

SOUNDS OF ST. FRANCIS

SPRING 2023



ST. FRANCIS
POTOMAC

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Rector: Mark Michael

mmichael@stfrancispotomac.org

Pastor for Adult Formation & Youth Ministry:

Dr. Allison Michael

amichael@stfrancispotomac.org

Organist & Choirmaster:

music@stfrancispotomac.org

Property Manager: Shanti Nanan

snanan@stfrancispotomac.org

Parish Life & Outreach Coordinator:

Kathy Herrmann

kherrmann@stfrancispotomac.org

Sunday School Director: Kathy Herrmann

kherrmann@stfrancispotomac.org

Business Manager: Marybeth Krajcik

accountant@stfrancispotomac.org

AV & Livestream Coordinator: Sean Smith

communications@stfrancispotomac.org

Communications Director:

communications@stfrancispotomac.org

Information:

info@stfrancispotomac.org

ON THE COVER:

St. Francis in Bloom, Photo by Karen Schneider

CURRENT SCHEDULE

LIVE STREAM SERVICES ARE ON YOUTUBE

CURRENT SERVICE & ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

9:15am Holy Eucharist
10:15am Social with coffee & donuts
10:30am Sunday School & Adult Forum
7pm Youth Group (1-2 times a month)

MONDAYS

8:30am Morning Prayer

TUESDAYS

11am Bible Study

WEDNESDAYS

8:30am Morning Prayer
5pm Evening Prayer (not livestreamed)

THURSDAYS

12:30 Savvy Seniors ZOOM (1st Thursday)
12:30 Savvy Seniors Luncheon (3rd Thursday)

FRIDAYS

8:30am Morning Prayer
5pm Evening Prayer (not livestreamed)

Special Events

April 2: Palm Sunday
April 3: Holy Mon-Wed Services 8:30
April 6: Maundy Thursday Eucharist
April 7: Good Friday Solemn Liturgy Noon
April 8: Holy Saturday Liturgy 9:30
April 9: Easter Day Eucharist 9:15, & 11
April 9: Easter Egg Hunt 10:30
April 12: Book Club
April 12: Talk of the Town - Beekeeping Dinner 5:30, event 6:30
April 27: Pleasant Hills Farm Tour
April 29: Newcomers Event
April 30: Trinity Chamber Orchestra
May 7: Choral Evensong for Coronation
May 7: Hunger Banquet Interactive Branch and Presentation on World Hunger
May 10: Talk of the Town - Songs and Stories from the Blue and Gray with Patrick Lacefield
May 13: Youth Group Volunteer Manna
May 18: Ascension Day Eucharist
May 21: Youth Sunday
May 28: Service time change to 10:00
June 6: Deadline for articles and photo for the Summer Edition of Sounds. Send content to communications@stfrancispotomac.org



Palm Sunday

April 02
9:15am



Maundy Thursday

April 06
7:30pm



Good Friday

April 07
12pm



Easter Sunday

April 09
9:15am
11:00am



Holy Week at Saint Francis includes a variety of services in which we meditate on Jesus' passion, death and resurrection, those great events which have brought us life and salvation.

Palm Sunday, April 2, we will celebrate the Liturgy of the Palms with the Eucharist of the Passion at 9:15, beginning in the back parking lot off of Counselman.

On Holy Monday-Holy Wednesday, the Eucharist will be offered at 8:30 each morning in the Chapel

Maundy Thursday, April 6, the Eucharist of the Last Supper will be held at 7:30 in the Church, followed by the stripping of the Altar and a Gethsemane Vigil.

Good Friday, April 7, we will remember Christ's death in the Solemn Liturgy, including the veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion, at noon in the Church

On Holy Saturday, April 8, we will recall Christ's rest in the tomb with a Liturgy of the Word at 9:00 a.m. in the Church

The Great Vigil of Easter will be held at Christ Church in Rockville at 7:00 on April 8

Our festive Easter Day Eucharists will be held on April 9 at 9:15 and 11:00. There will not be Sunday School, but we will have an Easter Egg Hunt after the 9:15 service!

Holy Baptism will be celebrated at the 9:15 Eucharist on Easter Day, April 9. See one of the clergy if you would like to be baptized or to present a candidate for baptism.



