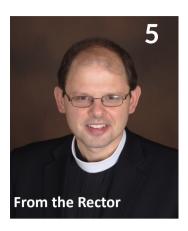


In This Issue ...

| Month at a Glance | 3 |
|-------------------|---|
| | |
| Calendar | 4 |



| By the Grace of God | 6 |
|----------------------|----|
| Music Notes | 7 |
| Reaching Out | 8 |
| Women of St. Francis | 9 |
| Parishioner Profile | 10 |
| Adult Education | 12 |



3 SUNDA



| Kids' Corner | 15 |
|----------------------|----|
| Upcoming Events | 16 |
| Stewardship Campaign | 18 |
| Spiritual Renewal | 18 |
| Parish News | 21 |
| Men of St. Francis | 22 |
| Voice of the Vestry | 20 |
| Ingathering Brunch | 23 |
| Faces of St. Francis | 24 |



10033 RIVER RD POTOMAC MD 20854 • 301-365-2055

Rector:

Father Mark Michael mmichael@stfrancispotomac.org

Assistant Rector & Youth Minister: Father Mac Stewart mstewart@stfrancispotomac.org

Information: info@stfrancispotomac.org



ON THE COVER:

Parishioner Caroline Beall performs on her flute at the Evening of the Arts fundraiser benefitting the Diocese of Kondoa, Tanzania.

Month-At-A-Glance

Sunday Service Schedule: 8:00am and 9:15am. Coffee, Adult Forum & Sunday School at 10:30am.

THIS MONTH AT ST. FRANCIS

November 2 @ 2pm: Fox Hills Forum November 2 @ 7pm: All Souls Eucharist

November 3 @ 10am: Confirmation Service at the Cathedral

November 4 @ 9:15: Reception of New Members

November 4 @ 5pm: All Saints Choral Evensong & Reception

November 4 @ 6pm: Youth Group gathering at St. Francis

November 6 @ 11:30am: Book Club

November 6 @ 12:30pm: WSF Planning Meeting

November 10 @ 6pm: LobsterFest

November 11 @ 6pm: Youth Group at St. Francis

Novembr 11 @ 6:20pm: Women's Bible Study

November 15 @ 11:30am: Savvy Seniors Luncheon

November 17 @ 9am: Fall Garden Cleanup Work Party

November 18 @ 4pm: Family Fun at the Rectory

November 20 @ 7:30pm: Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

November 22 & 23: Church Offices closed

November 25 @ 6pm: Youth Group at Potomac Pres

Novwmbw 27 @ 7:30pm: Vestry meeting

Weekly Events

Sundays at 8am & 9:15am: services

Sundays at 6:00pm: Youth Group

Tuesdays at 9:30am: Morning Prayer

Tuesdays at 5pm: Evening Prayer

Wednesdays at 10am: Holy Eucharist

Wednesdays at 11am: Bible Study

Thursdays at 7am: Mens' Bible Study

Thursdays at 10am: Morning Prayer

Thursdays at 5pm: Evening Prayer

Fridays at 9:30am: Morning Prayer

Fridays at 5pm: Evening Prayer

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

December 2: Evensong: Advent Festival of Lessons & Music (Supper & Advent Wreath Workshop following service)

December 2-16: Giving Tree Service Project

December 16: Christmas Pageant

December 21 & 22: Christmas Food Basket Collection

December 22: Christmas Food Basket Distribution & Gift Wrapping

January 12: Rise Against Hunger Fundraiser

August 16 - 18, 2019: Parish Retreat (Mark Your Calendar Now!)

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 28 | 59 | 30 | 31 | - | 2 | 8 |
| Sts. Simon and Jude | Church Offices Closed | 9:30am - Morning Prayer @ | 10am - Holy Eucharist @ Chapel | All Saints' Day | All Souls' Day | 10am - Confirmation Service, |
| 8am - Holy Eucharist | | 5pm - Evening Prayer | 11am - Rectors Bible Study @ | 7am - Mens Bible Study | 9:30am - Morning Prayer | |
| 9:15am - Choral Eucharist | | 5pm - Youth Choir Rehearsal | 8 pm - AA @ Youth Room | 10am - Morning Prayer | 2pm - Fox Hill Forum | |
| 10:30am - Adult Forum for | | 6:30pm - Central Montgomery | | 5pm - Evening Prayer | 5pm - Evening Prayer | |
| 10:30am - Adult Forum: Global | | | | 7pm - Adult Choir Rehearsal | 7 pm - All Souls' Eucharist | |
| 10:30am - Children and Youth | | | | | 8 pm - AA Meeting | |
| 11:30am - Morning Prayer | | | | | | |
| 6 pm - Youth Group @ Potomac | | | | | | |
| 4 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 10 |
| All Saints Sunday | Church Offices Closed | 11:30am - WSF Book Club | 10am - Morning Prayer @ Chapel | 7am - Mens Bible Study | 9:30am - Morning Prayer | 3pm - Set Up for MSF |
| 8am - Holy Eucharist | | 12:30pm - WSF planning | 8 pm - AA @ Youth Room | 5pm - Evening Prayer | 5pm - Evening Prayer | 6pm - MSF Lobsterfest @ St. |
| 9:15am - Choral Eucharist | | 5pm - Evening Prayer | | 7pm - Adult Choir Rehearsal | 8 pm - AA Meeting | |
| 10:30am - Adult Forum for | | 5pm - Youth Choir Rehearsal | | | | |
| 10:30am - Adult Forum: Global | | | | | | |
| 10:30am - Children and Youth | | | | | | |
| 11:30am - Holy Eucharist | | | | | | |
| 5pm - All Saints Choral Evensong | | | | | | |
| 6pm - Youth Group @ St. Francis | | | | | | |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| Pentecost 25 | Church Offices Closed | 9:30am - Morning Prayer @ | 10am - Holy Eucharist @ Chapel | 7am - Mens Bible Study | 9:30am - Morning Prayer | 9am - Outdoor Work Party |
| 8am - Holy Eucharist | | 5pm - Evening Prayer | 11am - Rectors Bible Study @ | 10am - Morning Prayer | 5pm - Evening Prayer | |
| 9:15am - Family Eucharist | | 5pm - Youth Choir Rehearsal | 8pm - AA @ Youth Room | 11:30am - Savvy Seniors | 8pm - AA Meeting | |
| 10:30am - Adult Forum for | | | | 5pm - Evening Prayer | | |
| 10.30 and Mouth | | | | To m - Adult Choir Bohooreol | | |
| M | | | | | | |
| II:soam - Morning Prayer | | | | | | |
| 6pm - Youth Group Meeting | | | | | | |
| 6:20pm - Women's Bible Study | | | | | | |
| 18 | 19 | 50 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| Pentecost 26 | Church Offices Closed | 9:30am - Morning Prayer @ | 10am - Holy Eucharist @ Chapel | Church Offices Closed | Church Offices Closed | |
| 8am - Holy Eucharist | | 5pm - Evening Prayer | 11am - Rectors Bible Study @ | 7am - Mens Bible Study | 8pm - AA Meeting | |
| 9:15am - Choral Morning Prayer | | 5pm - Youth Choir Rehearsal | 8 pm - AA @ Youth Room | | | |
| 10:30am - Adult Forum for | | 7:30pm - Interfaith Thanksgiving | | | | |
| 10:30am - Children and Youth | | | | | | |
| 11:30am - Holy Eucharist | | | | | | |
| 4pm - Family Fun Night at the | | | | | | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 59 | 30 | - |
| Christ the King | Church Offices Closed | 9:30am - Morning Prayer @ | 10am - Holy Eucharist @ Chapel | 7am - Mens Bible Study | St. Andrew's Day | |
| 8am - Holy Eucharist | | 5pm - Evening Prayer | 11am - Rectors Bible Study @ | 10am - Morning Prayer | 9:30am - Morning Prayer | |
| 9:15am - Choral Eucharist | | 5pm - Youth Choir Rehearsal | 8pm - AA @ Youth Room | 5pm - Evening Prayer | 5pm - Sung Evening Prayer | |
| 10:30am - Children and Youth | | 7:30pm - Vestry Meeting @ | | 7pm - Adult Choir Rehearsal | 8pm - AA Meeting | |
| 11:30am - Morning Prayer | | | | | | |
| 6nm - Youth Groun Meeting | | | _ | | _ | |



RECTOR'S thoughts

Love God. Love your Neighbors.
St. Francis is hosting the Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship
Service with Potomac Area Faith Communities.

