

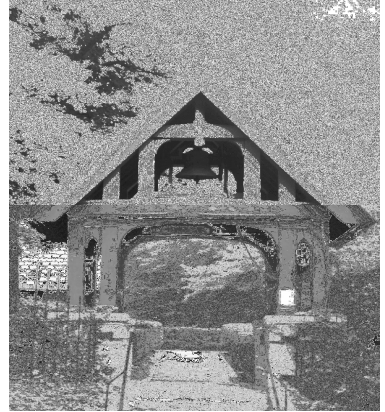
Through the Lych Gate

January 2016

St. Francis Episcopal Church
395 North Main Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
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Rector
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*Please join us for Holy Eucharist
on Sundays at
8:00 am and 10:30 am.*

The Vestry

_____, Senior Warden
Linda Bailey, Treasurer

2016

Bill Coxe
Denise Hempstead

2017

Roscoe Conn, Sr.
Gordon Pendarvis
Stephanie Williams

2018

Mike DeLorenzo
Judi Gustafson
Allison Ross

What's in a Name?

Have you ever wondered why our newsletter is called *The Lych Gate*? It's named after our lych gate, the covered structure that marks the entrance to our church yard from Main Street. The term "lych gate" is derived from an Old English word for "corpse," probably because it was the place where a corpse was set down prior to burial, the place where a funeral procession formed before entering the church. Although we don't practice the funeral tradition here at St. Francis, we do see the Lych Gate as the entrance to our church yard, and ultimately to our church. In a similar way, our newsletter is a symbolic entrance to the life of our parish.

Musings by Mother Chris: Looking Ahead to the New Year

It's hard to think about the New Year when we haven't celebrated Christmas yet, but that's what we're doing in this edition of the Lych Gate. Inside you'll find a list of important dates in 2016, but it's far from complete. In January, we'll celebrate important events at two of our 10:30 services. On January 10, which is the feast of the Baptism of our Lord, Nathaniel McCurry will be baptized. On January 24, we'll all be part of the Celebration and Blessing of the marriage of Linda Bailey and Mike DeLorenzo. Both are occasions of great joy that you won't want to miss; but note that there will also be 8:00 services on both days.

At 4:00 on January 17, St. Francis will join other church communities at First Baptist Church, Rutherfordton, to give thanks for the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. A reception after the service will be an occasion for us to meet and mingle with other Christians, all coming together in community centered in the love of and for our Lord Jesus Christ.

Being in community is an important part of the lives of Christians. In 2016, there will be plenty of opportunities for you to gather with friends here at St. Francis. I hope we'll be seeing you as these occasions arise. We miss you when you're not here!

Blessings in the New Year and always!

Chris+

Safety First!

Despite efforts by the State DOT to help us with blinking caution lights, a lowered speed limit, and pedestrian signs, traffic on Highway 221 continues to present problems for St. Francis folks, especially on Sunday mornings. One way to help with this problem is to have volunteers assist others cross safely. Could you help us? Please call or email the church office if you're willing to be part of this new Sunday morning ministry, which will be scheduled with other worship volunteers so that no one is expected to do it every week. We'd like to get started immediately, so please let us know as soon as possible.



Ralph & Jason McCurry
Invite you to celebrate The Baptism of our
Lord Jesus Christ and Nathaniel Holt

The First Sunday after the Epiphany
January 10, 2016 at 10:30 am

Luncheon to follow in the Parish Hall
RSVP to Ralph at 828-748-7380 by
December 30, 2015

Make Note of These Important Dates in 2016!

- 1/3 Epiphany Sunday, "Un-green" the Church
- 1/17 Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Celebration, 4:00 PM
- 2/9 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- 2/10 Ash Wednesday Services, 7:30 AM and 6:00 PM
- 2/18 Lenten Study Begins
- 3/20 Palm Sunday
- 3/22 Tenebrae Service, 6:30 PM
- 3/24 Maundy Thursday Service, 6:30 PM
- 3/25 Good Friday Liturgy, 12:00 Noon
- 3/26 Holy Saturday Liturgy, 10:00 AM
Easter Vigil, 7:30 PM
- 5/15 Pentecost
- 5/16-18 Meet the Candidates for Bishop, Locations and Times TBA
- 5/22 Youth/Graduation Sunday
- 5/29 Teacher Appreciation Sunday / Last day of Christian Formation
- 6/25 Election of our New Bishop
- 9/11 Back to Christian Formation Brunch between services
- 10/2 Parish Picnic
- 10/4 St. Francis Day Blessing of the Animals, 6:00 PM
- 11/11-13 Diocesan Convention
- 11/23 Community Thanksgiving Luncheon
- 12/4 Annual Parish Meeting
- 12/18 Greening of the Church
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Services
- 12/25 Christmas Day Service

Highlights of the Vestry Meeting, November 17, 2015

The Vestry of St. Francis Episcopal Church met on Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the Cloister House. The following items were discussed or acted upon.