ST. FRANCIS
POTOMAC

2023 Vestry



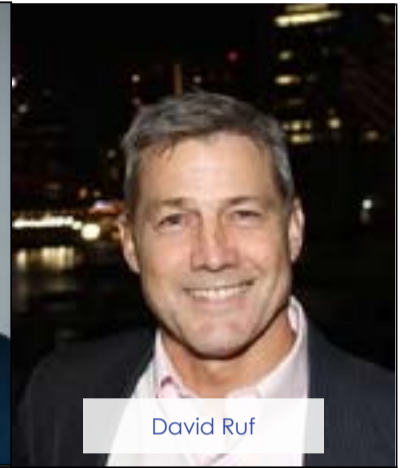
Sue Tendall
Senior Warden



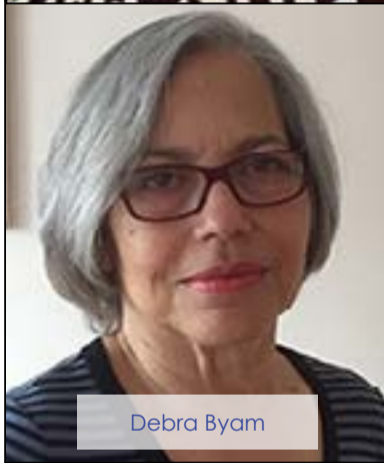
Laurel Bahar
Junior Warden



Tyler Maroulis
Treasurer



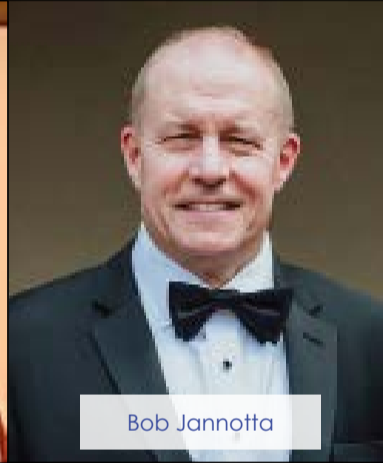
David Ruf



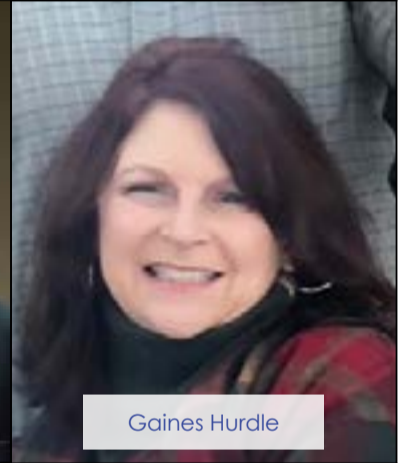
Debra Byam



Prentiss Feagles



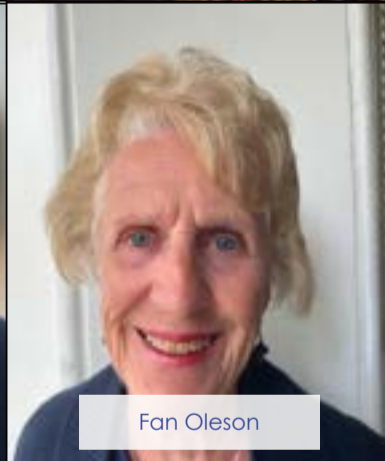
Bob Jannotta



Gaines Hurdle



Matthew Hunter



Fan Oleson



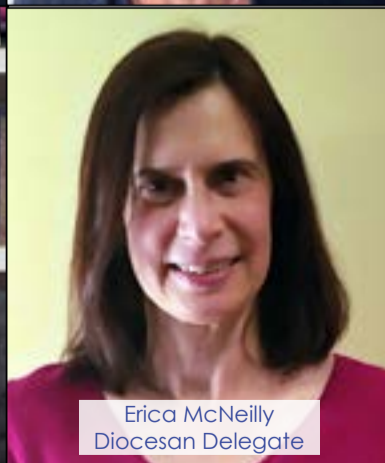
Tom Whitlock



Adam Schneider



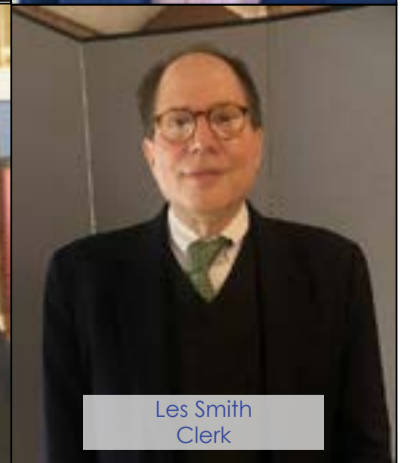
Pat McNeilly
Diocesan Delegate



Erica McNeilly
Diocesan Delegate



Clay Hough
Legal Counsel



Les Smith
Clerk



“A Musical Salute”

Sunday, April 30, 2023

4:00PM

St. Francis Episcopal Church

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart -Flute Concerto in G Major No. 1