When I served as the rector in Cooperstown, New York, the village churches jointly sponsored a number of collective worship services and education programs. One Lent, I was teaching a session of an ecumenical study on the Sabbath, and I asked the group to share about a worship service they had attended recently that had been particularly moving for them.

There were a variety of responses, as one might expect. But more than anything, people spoke about a 10 minute Palm Sunday liturgy that our churches had shared together the year before. I remembered the service well, though as a bit of a disaster. It had been bitterly cold, and too windy to keep the candles lit. We were supposed to have a donkey, but it didn't pan out at the last minute. The brass quartet was short a trombone player.

And as they say, you wouldn't want to have been present for the sausage-making. The village clergy all had distinct ideas and strong opinions, as clergy often do. We found it hard to agree about whose liturgical text should be used for which portion, which hymn each congregation was likely to know. The service was a compromise, not quite what any of us would have preferred.

But the people really seemed to love it. We had nearly 500 gathered in the middle of the street, people of all ages and walks of life. The Catholics and the Baptists were arm in arm, Methodists were harmonizing with Episcopalians. The singing was loud and strong. "It was so wonderful to have all of us together," one of the people said at the Lenten program. "I didn't know there were nearly that many Christians in our town."

I've found that there just isn't as much cooperation between churches here in the suburbs as I knew in the small towns where I grew up and have served as a priest. Maybe it's because our religious differences are wider--interfaith worship is much harder to do intelligibly than ecumenical worship. Maybe it's because we like to think we are too strong to need help from others. I do miss it sometimes, even all that complicated sausage-making with the other clerics. Despite our differences, some of us ended up becoming cherished friends.

It's been a season for engaging with other religious communities for us at Saint Francis. Since September, we've been having youth group meetings with Potomac Presbyterian Church every other week. It's been really wonderful, doubling the size of the gatherings for each group and allowing for the kind of age and gender diversity that makes for a more compelling experience.

On November 20, we will host the third annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship and Service Project here at St. Francis. I really encourage you to come and join with fellow Christians of many different denominations, as well as Jews, Muslims, Hindus and Bahai in thanking God for the blessings He shares with all of us. I can't promise you a liturgy using the inestimably beautiful and theologically rich words of the Book of Common Prayer. I can't promise that we will sing all your favorite Thanksgiving hymns either (maybe we can do that one Sunday in November). I can't promise you it won't feel a little more like the gong show than liturgy at times. And we won't discuss the sausage-making.

But it is a beautiful thing, in its own way. And there is a great deal that we can celebrate in common. Jesus told us that God makes the sun and the rain for all sorts: the just and the unjust (Matt. 5:45). God's mercy, the Psalmist says, is "on all his works" (145:9). Despite our differences, as people of sincere faith, we all strive to love God and our neighbors, to pray with devotion, to build caring families, to seek the common good. And God is present for all of us in this work, and it is only fitting that we gather as a diverse community to pray together in thanks for this.

It is also in keeping with the original aim of the national Thanksgiving Day. The tradition of an annual observance goes back to Abraham Lincoln, who declared the first annu-

FROM THE RECTOR, continued from p. 5

al Thanksgiving Day in 1863. His proclamation that year, a beautiful piece still occasionally read at Thanksgiving services, is deliberately vague about the God whose mercy is being praised. Even at a time when almost all Americans were Christians (and mostly Protestant at that), Lincoln wanted to be sure that each citizen, no matter his religious convictions, could have a share in keeping the day. An earlier proclamation that year (1863 may have been the only year in American history with two Thanksgiving Days) was even more specific about this, saying, "I invite the People of the United States to assemble on that occasion in their customary places of worship, and in the forms approved by their own consciences, render the homage due to the Divine Majesty, for the wonderful things he has done on the Nation's behalf.'

We live in a time of great division in our political and cultural life. The hostilities of Lincoln's age sometimes don't seem too distant. It seems there are fewer and fewer institutions that we cherish in common, and we sometimes seem to regard our neighbors primarily as potential recruits or enemies in one bruising battle or another. There is a tremendous value in a community like this to bring people together, despite the awkwardness and uncertainty that comes with such gatherings. God has given us more in common than we often remember. Let us thank Him for that.

In Christ, Fr. Mark+



St. Francis has been asked to supply

70 mini shampoos 108 pairs of socks (20 mens' and 88 womens')

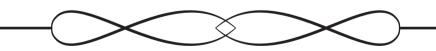
as part of care packages to be assembled after the Thanksgiving service. These care packages will be given to our homeless neighbors.

Please bring them to church by November 18th. We hope you will join us at the Interfaith Worship and Service Project on November 20th at 7:30pm.









By The Grace of God - Faith Stories Among Us

"A five-day visit with my niece, her husband and two little kids in North Carolina has shown me how God works powerfully if you just open yourself up to His goodness and grace. Meagan's husband Michael, a research scientist at NC State University, was diagnosed with ALS three years ago. He has gradually progressed from a numbness in his right hand to being confined to a wheelchair. They have a very strong faith and have decided not to hide his illness but open themselves up to allow friends, family, neighbors, and their church to be full participants in their lives. Their house is now a happy party central with a constant flow of visitors bringing food ("oh, I made a little extra tonight and thought you would like it"), secretly installing a home elevator while Michael was at a doctors visit, building an accessible bathroom, directing closet cleaning, doing yard work, filling the house with noisy happy children, watching sports, giving positive counseling to Meagan, a quick shave and a haircut, and daily driving Michael to work where his lab focuses (with full support of the university, the state, and national partners) on finding a cure for ALS. "-Suzie B

Music Notes

Music at Eventide Series

Choral Evensong for All Saints' November 4th at 5pm

+ Music at Eventide +

Choral Evensong for All Saints' 4 November at 5 o'clock

Introit Harris: Holy is the true light

Responses Cryer: Savoy Responses

Psalms 148, 150

Canticles Harwood: Service in A-flat

Anthem Bullock: Give us the wings of faith



Give us the wings of faith to rise
Within the veil, and see
The saints above, how great their joys,
How bright their glories be.

We ask them whence their victory came:

They, with one united breath,

Ascribed the conquest to the Lamb,

Their triumph to his death.

They marked the footsteps that he trod,
His zeal inspired their breast,
And, following their incarnate God,
They reached the promised rest.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Mark your calendars for our next Evensonog Service December 2nd will be the Advent Festival of Lessons and Music. The service will be followed by a parish-wide supper and Advent wreath workshop.

Reaching Out Our Faith at Work in Our Community

Ministry of the Month: Manna Food Center

The mission of Manna Food Center is bold and straightforward: eliminate hunger in Montgomery County. Founded in 1983, its vision is a day when no child, family, or senior goes to bed hungry. To that end, Manna collects and shares 3.5 million pounds of food with approximately 11,000 underserved families each year. This works out to offering an average of 3,500 families each month, including children and seniors, about 60 pound of perishable and nonperishable food. Manna's central warehouse is located at 311 Gaither Road in Gaithersburg, about a half mile north of Shady Grove Road. Each morning Manna collects food from grocery stores and farmers markets across the county. In addition, many faithbased groups, civic organizations, and individuals bring produce and other donations to the warehouse. Volunteers screen and sort perishables and shelf-stable items and fill boxes to be distributed that day, either at the warehouse or at 22 satellite distribution sites.