- 1) The meeting began with prayer, devotional by The Reverend Chris Beebe, personal storytelling, silence, and prayer.
- 2) The minutes of the October 20, 2015 meeting were approved.
- 3) The October Finance Report presented by Linda Bailey, Treasurer, was approved.
- 4) The following SWEEPS Commission Reports were received: Education Commission (Christian Formation Committee) and Service Commission (Angel Tree and Welcome Table).
- 5) Motion was made, seconded, and carried to make plans for the rectory to be torn down when vacated by the priest and to advise the congregation and the Rutherfordton Historical Committee of this decision.
- 6) Motion was made, seconded, and carried to form a committee to explore options for the future use of the property where the rectory is located.
- 7) Bill Coxe has agreed to fill a one year term on the Vestry in 2016.
- 8) Motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the 2016 budget presented by the Finance Committee.
- 9) The meeting adjourned with the Prayer of St. Francis at 8:50 p.m.

Highlights of the Vestry Meeting, December 15, 2015

The Vestry of St. Francis Episcopal Church met on Tuesday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the Cloister House. The following items were discussed or acted upon:

- 1) The meeting began with prayer, devotional by Gordon Pendarvis, personal storytelling, silence, and prayer.
- 2) The minutes of the November 17, 2015 meeting were approved.
- 3) The November Finance Report presented by Linda Bailey, Treasurer, was approved.
- 4) The following SWEEPS Commission Reports were received: Stewardship Commission (Finance Committee) and Evangelism Commission (Daughters of the King).
- 5) Linda Bailey was elected to serve as Treasurer in 2016.

- 6) Rob McDaniel was elected to serve as Assistant Treasurer in 2016.
- 7) Gordon Scott will serve as Chair of the Finance Committee in 2016.
- 8) Dickinson Gustafson will serve on the Finance Committee for a two year term (2016/2017).
- 9) The meeting adjourned with the Prayer of St. Francis at 7:30 p.m.

Read the Bible in a Year

The Center for Biblical Studies designed a one-year reading schedule for folks who would like to read through the entire Bible in a year. Each day there is an Old Testament lesson, a Psalm, and a lesson from the New Testament. Ideally, participants will read the designated lessons Monday through Saturday and on Sunday will hear the Scriptures read aloud in church. The Bible Challenge is endorsed by our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, who invited everyone in the Diocese of North Carolina to read with him.

At St. Francis, we'll begin the reading schedule on Monday, January 4, 2016. Each week we'll include the readings for the week in the announcements that are emailed on Friday and published in our worship bulletin on Sunday. This information is also available at CBS's website: www.thecenterforbiblicalstudies.org. Folks who would like to include a reflection in their reading and devotional time might consider purchasing *The Bible Challenge Book*, available from Amazon.com in paperback for \$18.00 or for your Kindle at \$9.99.

The Bible Challenge is a way for us as the community of St. Francis to read the Bible together in sequence, including those portions that we never hear in our weekly services. Can you imagine the conversations that we'll take place among participants, and how we'll grow together in faith as a community that is "on the same page" of this amazing book that tells our story? This is voluntary, of course, and there will be no tests and no Bible police to make sure you're up to date. If you plan to participate, please let us know. There will be a "sign-up" sheet in the church beginning on Sunday, December 27.

EPIC News

EPIC youth helped spread the news of Christ's coming in December. Many helped with the Angel Tree party, some helped decorate the church, some visited with our home bound parishioners, and some assisted with Welcome Table. Each EPIC youth found a place during Advent to reflect God's love.

St. Francis hosted the WNC Diocese Youth Council on December 20th. Approximately 15 youth (including 2 from St. Francis) attended the 10:30 Eucharist, had lunch, and then met in the common's room to discuss plans for Diocesan youth events for 2016.

After a busy holiday season, EPIC continues to be busy in January. In January, there are plans to have an overnight event at the Parish House on Jan 1-2. During this time together, there will be planning for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. community celebration, planning for the Epiphany presentation, devotion, food, and fun. On January 30th, EPIC has plans to visit Beth Israel Temple in Asheville, lunch, and then some teamwork building at A-Escape in Asheville.

Mark your calendars, February 9th will be the EPIC sponsored pancake supper.

Girl Scout News

Girl Scouts at St. Francis participated in the Christmas parade for Rutherfordton and Spindale on December 5th. On December 14th, Girl Scouts held their Christmas party. Fun, games, food and treat filled socks completed the evening.

If you have been waiting for Girl Scout cookies, mark your calendar for January 16th. Cookies will arrive to Rutherford County, and for \$4/box you can help support St. Francis Girl Scouts, and the many projects they have throughout the year.



Happy Birthday!

Jennifer Smith	3
Lynn Lundervold	4
Ian Miller	9
Carolyn Osborne	13
Mike DeLorenzo	17
Kimberly Amos	17
Ruth Henson	19
Dan Boryta	21
Sue Lloyd	21
Cynthia Ruppe	21
Eric Truempy	26
Louis Demas	26
Mary Lou Streelman	27
Gordon Scott	28
Richard Williams	28
Terry Demas	30

Happy Anniversary!

Blue & Julie Pittman	1
Jack & Carolyn Osborne	2
James & Liz Segers	12
Dan & Pam Boryta	25

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