Julianne Martinelli, Flute

Samuel Barber - Adagio for Strings

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart - Serenade No. 10 “Gran Partita”

Richard Strauss - Romanze for Clarinet

Angela Murakami, Clarinet

Tickets are \$25. Children under 12 are \$10

Click [HERE](#) to purchase tickets

For performance information,

please visit:

www.trinitychamberorchestra.com

Vestry Highlights

The Vestry met on December 20, 2022, and January 17, 2023 to discuss matters pertinent to the operation and management of St. Francis. Highlights from those meetings include the following:

Finance Committee

The rector and wardens disbanded the Finance Committee, which Father Mark had created in 2017. The committee is not required by parish by-laws. The Vestry sees the Finance Committee, when re-established, as an advisory group to collaborate with Vestry members on the financial matters with input from the parish to guide these decisions. The Vestry stated that the Finance Committee had served an important function, and the parish has been fortunate to have many good and dedicated members. The rector and search committee are committed to developing guidelines for the committee's work and recruiting members. It is expected that the new committee will be in place by April or May.

Tyler Maroulis was nominated and approved unanimously to serve as the new church treasurer. Marybeth Krajcik, the new business manager is in place and understanding the church's needs. The Vestry wishes to thank the outgoing Finance Committee members for their time and commitment to the Vestry and St Francis Church.

Vestry Size Quorum

An amendment to the church's by-laws reducing the size of the vestry and the quorum will be presented at the annual meeting. It will be proposed that the number of Vestry members be reduced from 13 to 11 and the quorum from 9 to 6 Vestry members. This would be consistent with the overall size of our parish and would address the challenge of finding sufficient candidates.

HVAC Work

The contractor RSC is currently 80-85% complete.

The following is work currently in place:

New rooftop air cooled chiller set in place with water and electrical connections complete.

New rooftop heat pumps/condensers set in place for the three (3) new Air Handler Units (AHU).

New AHU's 2.1 and 2.2 within St. Francis Hall are complete and operational.

Demolition of AHU 1 within the Cribery is complete.

Installation for new AHU 1 is on-going.

Wiring for HVAC system controls is complete.

Piping insulation for rooftop and mechanical room piping is on-going.

Georgetown Hill

The GHS has indicated that they would like to lease additional space, however our fire alarm system is outdated and not up to code. Once the fire alarm system is updated this conversation will be continued. The school has tentatively agreed to share one-half of the fire alarm system costs.

Outgoing Vestry Members

The Vestry of St Francis is thankful for the dedication of the following outgoing members: Ms Renita Ford, Mr. Leigh Alexander, Ms. Carol Tutura, Mr. Norm Barker, and Ms Cathy Cudapah as our treasurer.

The preceding summary is intended to highlight certain discussions held by the Vestry as of January 17, 2023. Feel free to contact me or any Vestry member with questions or concerns, or to obtain more up to date information.



Clergy message

Life is Blooming at St. Francis

Dear Saint Francis Friends,

Life is blooming at Saint Francis! This Spring has seen a whirlwind of preparations for Baptisms, First Communion, and Confirmations. Visitors have been joining us almost every week, and our regional MERCY youth group has grown from just a handful of teens each week to having 20 or more at many events. And all manner of wonderful events and practical projects are moving forward.

But numbers only tell a part of the story, and often not the most important part. More encouraging to me are those of you who reach out with deep faith questions, who ask to pray, or who take up a new faith practice for the first time out of a desire to grow. Something special is happening at Saint Francis.

It is so welcome to see it, especially since for many of us, the last few years have felt like a long Lent (an especially penitential Lent). People retreated from common life, anger and polarization drove wedges between family members and friends. Our congregation has lost a number of beloved members due to the pandemic's effects on health and area demographics.

And yet, we see signs of hope and new life around us.

In John's Gospel, Jesus says, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life." When a seed is planted, or a grain falls into the earth, it lies dormant for a time, and then it starts to grow below the surface before poking up where we can see it. Jesus remained in the tomb from Friday to Sunday before the disciples really understood what God was doing in this great mystery.

The seeds we have planted are the selfless sacrifices made by members and staff of the St. Francis community, who have served, prayed, and worked, not out of some selfish goal, but in gratitude for all that God has done for us. When we begin to die to ourselves and our own agendas, new life in the Holy Spirit has a way of blooming around us. And if we even give up our fear of death to God, we find a bold new life that shares in God's overwhelming abundance-- both in this life, and the next. Christ's death and resurrection takes hold of us, and the fruit of His sacrifice blooms in our lives.