In addition to its Food for Families program, Manna operates Smart Sacks for Children. Smart Sacks began in 2005 with the distribution of 500 backpacks of food to children with the goal of giving them and their families nutritious food to eat over the weekend when a full meal might not be available. Today, the program serves 3,250 needy children at 57 schools around the county.

Last year, Manna launched Manny the Manna Mobile Kitchen and Pop-Up Pantry. Manny serves two separate functions: as a classroom to teach children and adults general nutritional principles through cooking and as a food distribution center, especially for seniors.

How you can get involved.

Manna depends on a large core of volunteers for its food collection and distribution operations. Over the years parishioners at St. Francis have donated produce, sorted perishable and nonperishable food at the Gaithersburg warehouse, filled boxes at church with nonperishables for delivery to the warehouse, and collected food for Manna at our local Giant. This past summer our youth group spent an evening at the warehouse sorting canned and other shelf-stable food for the next day's distribution. Manna welcomes volunteers who can work once a week, once a month, or more frequently. Manna greatly values the donation of excess garden produce from spring through fall.

Donations are accepted at the warehouse Monday through

In August, St. Francis Parishioners donated 188 pounds of food through our food drive Friday from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and on the second Saturday of the month from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The most desirable donations of food include brown rice, whole grain pasta, canned tuna, salmon, or chicken (in water), dry or canned (low sodium) beans, canned (low sodium) vegetables, canned fruit, fruit cups, infant formula and baby foods, cooking oils and spices, shelf-stable milk boxes, and natural nut butters.

If you or your family would like to volunteer at Manna, visit its website, www.mannafood.org and tap the link "Get Involved", then tap "Volunteer with Us" to see the full range of opportunities available. Children as young as seven can help pack family boxes at the warehouse or assist on a collection day at Giant, while upper level high school students have a wider range of activities open to them. Volunteering at Manna qualifies for Student Service Learning credit. Adults (age 18 and older) can choose to work in Manna's administrative office or in distribution operations. For additional information call 301-424-1130 or email Manna at info@mannafood. org. Helping to erase hunger by serving at Manna can be a rich and satisfying experience.

- Diane Seward, Parish Outreach Committee



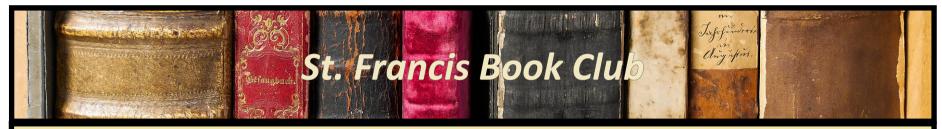
This is just some of the winter clothing and blankets that you have donated through our Winter Wear drive benefitting Interfaith Clothing Center



Women of St. Francis

The Women of St. Francis sponsor fellowship, fundraising, and fun events throughout the year.

A brief meeting will be held from 12:30 to 1 pm following book club on November 6th to organize the next two WSF events. Pop Up Parties (2 hour BYO parties advertised monthly, held at different parishioners' homes) and our winter fundraiser for Rise Against Hunger, a Jack Frost Dinner featuring a grilled cheese contest with winter fare. This yummy dinner is scheduled for January 12th. Our expectation is to raise over \$3,000 so we can again package meals that Rise Against Hunger will ship to countries giving assistance to refugees. Please contact the church office or Carol J if you are willing to work on either event.



Here are the dates and selections for the upcoming 2018 Women of St. Francis Book Club meetings, which are open to all. We generally meet at 11:30am on the first Tuesday of the month, with a few exceptions. Upcoming books:

November 6th: "East is East" by TC Boyle. Discussion led by Terri V. Edited excerpts from the New York Times review: "This novel is T. C. Boyle's finest yet. It has the vital language and inventiveness of plot that we have come to expect from him, but this time there is a keener focus of intention, a more profound level of empathy than were evident in his previous novels. A simple plot description of "East is East" makes the



novel sound like the mere high jinks. But Mr. Boyle, with his consummate artistry, has shaped this story into an absorbing tragedy. That we find ourselves laughing all the way to the increasingly inevitable catastrophe does not in any way blur the book's impact, for ours is the laughter of recognition and revelation, rueful and cleansing. All of us who have ever weighed the desperate desire to belong against the coexisting need for self-respect will recognize ourselves in Mr. Boyle's lowly Japanese sailor as well as in his counterprotagonist, the frantically ambitious young writer Ruth Dershowitz, who becomes Hiro Tanaka's protector and, ultimately, his nemesis. That Hiro—the hero—at last does the honorable, albeit doomed, thing, according to his code, and that Ruth, in marked contrast, joyfully sells out after a brief pang of conscience, results in a double catharsis."

December 4th: "Lincoln in the Bardo" by George Saunders. Discussion led by Mary B.

Edited Excerpts from New Yorker Review: "Lincoln in the Bardo," the writer's first novel, is a stunning depiction of the sixteenth President's psyche. It is set around the time of the death of Lincoln's son Willie in 1862. Willie's death was, it seemed to Lincoln, the greatest grief of his life. Willie's coffin was entombed for three years in Georgetown's Oak Hill cemetery. Following Lincoln's assassination, it then shared the eighth car of Lincoln's funeral train home to Springfield, where both father and son were laid to rest.

Willie's temporary afterlife in Oak Hill is the subject of the novel. It depicts a ferocious, keenly felt, and sometimes comic struggle over Willie's spirit while he is in a Bardo, the Tibetan Buddhist transition from death to rebirth, during which one's next life is very much up for grabs. Saunders's witty and garrulous graveyard is filled with semi-spirits in a state of denial. Even with its comic interludes, the book gathers a satisfying momentum, enough to reveal what Saunders has called, in one of his essays, a novel's Apparent Narrative Rationale—"what the writer and the reader have tacitly agreed the book is 'about.' "Lincoln in the Bardo" has great matters on its mind: freedom and slavery, the spirit and the body. But it is, finally, "about" Abraham Lincoln, that great spectral presence in a whole subgenre of American fiction."

January 8th: "Before the Fall" by Noah Hawley. Discussion led by Virginia A.

From the creator of 'Fargo,' a thriller that echoes real-life events. NYT calls it one of 2016's best thrillers. WAPO says "Hawley, the author of four previous novels and the creator of the TV show "Fargo," here has spun a tale that's at once an intriguing puzzle, a tasty satire and a painful story of human loss."

February 5th: "Clara & Mr. Tiffany" by Susan Vreeland. Discussion led "by Nancy H.

In her sixth work of fiction about the inter-penetration of life and art, Vreeland (Luncheon of the Boating Party, 2007, etc.) celebrates the putative designer of Tiffany's leaded-glass lampshades.

We invite you to join us!

"There are stars among us"

Parishioner Profile

"Everyone has a story to tell if you simply listen"

This month we profile our patron, Saint Francis of Assisi, whose feast day we celebrated on October 7th.



St. Francis of Assisi, painting by an unknown artist

Francis of Assisi was the son of Pietro di Bernardone, a cloth merchant, and the lady Pica, who may have come from France. At Francis's birth, his father was away on a business trip to France, and his mother had him baptized Giovanni. On his return, however, Pietro changed the infant's name to Francesco because of either his interest in France or his wife's background. Francis learned to read and write Latin at the school near the church of San Giorgio, acquired some knowledge of French language and literature, and was especially fond of the Provencial culture of the troubadours. He liked to speak French (although he never did so perfectly) and even attempted to sing

in the language. His youth was most likely without serious moral lapses, and his exuberant love of life and a general spirit of worldliness made him a recognized leader of the young men of the town.

