minimum of 25 plants in each quadrant, according to his essay.

Japanese and Korean boxwoods outline each border with native ferns and myrtle at the corners. Rhododendrons created the background with dogwood and magnolias behind them. On the cross at the head of the Garden were evergreen clematis and white wisteria.

In recent years, Sandy Siler, a master gardener, Zeb Jones, and others have tried to keep the Garden in shape, but over the years, trees have grown, and the boxwoods may have outlived their life span. Many have dried up foliage and bare spaces.

Today, the Garden needs much work, and we have a gift from an anonymous donor which may enable us to make the Garden close to Tom Norwood's vision.

It is no surprise that Ruthie Kemp, Tom's daughter, wanted her final resting place to be near the memorial to her mother and to her father's wish for a beautiful reminder of God's work in nature.

We welcome Brandon Robbins to the Vestry!

Born in Goldsboro, Brandon is a graduate of Goldsboro High School (2001), the University of Mount Olive (BA English, 2005), and East Carolina University (Master's of Library Science, 2011). As Media Coordinator at Southern Wayne High School, he manages the school library and provides supplementary instruction in information literacy.



Married to Nicolle in 2012, he also has his mother Darlene, his father Tony, and a brother Jacob as his immediate family members. His sister-in-law Pamela Johnson and his mother-in-law Rachel Johnson have participated with him in the Saturday Faith and Fellowship Group.

Brandon's hobbies and interests include video games, comic books, toys, reading, and creative writing.

He and Nicolle have been members at St. Francis for four years, and his goal as a vestry member is "to see our congregation grow with new members of all ages and walks of life."

We look forward to Brandon's contributions to the Vestry.

St. Francis Jr Warden Activity Report November 2020

503 Forest Hill Dr. 27534

November 22, 2020

New items:

Secured long term funding for the upkeep of the St Francis garden.

Had a professional gardener (Lisa Reaves) review what is needed in the garden and should receive her suggestions shortly. The vestry can review and take whatever action determined warranted.

Power wash of sidewalk being completed before funeral. Cost \$175.00. Thanks to Al Elmore for arranging. Need to get him reimbursed.

Things that need to be done:

Have the roof repaired in the church. Need to get estimate.

Purchase and put up 2 handicap signs and restripe parking area.

Walkway roof needs to be replaced. (currently getting estimates)

Install 3 more security cameras around the church, have already been purchased.

Disposition of the piano that Doug donated to the church has to be decided on. Suggest we get it appraised so we can sell it.

I would suggest we set up a social distancing clean-up day for the church grounds before Christmas. I suggest December 12th and rain date December 19th.

This will be my last Jr Warden Activity Report for 2020.

I am pleased to turn over the position to Liz Meador.

Stan Stedner, Phone 919.920.0048, Email stan.stedner46@gmail.com

St. Francis Holiday Cleanup Day *December 12th*



Starts at 9:00

Rain date December 19th.

We need your help!

Lunch will be served!

Getting the Church Ready for Christmas.

General sprucing up in / out the church.

Blowing off the roof.


Installing 3 new security cameras.

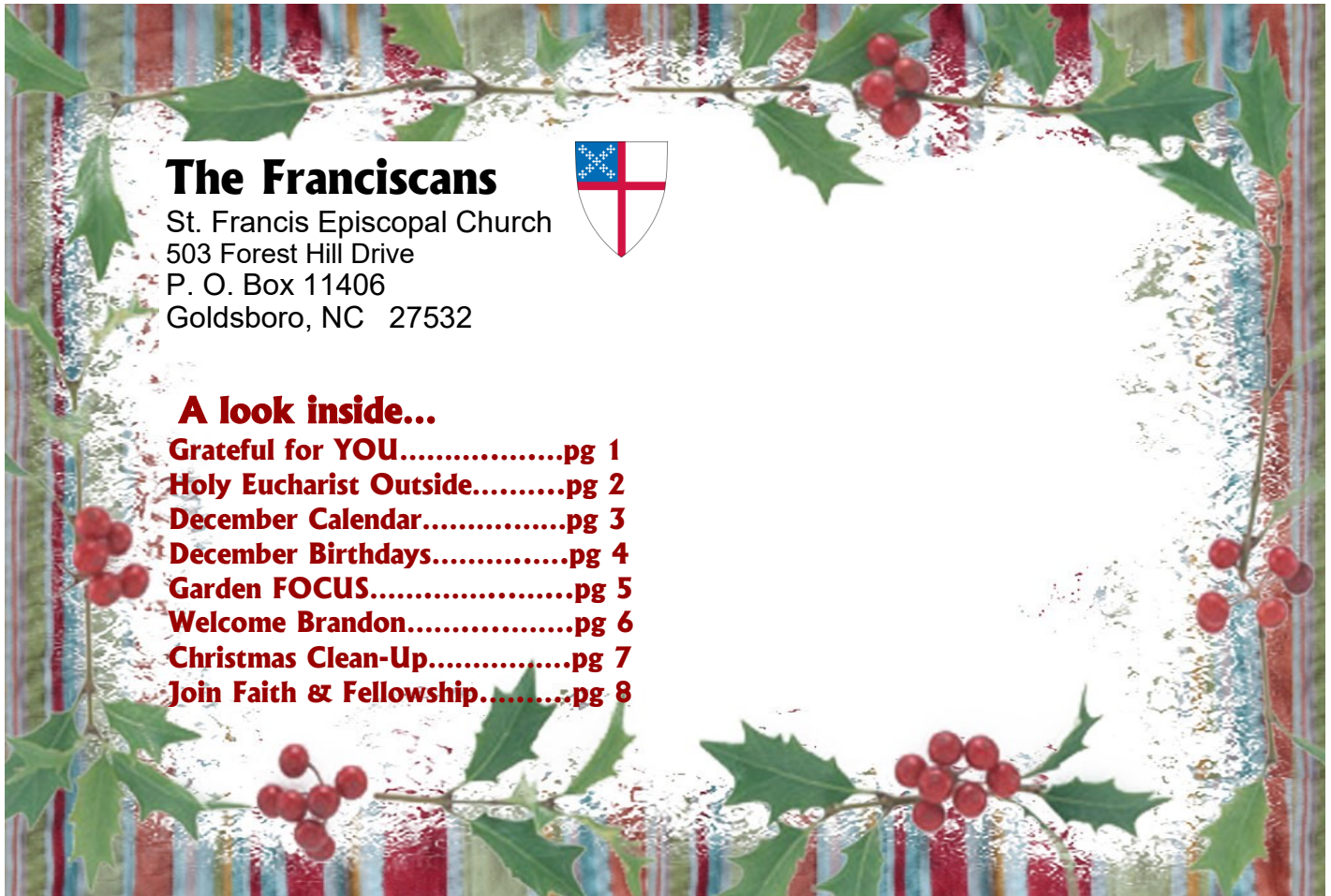
Installing 2 new handicapped signs.

Cleaning up in Garden area.

**PLEASE BRING ANY SUPPLIES / TOOLS THAT YOU THINK
WILL BE HELPFUL. PLEASE OBSERVE THE "3W'S".**

Any questions: Contact Stan Stedner @
919.920.0048 or Email
stan.stedner46@gmail.com





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~ The Franciscans — December 2020 ~



Why not join the 2nd Saturday of the month, 10am, Faith and Fellowship Group? As you can see, they are practicing social distancing and wearing their masks. Saturday, December 12 is their next gathering and they would love to have you join them. Contact Liz Meador at 919-223-4014 for more information.