So, dear friends, keep giving of yourselves sacrificially, loving with abandon, and dying to your own fears and your desire to control the Spirit's work, so that new shoots will keep sprouting in Potomac, MD. May this Lent and Eastertide be a season of deep renewal and grace in each of your lives.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Allison

Reminder!
Worship Services Move to
May 28th 10:00AM

Having Trouble Hearing the Service?

We have a new system to help! How does it work? It captures the sound from our microphones and uses a local access point to project it to your phone or tablet. You can use your preferred listening device connected to your phone (headset, hearing aids, etc).

How do I set it up?

1. Simply download the AudioFetch app to your phone or tablet,
2. Join the AudioFetchExpress wifi network (make sure local networks are enabled in the app settings).
3. The app will automatically search for the church's device
4. Connect your headset,
5. Open the app & use the horizontal bar to adjust the volume. You can also adjust the volume on your headset or hearing aids.

Wired headsets work best (bluetooth can cause a delay). Contact Devar Burbage with questions or to get help setting up your device.



The graphic is a vertical poster for the AudioFetch app. At the top is the AudioFetch logo, which consists of a blue stylized figure wearing a headset, followed by the word "audiofetch" in a lowercase, sans-serif font. Below the logo is a blue banner with the text "LISTEN TO THE SERVICE USING YOUR PHONE OR TABLET" in white, all-caps, sans-serif font. Underneath the banner is a black bar with the text "Use your Android™ or Apple® device to listen to the audio" in white. The main body of the graphic is divided into three orange rectangular boxes, each with a white circle containing a number (01, 02, 03) in the top left corner. Box 01 contains the text "Download the free AudioFetch app from iTunes or Google Play." and icons for the App Store and Google Play. Box 02 contains the text "Connect to the WiFi Network below:" followed by "WiFi: AudioFetchExpress" and "PW: ListenUp7". Below this is a white WiFi symbol. Box 03 contains the text "Open the AudioFetch app and adjust the volume to your preference." and a white icon of the AudioFetch character. The background of the graphic is a dark blue grid pattern.

Christian Education

We have several options to keep your mind sharp and your spirit nourished. We hope you'll join us for some of these offerings:

Bible Study Study resumes on Tuesday, April 25, when we continue our study of the Bible's wisdom literature: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon."

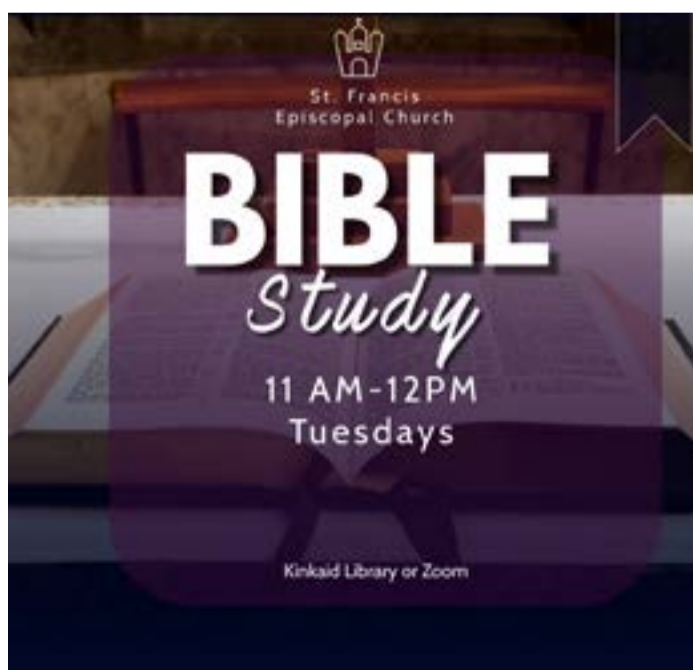
Sunday School does not meet on Easter Sunday - come to the Easter egg hunt instead (don't forget your basket)! A **Children's Sermon** is offered in the undercroft during the sermon portion of the 9:15 am worship service. Children of all ages are welcome to enjoy this engaging presentation.

Children and Youth Sunday School is divided into two groups. Children ages 3-7 meet from 9:00-9:45 (they will be brought into the service during the sharing of the peace, just before the Eucharist). Children aged 8-13 meet at 10:30am (concurrent with Adult Forum). If you would like to register your child or to help out, contact our Sunday School director, Kathy Herrmann. We need volunteers who are willing to take just a handful of weeks (for either age group) or who want to help plan weekly crafts or games for the younger children around the biblical theme.