In 1202 he took part in a war between Assisi and Perugia, was held prisoner for almost a year, and on his release fell seriously ill. After his recovery, he attempted to join the papal forces under Count Gentile against the emperor Frederick II in Apulia in late 1205. On his journey, however, he had a vision or dream that bade him return to Assisi and await the call to a new kind of knighthood. On his return, he dedicated himself to solitude and prayer so that he might know God's will for him.

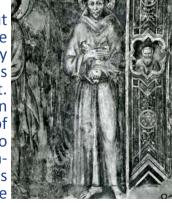
Several other episodes contributed to his conversion to the apostolic life: a vision of Christ while Francis prayed in a grotto near Assisi; an experience of poverty during a pilgrimage to Rome, where, in rags, he mingled with the beggars before St. Peter's Basilica and begged alms; an incident in which he not only gave alms to a leper (he had always felt a deep repugnance for lepers) but also kissed his hand. Among such episodes, the most important, according to his disciple and first biographer, Thomas of Celano, occurred at the ruined chapel of San Damiano outside the gate of Assisi when Francis heard the crucifix above the altar command him: "Go, Francis, and repair my house which, as you see, is well-nigh in ruins." Taking this literally, Francis hurried home, gathered some fine cloth from his father's shop, and rode off to the nearby town of Foligno, where he sold both cloth and horse. He then tried to give the money to the priest at San Damiano, whose refusal prompted Francis to throw the money out the window. Angered, his father kept him at home and then brought him before the civil authorities. When Francis refused to answer the summons, his father called him before the bishop of Assisi. Before any accusations were made, Francis "without a word peeled off his garments even removing his breeches and restored them to his father." Completely naked, he said: "Until now I have called you my father on earth. But henceforth I can

truly say: Our Father who art in heaven." The astonished bishop gave him a cloak, and Francis went off to the woods of Mount Subasio above the city.

Francis renounced worldly goods and family ties to embrace a life of poverty. He repaired the church of San Damiano, refurbished a chapel dedicated to St. Peter the Apostle, and then restored the now-famous little chapel of St. Mary of the Angels (Santa Maria degli Angeli), the Porziuncola, on the plain below Assisi. There, on the feast of St. Matthias, February 24, 1208, he listened at mass to the account of the mission of Christ to the Apostles from the Gospel According to Matthew (10:7, 9–11): "And as you go, preach the message, 'The kingdom is at hand! Take no gold, nor silver, nor money in your belts, no bag for your journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor a staff; for the labourer deserves his food. And whatever town or villa you enter, find out who is worthy in it, and stay with him until you depart." According to Thomas of Celano, this was the decisive moment for Francis, who declared, "This is what I wish; this is what I am seeking. This is what I want to do from the bottom of my heart." He then removed his shoes, discarded his staff, put on a rough tunic, and began to preach repentance.

Francis preached to townspeople—even though as a layperson he was without license to do so—and he soon attracted followers. In 1209 he composed for his mendicant disciples, or friars, a simple rule (Regula primitiva, "Primitive Rule") drawn from passages in the Bible: "To follow the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ and to walk in his footsteps." He then led the group of 12 disciples to Rome to seek the approval of Pope Innocent III, an important step that demonstrated Francis's recognition of papal authority and saved his order from the fate of the Waldensians, who had been declared heretics in the late 12th century. At first Innocent was hesitant, but, following a dream in which he saw Francis holding up the church of San Giovanni in Laterano, he gave oral approbation to the Franciscan rule of life. This event, which according to tradition, occurred on April 16, 1210, marked the official founding of the Franciscan order. The Friars Minor, or Lesser Brothers, as they came to be known, were street preachers with no possessions and only the Porziuncola as a centre. They preached and worked first in Umbria and then, as their numbers grew rapidly, in the rest of Italy.

Probably no one in history has set out as seriously as did Francis to imitate the life of Christ and to carry out so literally Christ's work in Christ's own way. This is the key to the character and spirit of St. Francis and helps explain his veneration for the Eucharist (the body and blood of Christ) and respect for the priests who handled the elements of the communion sacrament. To neglect this point is to present an unbalanced portrait of the saint as a lover of nature, a social worker, fresco by Cimabue, late 13th century; an itinerant preacher, and a celebrant of in the lower church of San Francesco, poverty.



Assisi, Italy. Alinari —Anderson/ `Art Resource, New York

Certainly the love of poverty is part of his spirit, and his contemporaries celebrated poverty either as his "lady," in the allegorical Sacrum commercium (Eng. trans., Francis and His Lady Poverty, 1964), or as his "bride," in the fresco by Giotto in the lower church of San Francesco at Assisi. Indeed, poverty was so important to Francis that in his last writing, the Testament, composed shortly before his death in 1226, he declared unambiguously that absolute personal and corporate poverty was the essential lifestyle for the members of his order. It was not, however, mere external poverty he sought but the total denial of self (as in the Letter of Paul to the Philippians 2:7).

Francis considered all nature as the mirror of God and as so many steps to God. He called all creatures his "brothers" and "sisters," and, in the most endearing stories about him, preached to the birds and persuaded a wolf to stop attacking the people of the town of Gubbio and their livestock if the townspeople agreed to feed the wolf. In his "Canticle of the Creatures" (less properly called by such names as the "Praises of Creatures" or the "Canticle of the Sun"), he referred to "Brother Sun" and "Sister Moon," the wind and water, and even "Sister Death." He nicknamed his long and painful illnesses his "sisters," and he begged pardon of "Brother Ass the body" for having unduly burdened him with his penances. Above all, his deep sense of brotherhood under God embraced his fellow men, for "he considered himself no friend of Christ if he did not cherish those for whom Christ died."

In 1212 Francis organized a second order for women that became known as the Poor Clares. He gave a religious habit, or dress, similar to his own to the noblewoman later known as St. Clare (Clara) of Assisi and then lodged her and a few companions in the church of San Damiano, where they were joined by women of Assisi. For those who could not leave their families and homes, he eventually (c. 1221) formed the Third Order of Brothers and Sisters of Penance, a lay fraternity that, without withdrawing from the world or taking religious vows, would carry out the principles of Franciscan life. As the friars became more numerous, the order extended outside Italy.

Determined to bring the Gospel to all God's creatures, Francis, on several occasions, sought to take his message out of Italy. In the late spring of 1212, he set out for the Holy Land to preach



canvas by Antonio Montúfar, 1628.

to the Muslims but was shipwrecked on the east coast of the Adriatic Sea and had to return. A year or two later, sickness forced him to abandon a journey to the Muslims in Spain. In 1217 he proposed to go to France, but the future Pope Gregory IX, Cardinal Ugolino of Segni, an early and important supporter of the order, advised Francis that he was needed more in Italy. In 1219 he did go to Egypt, where the crusaders were besieging Damietta. He went into the Muslim camp and preached to the sultan al-Kāmil, who was impressed by Saint Francis of Assisi Appearing Before him and gave him permission (it is said)

Pope Nicholas V, with Donors, oil on to wisit the sacred places in the Holy to visit the sacred places in the Holy Land.

News of disturbances among the friars in Italy forced Francis to return. Although the Order of the Friars Minor had grown at a faster rate than any previous religious order, it had not experienced similar organizational growth and had little more than Francis's example and his brief rule of life to guide its increasing numbers. To correct this situation, Francis prepared a new and more detailed rule (Regula prima, "First Rule," or Regula non bullata, "Rule Without a Bull"), which reasserted devotion to poverty and the apostolic life and introduced greater institutional structure but was never officially sanctioned by the pope. He also appointed Peter Catanii as his vicar to handle the order's practical affairs; after Peter's early death in 1221, Francis replaced him with Brother Elias of Cortona. Two years later, Francis submitted a further revision of the rule—known as the Regula secunda ("Second Rule"), or Regula bullata ("Rule with a Bull")—to Pope Honorius III, who approved it in the bull Solet annuere ("Accustomed to Grant") on November 29, 1223. As the official rule of the order, Regula bullataenjoined the friars "to observe the holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, living in obedience without anything of our own and in chastity." It also outlined regulations for discipline, preaching, and entry into the order. After his rule received papal sanction, Francis withdrew increasingly from external affairs.

