

Through the Lych Gate December 2016

St. Francis Episcopal Church
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*Please join us for Holy Eucharist
on Sundays at
8:00 am and 10:30 am.*



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.

The Vestry

Stephanie Williams,
Senior Warden
Denise Hempstead,
Junior Warden
Linda Bailey, Treasurer

2016

Bill Coxe
Denise Hempstead

2017

Roscoe Conn, Sr.
Gordon Pendarvis
Stephanie Williams

2018

Mike DeLorenzo
Judi Gustafson
Allison Ross

Highlights of the Vestry Meeting, October 18, 2016

The Vestry of St. Francis Episcopal Church met on Tuesday, October 18, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. in the Cloister House. The following items were discussed or acted upon.

- The meeting began with a devotional by Mike DeLorenzo on 1 Thessalonians 5:18, silence, personal storytelling, and prayer.
- The minutes of the September 20, 2016 meeting were approved.
- The September Finance Report presented by Linda Bailey, Treasurer, was approved.
- The following reports were received: Day School, Welcome Table, and Yokefellow.
- A letter has been received from The Reverend Augusta Anne Anderson, The Standing Committee, President, Diocese of Western North Carolina, expressing gratitude to the parish and its leadership, for the support of prayers, talents and funds toward the transition process to ordain The Reverend Canon José McLoughlin as the 7th bishop of the Diocese of Western North Carolina.
- Motion was made, seconded, and carried to elect Mike DeLorenzo and Linda Bailey to serve as delegates and Gordon Pendarvis and Kathryn McGowan to serve as alternates to the 95th Diocesan Convention to be held November 11-13 at Kanuga Conference Center.
- The meeting closed with the Prayer of St. Francis at 7:55 p.m.

Advent is Here!

It's hard to believe, but we've just celebrated the First Sunday of Advent and the beginning of a new church year. Advent is no longer considered a time of deep penitence, but rather a period of thoughtful preparation. Many churches, including St. Francis, no longer use purple for the hangings and vestments but instead use Sarum blue, a color associated with the Diocese of Salisbury in medieval England. Each Sunday at the beginning of our services during Advent, we'll light candles on our Advent wreath to help us remember that we're watching and waiting for the light to come into the world. Our liturgy has changed at both services, and at 10:30 services we're singing new service music. Remember, unlike many



Christian churches, we don't decorate the church until after services on the Fourth Sunday of Advent (December 18). All of these changes intentionally remind us that we are preparing for something new, a great change in our lives and in the world. Come...let us worship and adore Him!

VESTRY ELECTIONS

2016

Vestry Elections

The Vestry of St. Francis Episcopal Church is placing the names of three parishioners as nominees for a three year term on the Vestry of St. Francis Church. Nominees for the three year terms beginning January 2017 are Don Corry, Jason McCurry, and Donna Murray. Vestry members will be elected at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 4th.

Don Corry

My wife Lyn and I were confirmed at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Shreveport, Louisiana in 1975. We were communicants at St. Philips Episcopal Church in Durham, NC for 30 years at which I was the Acolyte Master, EYC Leader, Chalice Bearer, member of Vestries serving for three years as the Junior Warden and a licensed Verger. When Lyn and I retired, we moved to Rutherford County and became members at St. Francis where I have been on the Vestry and served as Junior Warden for two of those years. I now serve as a Chalice Bearer and am in my third year of Education for Ministries. I have been elected to the Diocesan Council to serve a three-year term. My wife and I also work at the Welcome Table. Lyn and I have one child, Heather, and the delight of our life one granddaughter, Charlotte, who was baptized at St. Francis. I am a regular attendant at the 8:00 AM Service. Thank you for the opportunity to serve St. Francis.

Jason McCurry

I am a native of Rutherford County. I had the pleasure of being friends with a few St Francis members as a teenager who were very generous in inviting me to celebrate feast days (Christmas Eve and Easter). I have fond memories of being at those services at St Francis. I attended East Rutherford High School, received my Associate Degree in Nursing from Western Piedmont Community College, in Morganton NC, and Bachelor's of Science in Nursing from UNC Greensboro. I completed my Nursing

education at Durham County General Hospital School of Anesthesia for Nurses with a Certificate in Nurse Anesthesia. I was baptized into the Baptist Church at the age 8 and confirmed into the Episcopal Church in 1992 in Pittsboro, NC. I served as the organist and choirmaster at St Bartholomew's Church in Pittsboro for 2 years and played for the evening eucharist at the Chapel of the Cross in Chapel Hill. I completed the coursework in the "Leadership Program for Musicians serving Small Churches" in 1994. Immediately prior to coming to St Francis, I served as a chorister at St Peter's Episcopal in Charlotte, NC for 7 years. I currently work in Anesthesia at Spartanburg Medical Center, formerly Spartanburg Regional, and have been there for about 10 years. I am married to Ralph Holt McCurry and we have one son Nathaniel Holt McCurry who is 18 months old.