Adult Forum After a break for Palm Sunday and Easter, Father Mark will share talks on three Anglican saints, Nicholas Ferrar, George Herbert, and John Keble, whose writings and witness reveal important themes at the heart of our spiritual tradition. On April 23 and May 7, we will have special events during the forum time. On May 29, we switch to our summer schedule, and forum will resume after Labor Day. Sunday School and Adult Education Classes end on May 22. Beginning May 29, we switch to our summer service schedule, during which classes will be on hiatus until after Labor Day.

Newcomers Class We will be holding a three session class for those who are new to Saint Francis (or are newly returned after a long time away). If you are considering formally transferring your membership here, or have done so within the last year or so, please mark your calendars and plan to join us after Church on Apr 16, 2023, Apr 30, 2023, and May 14, 2023. It will be a great opportunity to connect with one another, and to ask questions about our community at St. Francis and about Anglican Christianity. Sunday

**We offer Bible Study and Adult Forum classes in person and by zoom.
Look for the link in our weekly emails or contact the parish office for the link.**



**Bible Study Every
Tuesday 11 AM**
Everyone is welcome to join.
We send out reminders with
a brief synopsis every week.

John Widmann Joins Us in May as Our Organist and Choir Director

Internationally known Carillonneur



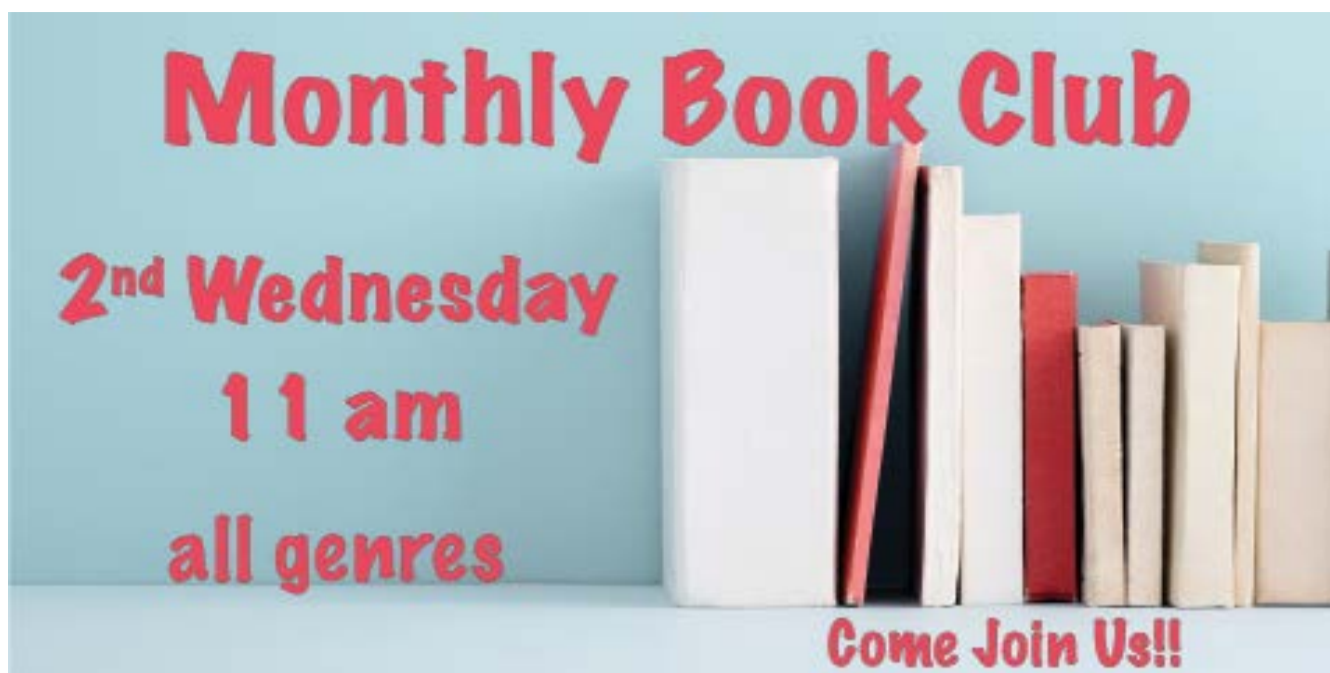
John Widmann is the City Carillonneur for the City of Frederick, Maryland, where he plays recitals every Sunday at 12:30, year round, on the Joseph Dill Baker Carillon in Baker Park. He has now held that position for thirty years. Mr. Widmann graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and completed his Master of Music degree from Towson University in 2011. In 2021-2022, Mr. Widmann studied for his diploma at the Royal Carillon School “Jef Denyn” in Mechelen, Belgium. In addition to his Sunday recitals, he retired in 2021 from Frederick County Public Schools where he was a General/Vocal Music teacher. He is also the Organist and Choir Master for St. Francis Episcopal Church in Potomac, Maryland. Mr. Widmann became a Carillonneur member of the Guild of Carillonneurs

in North America in 1996, and is a past member of the National Board of that organization. He maintains an active concert schedule, and has played frequently in the US, along with recitals in Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands, England, Canada, and the Netherlands Antilles. He lives in Frederick with his wife and sometimes their two grown children.