At Christmastime in 1223, Francis participated in an important ceremony when he celebrated the birth of Jesus by recreating the manger of Bethlehem at a church in Greccio, Italy. This celebration demonstrated his devotion to the human Jesus, a devotion that would be rewarded in most dramatic fashion in the following year. In the summer of 1224, Francis went to the mountain retreat of La Verna (Alvernia), not far from Assisi, to celebrate the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15) and to prepare for St. Michael's Day (September 29) by fasting for 40 days. He prayed that he might know how best

to please God; opening the Gospels for the answer, he came upon references to the Passion of Christ three times. As he prayed during the morning of the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, he beheld a figure coming toward him from the heavens. St. Bonaventure, minister-general of the Franciscans from 1257 to 1274 and a leading thinker of the 13th century, wrote: "As it stood above him, he saw that it was a man and yet a Seraph with six wings; his St. Francis of Assisi Receiving the Stigmata, arms were extended and his feet fresco attributed to Giotto di Bondone, c. 1300; in the Church of San Francesco, Assisi, conjoined, and his body was fixed to a cross. Two wings were raised



above his head, two were extended as in flight, and two covered the whole body. The face was beautiful beyond all earthly beauty, and it smiled gently upon Francis. Conflicting emotions filled his heart, for though the vision brought great joy, the sight of the suffering and crucified figure stirred him to deepest sorrow. Pondering what this vision might mean, he finally understood that by God's providence he would be made like to the crucified Christ not by a bodily martyrdom but by conformity in mind and heart. Then as the vision disappeared, it left not only a greater ardour of love in the inner man but no less marvelously marked him outwardly with the stigmata of the Crucified."

For the remainder of his life, Francis took the greatest care to hide the stigmata (marks resembling the wounds on the crucified body of Jesus Christ). After the death of Francis, Brother Elias announced the stigmata to the order by a circular letter. Later, Brother Leo, the confessor and intimate companion of the saint who also left a written testimony of the event, said that in death Francis seemed like one just taken down from the cross.

Francis lived two years longer, in constant pain and almost totally blind (he had contracted an eye disease while proselytizing in the East in 1219). Medical treatment at Rieti was unsuccessful, and after a stay at Siena, he was brought back to Assisi, where he died at the Porziuncola. He was buried temporarily in the church of San Giorgio at Assisi. On July 15, 1228, concluding a process of unprecedented speed, Francis was canonized by his former protector, Pope Gregory IX. On the following day, the pope laid the foundation stone for the basilica that Brother Elias would build in Francis's memory, and in 1230 the saint's body was transferred to the lower church of the basilica.

Article sourced from britannica.com: https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Francis-of-Assisi

Adult Education

Adult Forums are held at 10:30am, concurrent with Sunday School classes for the children and youth.

Christianity in the Global South

We explore the practice of Christianity in Asia, Africa and Latin America, the regions where our faith is growing most rapidly, and where it often seems to have the greatest vitality.



Our region continues to grow in ethnic diversity, and learning more about global Christianity is also a way to grow in our understanding of our neighbors. We explore issues like the way Christians read the Bible in the Global South, the role of miracles and spiritual gifts in Global South Christianity, the relationship between church and state in the Global South and the impact of of the Global South on Western Christianity and the future of the Church. Guest speakers include Philippe Nassif of *In Defense of Christians*, on the persecution of believers in the Middle East; Robert Heaney of *Virginia Theological Seminary's Center for Anglican Communion Studies*, on Anglicanism in the Global South; and a panel of local lay Christians who have immigrated from the Global South, who will talk about their experiences.

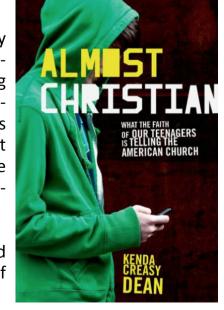
This series will run for 8 weeks, from September 16th through November 11th.

Almost Christian

Join Pastor Allison for a discussion of Kenda Creasy Dean's "Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers is Telling the American Church." Participants are encouraged to purchase a copy of the book and to read chapters 1 and 2 for the first session.

Based on the National Study of Youth and Religion, Kenda Creasy Dean's compelling book, Almost Christian, investigates why American teenagers are at once so positive about Christianity and at the same time so apathetic about genuine religious practice.

Instead of proclaiming a God who calls believers to lives of



love, service and sacrifice, churches offer instead a bargain religion, easy to use, easy to forget, offering little and demanding less. But what is to be done? In order to produce ardent young Christians, Dean argues, churches must rediscover their sense of mission and model an understanding of being Christian as not something you do for yourself, but something that calls you to share God's love, in word and deed, with others. Dean found that the most committed young Christians shared four important traits: they could tell a personal and powerful story about God; they belonged to a significant faith community; they exhibited a sense of vocation; and they possessed a profound sense of hope. Based on these findings, Dean proposes an approach to Christian education that places the idea of mission at its core and offers a wealth of concrete suggestions for inspiring teens to live more authentically engaged Christian lives. This class will meet from October 28th through November 18th in Kincaid Library.

Praying the Psalms

Father Mac will be leading a four week series beginning November 18. The Book of Psalms is a series of prayers displaying the whole range of human emotions. This class will explore how we can make these prayers our own as we seek to bring our whole selves before God in prayer. This series will run from November 18th through December 9th and will meet in St. Francis Hall.



We hope you will join us for these relevant and interesting discussions.

Women's Bible Study NEW

St. Francis women and Youth Group moms from Potomac Presbyterian are invited to attend a **Women's Bible Study**. We will meet at 6:20pm on the second Sunday of the month (which coincides with the Youth Group meetings at St. Francis) in the Undercroft.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

November 11th
December 9th
January 13th
February 10th
March 10th

We hope women of all ages from St. Francis will join us.

12

DUTH GROUP



MEETINGS: SUNDAYS AT 6:00 PM ALL 6TH - 12TH GRADERS ARE WELCOME!!

The Youth Group and Sunday School students did an outstanding job preparing for and serving together at the Evening of the Arts. Many of the youth members contributed exceptional works of music, art for the auction, and the week before the event the group gathered for a very fun and productive baking party at the Glenolden House. Between the oven at the house and the two big ovens in the church kitchen, they managed to pull together in just a few hours an impressive array of sweets and treats for sale at the fundraiser dinner. I'm very grateful both for the way this annual fundraiser continues to deepen our connection with Bishop Given Gaula and his ministry, and for the way the youth worked so hard to make the fundraiser such a success this year. Many thanks, too, to Lexi Heywood and Susan Dolan for helping keep the baking party relatively under control, and for all their leadership with the Youth Group in general.

Our collaboration with the youth of Potomac Presbyterian Church is continuing to develop into a stable rhythm. On Sunday, October 14th, their group of 17 or so joined us at St. Francis for a tasty dinner provided by some of our youth parents, a rousing game of dodgeball, and a time for bible study and conversation in relevant peer groups. We're looking forward to joining them on Oct. 28th back at their church, and are very excited about the increased energy this partnership seems to be bringing to our regular meetings.