Donna Murray

It has been my privilege and honor to serve in the Diocese of Western North Carolina on several boards, committees, and to organize and attend: fund raisers, seminars, retreats, conferences, conventions, ect. throughout the years. To name a few: I have served in the following capacities: on the Diocesan Board of Episcopal Church Women as the Director of Church Periodical Club / also ECW Piedmont Deanery Chair (both total a period of 11 yrs.); as Senior Warden on the Vestry at St. George's, Asheville; as ECW-President-St. Mary's- Asheville; on the committee for the Companion Diocese of Durgapur, India; and also on the Diocesan Global Mission Committee; as well as on the Martin Luther King Committee in Rutherfordton, North Carolina. I've been involved in many global mission projects in several countries, most particularly, in India, Kenya, Egypt, Belize and Haiti. I have long felt compassion for the hungry, homeless, destitute, and those with addictions, as well as breaking down the walls of racism. If I am elected to serve on the Vestry of St. Francis, Rutherfordton, my mission would be to, be a good listener and communicator also, I would feel honored to be in a position to follow God's call in sharing my leadership, and visionary skills, while working as a team to carry out these ideas, and assisting those who have special gifts for bringing the ideas to reality. Most of all I would desire to do my best as what Jesus would have me do.

Great Job!

Many thanks to all from St. Francis who planned, cooked, and served around 800 meals at our Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon! Blue Pittman and his committee have learned how to be both efficient and flexible, but they couldn't do it without the rest of you helping out. What a great way to start the



holiday season! Blue will be giving us more information soon. In the meantime, job well done!

Education For Ministry

(EfM)

We are now taking registration for next years EfM class. If you have been thinking about taking the class, now is the time to talk with either Susan Keith or Richard Williams.



EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY
a program of the University of the South



Angel Tree Party

Mark your calendars! Saturday, December 10th from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. is our 10th Annual Angel Tree Christmas Party. This year we are partnering with Second Baptist Church, and they will be hosting the party in their Family Life Center. Please come join the fun. There will be games, a photo op, and ice cream! If you would like to help by donating items for our home-made stockings, we need; apples, oranges, candy canes, gum, and full size chocolate bars. We will be decorating on Friday, December 9th from 5:00 until we finish.

EPIC

On November 5th, EPIC traveled with the Presbyterian Youth to Conundrums, an escape room in Asheville. We divided into two groups, and each tackled a different set of clues and puzzles in a race against time to escape. Unfortunately, EPIC did not escape time. However, the Presbyterians, with the help of one Episcopalian, escaped with only three minutes remaining. After the escape room, we traveled downtown for some food and fellowship.



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On November 6th, EPIC assisted fellow church members Anne and Larry Watson with yard cleanup and house

maintenance. As always, The Watsons were very grateful for our help and enjoyed our company.

Thanks to everyone who made the Thanksgiving meal a success. EPIC was more than happy to help and enjoyed the opportunity to serve the community.

EPIC plans on traveling with the Presbyterians to Boone on December 2nd to help pack shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

Girl Scouts

Girl Scouts had another visit from TD Bank. They learned how to create a budget and manage their money wisely. We always enjoy the opportunity to learn real life skills.

Girl Scouts decided to tackle an escape room in Asheville on November 12. We divided into two groups. Our first group escaped in record time. They escaped in the fourth fastest time on record in a room that only had a 10% success rate. Our other group did not escape, but for most it was their first escape room and they had a blast! Each group had their own unique experience that will be remembered for a lifetime.

As most of you know, Mayden has been working hard for the past year to earn her Gold Award. On November 19th, she went for her exit interview and finally earned her Gold Award. She has been in Girl Scouts for 10 years now, and has received the highest award a Girl Scout can earn.

On December 17th, the Europe Bound Girls will be holding a Fatz Pancake Breakfast fundraiser. All proceeds will go towards their trip to Europe in July of 2017! Come out and enjoy pancakes with Santa!

Cookies are coming soon! Be on the lookout, they'll be here in January!



Christmas Season Schedule



Christmas/New Years Schedule

December 24th	5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist 11:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist
December 25th	10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (One service no Christian Formation)
January 1st	8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (No Christian Formation)

Congratulations! and Thank You!



At our Diocesan Convention earlier this month, Don Corry and Mother Chris were elected to serve three-year terms on the Diocesan Executive Council, representing the Piedmont Deanery. The Executive Council meets six times per year, and functions much like the Vestry of our parish, conducting the business of the Diocese.

December Birthdays!

John Roberts	10
Jill Pickard	13
Carletta Pittman	14
Vernon Hoyle Jr.	17
Darlene Geffert	17
Missy Hughes	19
Marshall McGowan	20
Ed Jenson	23
Bill McClain	27
Jennifer Robertson	28
Anita Quinley	29
Kendall McGowan	30

December Anniversaries!

Joe & Vicki Dury	17
Vernon & Christine Hoyle	20
Eric & Lindsey Truempy	21
Brad & Melanie Greenway	26
Scott & Elaine Sprouse	26

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