In addition

- Immediate Past Dean of the Potomac Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
- Studied organ at Indiana University of Pennsylvania under Dr. Carol Teti
- Have also played organ internationally. This Summer, amongst several carillon recitals, and will be giving an organ recital in Dokkum in the Netherlands on an historic instrument there.

We will conducting a full interview in May when he joins us full-time. Look for it in our Summer Edition of Sounds, social media, and special eblast welcoming.



April 12 - Led by Kathleen Alexander

Remarkably Bright Creatures - Shelby Van Pelt.

The story of a widow who befriends the curmudgeonly Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus living at the aquarium. Marcellus knows more than anyone can imagine but wouldn't dream of lifting one of his eight arms for his human captors--until he forms a remarkable friendship with Tova. When a grifter comes to town, the three unlock a truth tied to her son's disappearance thirty years ago. For fans of *A Man Called Ove*, a charming, witty, and compulsively readable exploration of friendship, reckoning, and hope that traces a widow's unlikely connection with a giant Pacific octopus

May 10 - Led by Grace Rood

The Stranger in the Life Boat - Mitch Albom

What would happen if we called on God for help and God actually appeared? In Mitch Albom's profound new novel of hope and faith, a group of shipwrecked passengers pull a strange man from the sea. He claims to be "the Lord." And he says he can only save them if they all believe in him.

June 14 - Led by Terri Vande Sande

Portrait of A Lady - Henry James

The story of a free-spirited young American woman, Isabel Archer, who inherits a large amount of money and eventually becomes the victim of the scheming by two dissolute American expatriates. In James's own words, it is the story of a woman affronting her destiny. As she grows wealthier, she finds herself paradoxically become less free, bristling against being ground in the very mill of the conventional.

On Sunday, Feb 12th, Rev. Dr. Ruth Correll visited us and shared a bit about her new book for adults on some of the richest stories of the Bible (St. Francis is even mentioned in the acknowledgements!). For information about where to find it, read on!

Watching God Woo the World: An Adult Exploration of God's Grand Story, is available in soft cover (ISBN: 978-1-6642-5687-3; \$19.95) or in electronic form (ISBN: 978-1-6642-5686-6-6; \$4.99) through the publisher who offers a discount for quantity purchases:

Westbow Press

1663 Liberty Drive

Bloomington, IN 47403

<http://www.westbowpress.com>

It is also available through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Walmart. Amazon sells some of the books at a discount which helps cover shipping.

HVAC Update

The following is work currently in place:

New rooftop air cooled chiller set in place with water and electrical connections complete.

New rooftop heat pumps/condensers set in place for the three (3) new Air Handler Units (AHU).

New AHU's 2.1 and 2.2 within St. Francis Hall are complete and operational.

Demolition of AHU 1 within the Cribery is complete.

Installation for new AHU 1 is on-going.

Wiring for HVAC system controls is complete.

Piping insulation for rooftop and mechanical room piping is on-going.

The contractor is maintaining schedule and is currently looking to perform start-up and commissioning in late April or early May.

Reaching Out

Our Faith at Work in Our Community

St. Francis Week At Community Based Shelter

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

The Parish Outreach Committee gratefully acknowledges all who gave their time and culinary talent to furnish a week of varied and nutritious dinners to the residents of Interfaith Works Women's Center from February 27 through March 4. St. Francis has been serving at IWWC for over two decades, and our meals consistently draw rave reviews from the women.

Volunteers from the Women and Men of St. Francis and the Mercy Youth of St. Francis, St. James and Christ Church, Rockville served up an array of menus that included tacos, bbq, baked ham, roast turkey with loads of fresh veggies and fruits and desserts. Leftovers make for hearty next-day lunches, so all was happily received.

With apologies for names not specified, huge thanks are due to the Youth, Mina and Erica Choucroun, Kuangchi and Theresa Peterson, Kathy Herrmann, Terri Vande Sande, Laurel Bahar, Renita and Cyril Ford, Diane Seward, Sue Tendall, Carol Thedford, Margaret Riddle, Grace Rood, Susan Dolan, Lauren and Sophia Gavanis, Emily Gagliardi with daughters Isabella and Grace, Andy Jordan, John Jasin, Keith Gardiner, Carter Jillings, Matt Jillings, and Pat and Erica McNeilly. It was especially gratifying to have first-timers as well as old hands included in that number.