November comes with a full schedule of opportunities for our youth to gather and grow together. Here's a rundown:

- Sunday, November 4th, 5pm: we will gather for the Choral Evensong at Youth Group Calendar 5pm at St. Francis in celebration of All Saints Day. Following the service, the youth are invited to the undercroft for pizza and an All Saints themed movie (done by 8pm).
- Download the HERE.
- Sunday, November 11th, 6-8pm: regular youth group meeting at St. Francis (with Potomac Pres).
- Sunday, November 18th: Family Fun Night at the Rectory, with laser tag, pizza, and a campfire.
- Sunday, November 25th, 6-8pm: regular youth group meeting at Potomac Pres.
- Stay tuned for a date to Volunteer at Manna Food Shelter. We are looking at dates in early December or January. We'll let you know when we have more a specific date secured.

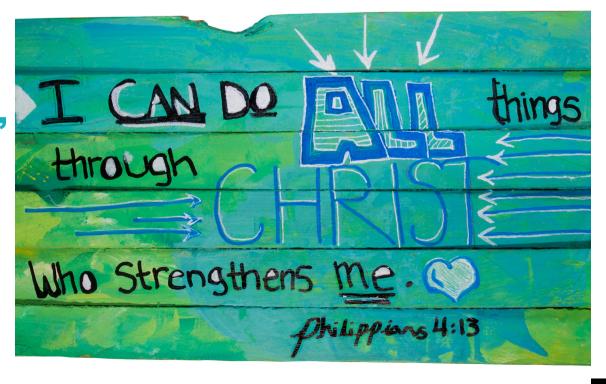
Join us one and all, and bring a friend!

Blessings in Christ, Fr. Mac Stewart

Bring a friend and join the fun:

yummy food, games, small group discussions and a judgement-free group.

JOIN US!!





Children Happy
with the
Knowledge of
God

We raised \$2,500 for Bishop Given Gaula's school in Kondoa, Tanzania



Our annual Evening of the Arts fundraiser was a great success this year. Thank you to the many parishioners who attended and

supported the Sunday School's efforts.

Thank you to Gary Davison for spearheading the joint event between Evensong and the Sunday School's Evening of the Arts. Thank you Father Mac and the youth group for supporting the evening with participation and delicious baked goods.

Thank you Susan Dolan, Kathy Barker, Laurel Bahar, Terri Vande Sande, and Diane Seward for managing the money and providing a marvelous dinner for us.

Thank you to our talented special artists:

Elizabeth Sefen (violin)
Anna Sefen (violin)
Caroline Schneider (cello)
Kate Schneider (cello)
Caroline Beall (flute)
Philip Michael (cello)
Gabi Henderson (watercolor artist)



Thank you to Carol Drucker for managing the Trivia booth, Elise Drucker for managing our Hoops Booth, Philip Michael and Carter Jillings for managing the Joke Booth, and Cyril Lyskowski and Peter Michael for managing the Dart Booth.

Thank you to all of the Sunday school students for contributing their artistic talents in creating art and objects to sell.



With Halloween behind us, we begin to look toward Advent. Believe it or not, it's time to start thinking about our **Christmas Pageant!** Mark your calendars for December 16th. This is a church favorite, with the Sunday School and Youth Group entertaining and teaching us through a creative production about Christmas. Each year, we are amazed by the wonderful abilities of our children: memorizing lines, acting their parts, speaking in front of a large group, and hamming it up (just a little!). Please be sure to come and watch the show - the kids, their teachers and many other volunteers put in a lot of time and effort to present the pageant.

Sunday School Students: our preparations begin on November 18th. We would love to have as many people as possible involved in the pageant, so please plan to be at Sunday School for rehearsals and preparations in the coming weeks.

Adults: We need set designers, actors, and musicians. Please come join us. Contact Missy Beall or stop by the

Youth Room for more information on November 18th at 10:30 am.



-Missy Beall



Kids' Corner

Hey kids - **Congratulations!** You should be proud of yourselves for all the work you did with Evening of the Arts to raise money for Bishop Given Gaula and his Women's Empowerment Program in the Diocese of Kondoa, Tanzania. Your talent and hard will allow many women and girls in Africa to learn more about God and to learn skills that they can use to support themselves and their families. The money you raised is donated to Biship Given Gaula, who went to seminary (priest school) in Virginia and spent some time here at St. Francis while in school. Bishop Gaula will use the money to teach more women and girls in his school. The students that go to the school learn how to sew and how to run a business - things like how to find and buy their supplies, how to manage their money, and how to find customers to sell to. They also learn about Jesus, and His love for them and their neighbors. Bishop Gaula will buy things like sewing machines, fabric, thread, pins, and scissors that they need to run the school.

As you may know, you have been supporting Bishop Gaula's work for several years now. In fact our church has supported him for thirteen years now. Bishop Gaula recently wrote to express how thankful he is for your support of his program. Here is part of his letter:

I thank and praise God for bringing St Francis into our lives! Indeed without the support of St Francis I would not been a bishop today! I serve the wider church because of St Francis! God had an eternal purpose to bring me at St Francis while at Virginia Theological Seminary! You have walked alongside us in so many ways! And the church of Christ in the Diocese of Kondoa, in Tanzania and worldwide has benefited through you support! I highly appreciate your support which has encouraged us so much!

Our girls learn life skills so that their life can be transformed by the Love of God! Most of these girls (some are Muslim and some Christian) comes from one of the poorest families in this world and the Church in the Diocese of Kondoa tries to provide hope for them. St Francis has made this possible through your support! You make the gospel relevant to the lives of the poorest people! God gave Jesus a mission to bring good news to the poor, and St Francis is following this example of Jesus!

Billy Graham: How to Be Thankful In All Things

Here is an except from billygraham.org on November 21, 2017:

Some years ago I visited a man who was wealthy and successful. He was the envy of all his friends and business associates. But as we talked, he broke down in tears, confessing that he was miserable inside. Wealth had not been able to fill the empty place in his heart.

A few hours later I visited another man only a short distance away. His cottage was humble, and he had almost nothing in the way of this world's possessions. And yet his face was radiant as he told me about the work he was doing for Christ and how Christ had filled his life with meaning and purpose. I am convinced that the second man was really the rich man. Although he didn't have much, he had learned to be thankful for everything that God had given him. Paul declared, "I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want" (Philippians 4:12, NIV). A spirit of thankfulness makes all the difference.

This Thanksgiving, give thanks for Bishop Gaula and his team, and the women and girls they are empowering. Remember, too, that they give thanks for you.

St. Francis Episcopal Church

ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH PRESENTS

Family Fun at the Rectory



November 18th at 4:00pm

Laser Tag, Pizza & Campfire

Bring a drink and a side dish or dessert to share

RSVP by November 16th

RECTORY ADDRESS: 9304 MERIDEN RD POTOMAC

ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH PRESENTS

Music at Eventide Choral Evensong for All Saints



November 4th at 5:00pm

FEATURING WORKS BY HARRIS, CRYER, HARWOOD, AND BULLOCK

Reception to Follow

10033 RIVER RD POTOMAC, MD | WWW.STFRANCISPOTOMAC.ORG

Vestry Portfolio Profile: Property

The Property Portfolio of the Vestry has the responsibility for overseeing the maintenance of the buildings and grounds of the church campus along with The Rectory and the Glenolden House. For the buildings, this includes all of the HVAC systems, plumbing, electrical systems, and the structures, inside and out, of the buildings themselves. The Grounds Committee, which reports to the property vestry member, oversees the upkeep of the lawns, gardens, trees, and shrubs and the management of the grounds maintenance contract. The committee has the responsibility for approving all plantings requested by a member of the parish.

The Vestry member with the Property Portfolio works closely with the Junior Warden, who has property included in their portfolio, and with Shanti Nanan, the Parish Administrator whose duties include being the property manager for the parish.

-Don Harrision, Vestry, Property Portfolio

Fan O

Why I give

I give to Saint Francis Church because it is such an important part of my life, truly a bulwark. For years it has been a centering place for my worship of God, for learning about Him through the liturgy of the services, the music, the preaching, educational offerings, and not least, from the fellowship and sharing with other parishioners. St. Francis is my 2nd family. People here, both clergy and lay, have supported me in times of need, sickness, sorrow & joy. I have a long history with this church and I can't imagine not supporting it as best I can.

Stewardship Campaign Update:

Here is a snapshot of the progress of our 2019 Stewardship Campaign as of October 22:

- 106 families have pledged a total of \$581,571 for 2019.
- Of those 106 families, 11 are new families.
- Over 50% of the returning pledges have been increased for 2019.

If we receive pledges from the families that pledged in 2018 but have not yet pledged for 2019, and if these families pledge the same amount as they did last year, we can project a pledge income of \$731,532 which is 10% over 2018 pledges.

We are on the way to meeting our goal of 165 pledging families and an increase of \$100,000 in pledges over last year (which is 15% more than last year, or \$760,600). If you haven't pledged yet, it's not too late! Vestry members will be calling active parishioners who have not yet pledged in the coming weeks, and we hope you will answer their calls with your pledge. You can also pledge by clicking HERE.





Veterans' Day Remembrances

St. Francis is the church home for many veterans and veteran widows. Our columbarium has a lovely fountain memorial to our veterans, and each year we adorn it with a flag for each one of the veterans we have lost.

On Sunday, November 11, members of the parish who are veterans and/or widows/widowers of veterans will be honored with an appropriate floral tribute, made by the Flower Guild. Flower Guild members also will place flowers in the Columbarium on the niches of all of our veterans as well as on the Veterans' Memorial on the plaza. You can help the Flower Guild offset the cost of this project through a suggested donation of \$15. Please make checks payable to St. Francis Episcopal Church and place in the offering plate, or mail to the office at your earliest opportunity.

Contact the parish office at 301-365-2055 if you have questions.

Periodic Financial Summary

Here is a summary of the church's current financial status. This does not include any details, and is not a complete picture of the year, but serves as a dashboard so you can see our overall financial status.

As you can see from this chart, which includes data from January through September 2018, we are above budget for the period. The treasurer and vestry believe we are in a good position for the remainder of the year, but recognize that we have several upcoming planned facility repairs. We also have had many recent unplanned repairs, and anticipate more as the facility continues to age. We will continue to work to stay within our budget for the rest the year. Please continue to make your pledges to help us keep on track.



| St. Francis Episcopal Church | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|--|
| Financial Summary | | | | |
| January through September 2018 | | | | |
| | Actual | Budget | Difference | |
| Pledge Receipts | \$573,749 | \$528,000 | \$45,749 | |
| Other Income | \$175,368 | \$174,330 | (\$1,038) | |
| Total Income | \$749,117 | \$702,330 | \$46,787 | |
| Expenses | \$718,321 | \$696,657 | (\$21,664) | |
| Net Income | \$30,796 | \$5,673 | \$25,123 | |

Among the items discussed at its October 16th meeting, those of immediate concern to the parish are summarized below.

definition of fixtures that are to remain after SAES vacates the property, especially the playground equipment. We have made a video inventory of these fixtures.

Update on church front doors

Ms. Baker stated that United Glass Door will take the doors down on Monday, October 22, work on them in the undercroft, and put them back up on Friday October 26. Plywood, painted to match the existing doors will be installed while the work is performed. A motion was passed by unanimous vote to approve an expenditure to JF Painting not to exceed \$1,500 to strip and repaint the front doors, and to Chevy Chase Plating and Polishing not to exceed \$1,500 for polishing and/or re-plating the door handles.

Update on concrete walkway

Ms. Baker reported that the engineer with whom we have consulted stated that a temporary fix before the winter is necessary. In the long term, however, he believes that we need to replace the structure; repair is ill-advised as there are too many cracks and too much rust. We received a third bid that exceeded \$100,000. Mr. Wilson will confer with Concrete Works who has submitted the lowest, but much too cursory, bid of \$28,600 to replace the ramp,

Update on Safety Assessment

Mr. Ewel stated that a Montgomery County police officer conducted a safety assessment of the property and buildings a few weeks ago. There are no major issues, although a number of items need addressing, including trimming some shrubbery and trees and locking doors during times that church buildings are occupied. The officer stated that placing a "St. Francis Episcopal Church" sign above the front doors to the church would greatly reduce confusion for first responders. There are grants for which we might apply to improve security. We will receive a written report within a few weeks' time.

St. Andrew's Episcopal School Transition

Mr. Ewel and Fr. Mark met with SAES Head of School Robert Kosasky and CFO Mark McKnight. They discussed whether SAES might allow the transfer of the license from the Office of Child Care to Georgetown Hill as well as allow GH to begin its summer program on June 15, rather than June 30, the termination date of St. Andrew's lease. They also discussed possible signs on the front lawn, and what is included in the

Financial Report

Ms. Cuddapah stated that we are in a strong financial position, with pledge revenue YTD exceeding budget by \$46,000. Although expenses YTD are also over budget by \$22,000, they have been holding steady since the first part of the year when we had to address the sprinkler system, a burst pipe in the boiler room, and the removal of the oil tanks. The 2019 budget projects a \$12,000 surplus, while we are currently projecting a 2018 year-end deficit of \$13,000.

2018 Nominating Committee

By unanimous vote the Vestry appointed Kathy Barker as chair of the nominating committee, and Don Harrison, Laurel Bahar and Norma Young as committee members. Gail Feagles has since agreed to serve on the Committee. The Committee is charged with naming a slate of four proposed new Vestry members and a new Senior Warden. Parishioners are invited to submit names to the Committee by November 25th for consideration. Nominees will be voted on by the parish at the 2019 Annual Meeting on January 27, 2019. The qualifications for Wardens and Vestry members are:

- 1. They must have been baptized in the Episcopal Church or in another Christian Church;
- 2. The baptism must have been duly recorded in the Episcopal Church;
- 3. They must have received Holy Communion at St. Francis at least three times during the preceding year;
- 4. They must be 16 years old or older;
- 5. They must have signed the Parish register, or been entered thereon, at least one month prior to the applicable annual meeting; and
- 6. They must have been a contributor of record to St. Francis during the year preceding the applicable meeting, or shall have made a pledge to contribute to the support of the church for the year in which the applicable annual meeting is held.

Dexter Ewel, Senior Warden





FROM THE SAVVY SENIORS COMMITTEE

The Savvy Seniors luncheon for November will be held on **Thursday, November 15 at 12:00 noon**. Our speaker will be Jim Heins who will present a slide presentation on his recent tour of the Netherlands. Please make a reservation through Realm or call the church office. Bring your own brown bag lunch. Drinks, snacks, and dessert will be provided. A \$5.00 donation is suggested to help pay for the drinks and food.

Please mark your calendars for the catered December holiday luncheon on Thrusday, December 13.

If you have suggestions for future topics or speakers, please contact Don Harrison at donh811@verizon.net.

As we enter the Thanksgiving and the Christmas season, please keep these **upcoming outreach projects** in mind. We'll need your help to minister to our neighbors in need:

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service Project - care packages for homeless individuals in the Interfaith Works Women's Center and the Dorothy Day program. (November 20th)

Giving Tree - gifts for families staying at Stepping Stones Shelter on Christmas (Early December)

Christmas Baskets and Gift Wrapping (new this year) - purchase all the fixings for a Christmas meal. Baskets are provided to ALL 20854 families who are in need - usually more than 75 families. (Mid-December)

Stay tuned for more information about each of these up-

St. Francis on the Web

We now record audio and video of sermons given here at St. Francis. If you missed a Sunday, have a friend or family member with whom you would like to share a sermon, or just want to hear a sermon again, you can access them from YouTube or sermon.net.

Videos are available on our <u>YouTube</u> channel 'St. Francis Episcopal Church, Potomac MD.' You can search for the channel from the YouTube home page. You can turn on the closed captioning feature if you like - it prints text of the sermon at the bottom of the page.