St. Francis Week at IWWC has been an annual Lenten service activity for over two decades, and we look forward to more newcomers and youth joining us again next year.

Susan Dolan, Andy Jordan
Parish Outreach Committee



Reaching Out

Our Faith at Work in Our Community

Outreach Partner Profile: Samaritan Ministry



Our financial and volunteer support of St Francis' Outreach activities directly assists our neighbors, as Christ has entreated us to do. The following is our spotlight on Samaritan Ministry, one of our 14 Outreach partners.

Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington (hereafter SMGW) empowers individual program participants in the Washington, D.C. area whose goal is to transition from poverty to living wage employment and a life of greater promise. SMGW achieves this through their Next Step a program, pioneered as the only non-residential case management program in Greater Washington when it began in 1986. SM's mission begins by empowering their program participants to identify goals and next steps to meet those goals. This includes cultivating capacities and practices to overcome barriers to accomplishing the life goals they identify. In doing so, SM engages their partners (US!) to support SM's impactful efforts in multiple ways with our time, talent, and treasure. In the recent past, 54 percent of those who began SMGW's STRIVE employment training successfully entered the workforce and retained their jobs (pre-pandemic, SMGW's STRIVE placement/retention numbers were around 75 - 80%).

SMGW maintains four offices in D.C., one in Arlington, VA, and one in Silver Spring, MD. Their principal objectives are coaching participants to identify goals and next steps in affordable housing, education, health and food security, and employment readiness, training, and career development. Specific offerings include STRIVE job readiness training, prep for the General Equivalency Degree test, basic digital literacy, as well as general

literacy and mathematics training. SMGW also provides guidance so that participants can obtain public health benefits, and on a select basis, foodstuffs, gift cards, toiletries, and direct financial support.

Demographically, 96% percent of SMGW's clients are Black (African American, West Indian, or African). Latinos, Caucasians and Asian and Pacific Islanders round out their other support recipients. 54 percent are male, 46 percent are female. In terms of age, approximately 25% percent are 18 - 40; 30% are 41-55; 25% are 56 - 65, and the remaining 20% are 66 or older. Their personal challenges range from chronic psychological issues, homelessness, and recovery from substance dependence.

Nearly 75 percent of Samaritan's staff members are volunteers who contributed more than 13,023 volunteer hours as of June 2020. Staff members assist our neighbors by serving as caseworkers, workshop leaders, resume coaches, front office coordinators and in a variety of other critical roles.

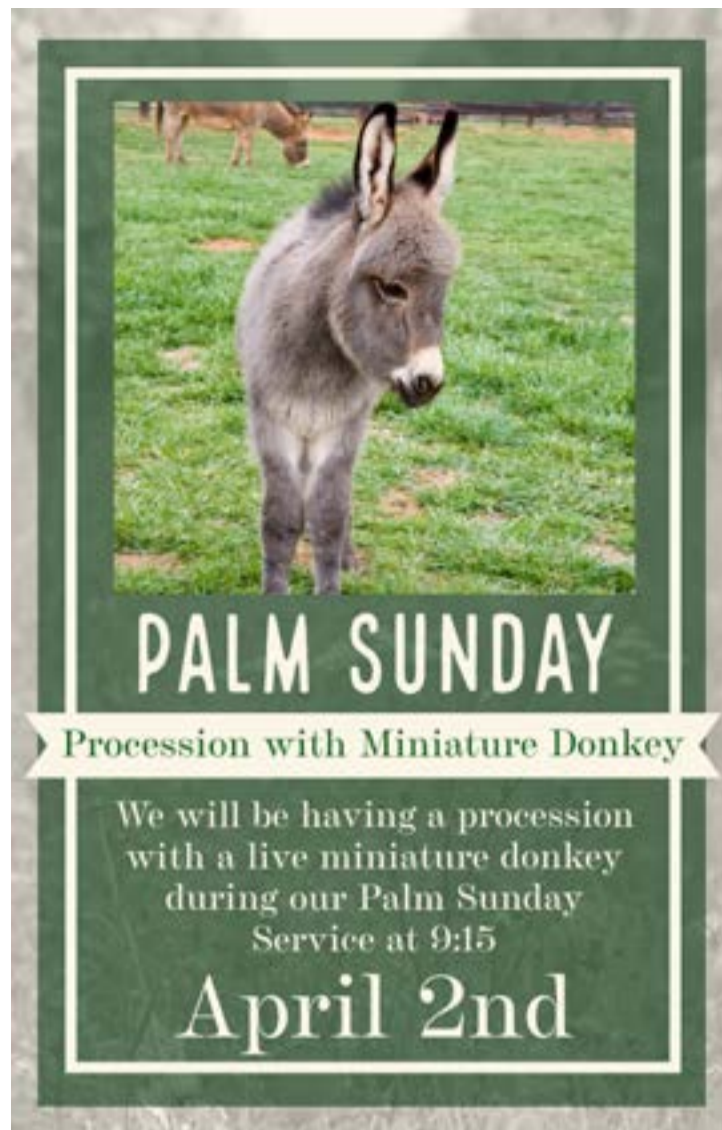
Several of our parish members attended SMGW's Next Step Breakfast on 22 March at the National Press Club to gain a crystal-clear sense of their mission and how we can best partner with them, as individuals and as a partner parish. Please contact Bob Jannotta at gypsyfive@hotmail.com if you want to know more!