Audio-only podcast recordings of sermons can also be accessed from <u>Sermon.net</u> (https://stfrancisepiscopalpotomacmd.sermon.net).

Check out our new website: www.stfrancispotomac.org!

coming projects. Please contact Susan D or Andy J if you can help coordinate - we would love your help!

Please participate! This is a wonderful time to show our love for our neighbors. These projects are family friendly - children love to help pick out the food and gifts for other children and families. Through projects likes these, children can learn the Christian values of empathizing with and helping others. It's also a good time for us adults to acknowledge our many blessings and take a few moments to pay it forward. With God's Grace, we can do His work using our hands. Please plan to join us.

Are you new to St. Francis?

We're very glad you are here! We look forward to getting to know you better, and we hope you will join us at our upcoming services and other parish activities. Most of our services and activities are listed here in this newsletter, but please visit our website to learn more about our church. Our weekly email announcements also provide timely reminders and updates.

Please share your contact information with us so we can give you a proper welcome. Visit our website to join our email list so you receive our weekly and monthly communications. In addition, please fill out the communication card in the pew or in your church bulletin, or simpy call the office at 301-365-2055 to provide your contact information. Father Mark Michael, our newcomers committee, and our entire church family welcome you with open arms.

St. Francis Presents Lobsterfest

Mark your calendars for the annual LobsterFest: November 10th at 6pm. Here are the details:

The Men of St. Francis are again sponsoring LOBSTER-FEST - a Parish-wide event - on Saturday night, November 10th, from 6 - 8pm, in St. Francis Hall. This Fest is a full meal centered on a fresh steamed lobster (1½ pound) with baked potatoes, cole slaw, and apple/pear crumble dessert, all prepared in the church kitchen by volunteers. The cost for dinner is \$30 each. Beer and wine will also be available for purchase. Last year's sell-out event proved that this is an opportunity to meet new St. Francis members, old friends and guests, and have a delightful time. This is not a fund-raiser for the church. We expect to just break even plus maybe a little extra. It is a joyful fall get-together!

The lobsters will be purchased for us in Booth Bay, Maine and trucked directly to Potomac in a Kiwanis Club truck the day before the LobsterFest. As you can imagine, we can't blindly order a bunch of expensive lobsters hoping someone will come buy them. We need you to reserve your lobster(s) in advance. We are going to order a maximum of 75 meals, based on reservations. The number is the capacity of our kitchen and staff. The deadline for reserving your lobster meal is Monday, November 5, if we don't max out before then. Please resere your lobsters through Realm. Payment for your reserved lobsters will be at the door of the event by cash or check. Contact the church office for more information.

Devar Burbage, Event Chair



\$30 per meal

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
BY NOVEMBER 6 AT 4PM

Join us for our most popular event of the year!

Fresh Maine lobster, baked potato, coleslaw, apple crisp, soft drinks.
Beer and wine available for purchase.

Please note that an order is a commitment to pay



Ingathering Brunch Thank Yous

The Ingathering Brunch celebrated our stewardship campaign with a delicious meal!

Many of our parishioners deserve big a thank you for their role in making the Ingathering Brunch so lovely and delicious. The Women of St. Francis and the Men of St. Francis both had integral roles in presenting the brunch:

Thanks to Carol Jarvis and Chris Rigaux for organizing the Women of St. Francis' and Men of St. Francis' contributions to the brunch.

There were lots of laughs and giggles at the flower arranging party Thursday night for the center pieces with Grace Rood, Nancy Cressy, Laurel Bahar, Carol and Suzie Burbage.

Thanks to Gaines and Ken Hurdle for the bountiful gourds harvested from their yard.

French Toast casserole chefs were Suzie Burbage, Karen Myers, Sandy Gaddy, Virginia Ault, Mary Blehar, Kathleen Alexander, Ellen Tozer, Grace Rood, Nancy Cressy, and Carol Jarvis

Laurel Bahar made the salads, and Carol and Suzie made other casseroles and little muffins.

Many helped to make the strata and set up the hall on Saturday with tables, chairs, table cloths and floral centerpieces: Kathy Barker, Laurel Bahar, Kathleen Alexander, Missy Beall, Suzie Burbage, Dexter Ewell, Pat McNeilly, Bob Jannotta, John Jasin, Leigh Alexander, and Chris Rigaux.

Many thanks to John Jasin for making the Costco run for the strata.

Many thanks to Sunday's chefs and servers: Pat McNeilly, John Jasin, Dexter Ewel, Ken Hurdle, Bob Jannotta, Adam Schneider, Clay Hough, Devar Burbage, Keith Gardiner, and Chris Rigaux

Everyone was happy to join in the fellowship and labor to make this event successful. The fellowship and love among our church family was evident and a great time was had by all.









Faces of St. Francis







Lauren Heywood was ordained on October 20th. Members of her family and her St. Francis church family joined her at her ordination service in Philadelphia. Father Mark presented her wtih a gift from St. Francis parishioners.

Evening of the Arts was a lively and fun night, with \$2,500 raised for Bishop Guala and the Diocese of Kondoa



Celebrations

Please congratulate these members of our church family as we celebrate with them







Congratulations

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Kathleen Andersen Kieran Anzelone Laurel Bahar Tim Beall Lane Brenner Barbara D. Brown Cassandra Brown Daniel Buckingham Elie Cain Emma Crutchfield John Duncan Jennifer Good Nancy L. Hoke Shelley Jannotta Jake Johnston Jane Kirkhoff Nicole Latimer

The Rev'd Ted Lewis Marion Mak **Erica McNeilly** Karen Meyers Leo Mullen Suzanne Polan Margaret Riddle Steven Rigaux John Schaefgen **Henry Scott Wesley Smith** Lauren Spak Patricia Stempien Roxanne Stosur Jake Wallace Richard E. Wallace Madelyn Wanner Steven Ward **Douglas Whitlock Rosie Whitlock** Thomas Whitlock Norma Young

CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations to our newly baptized parishioners: Akin Ogunmodede, Allen Herrmann and Luke Leemhuis.



Congratulations to Amy Feagles on her marriage to Geoffrey Dietz. Amy



grew up at St. Francis and attended Sunday School, the Day School and youth group here. Billy Shand officiated at the wedding.



Congratulations to Lauren Heywood on her installation as Pastor at St. David's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Pennsylvania.

Congratulations to Kyle Burbage, grandson of Suzie & Devar Burbage. He just celebrated his 16th birthday and was super excited to receive the giant Evening of the Arts pumpkin.

DON'T BE SHY!!

Please make sure your birth date and anniversary date are included in Realm so we







can celebrate with you.

If you have any celebrations to include in this section, please send them to Karen. We would love to be able to celebrate with you! If you don't tell us about it, we may not know, and we don't want to leave anyone out or miss any special celebrations.



We are here for you!

Please stop by or reach out by phone or email. We're happy to help!

10033 RIVER RD POTOMAC, MD 20854



Weekly Services

Holy Eucharist:

Sundays: 8am & 9:15am Wednesdays at 10am

Morning Prayer:

Tu, Fri at 9:30am & Th at 10am

Evening Prayer:

Tu, Th, Fri at 5pm



301-365-2055

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday - Friday 10am - 4pm

EMAIL US!

Rector: Mark Michael mmichael@stfrancispotomac.org

Assistant Rector & Youth Minister: Mac Stewart mstewart@stfrancispotomac.org

www.stfrancispotomac.org



Organist-Choirmaster: Gary Davison

gapada@aol.com

Christian Education: Missy Beall

missy@missybeall.com

Office Manager: Shanti Nanan snanan@stfrancispotomac.org

Business Manager: Margaret Riddle mriddle@stfrancispotomac.org

Communications Director:

Karen Schneider

kschneider@stfrancispotomac.org

This Page intentionally left blank