Their website is www.samaritanministry.org

Upcoming events can be found on our website St-FrancisPotomac.org, through our weekly eBlasts, or our Sunday Bulletin



Pleasant Hill Farm Tour
 April 27th
 10:30-1:00
 Limited space
 Reserve today



PALM SUNDAY
 Procession with Miniature Donkey
 We will be having a procession with a live miniature donkey during our Palm Sunday Service at 9:15
April 2nd



St. Francis Episcopal Church
EASTER
 egg hunt
 April 9th
 10:30 a.m.
 Located in the St. Francis Field



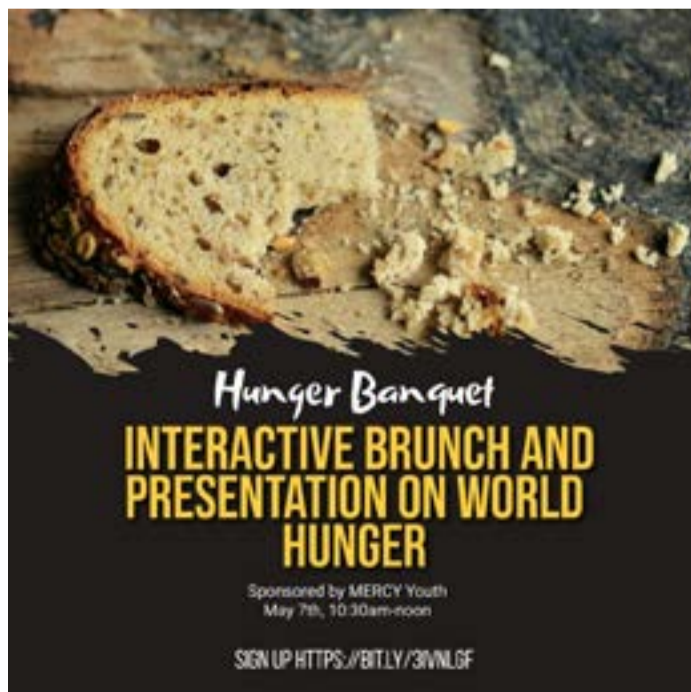
12th April 2023
THE GENTLE ART OF BEEKEEPING
 GUY SEMMES PRESENTER - 6:30
 ST. FRANCIS PARISH HALL



Youth Group Service Project SSL hours
EARTH DAY
 April 19th 2023
 6:30-8:00 p.m
 Christ Church
 contact
 amichael@stfrancispotomac.org



MERCY YOUTH FOOD SORTING
 MAY 13
 Sort and Pack With Us 6:30-8:30pm (VSL Eligible)
 MANNA Food Bank
 8111 Gallop Rd
 Southern Md 20687
 The MARY STATE Food Bank is a 501(c)(3) organization



Hunger Banquet
INTERACTIVE BRUNCH AND PRESENTATION ON WORLD HUNGER
 Sponsored by MERCY Youth
 May 7th, 10:30am-noon
 SIGN UP [HTTPS://BIT.LY/3VNL6GF](https://bit.ly/3vnl6gf)



please Join Us
 for a Charity Baby Shower to benefit local babies in need!
 Sunday, April 23rd at 10:30 AM
 St. Francis Hall
 Food-Games-Fellowship
 Please bring an unwrapped, new gift to be donated.
 Suggestions below.

Praying for Renewal in Kentucky's Holy Land

By Father Mark Michael



You can spot them easily on maps of nationwide religious membership, three Catholic counties in central Kentucky, amid a sea of evangelicals. Rural Nelson, Marion, and Washington counties are known collectively as “the Holy Land,” and their rolling hills are dotted with hamlets called St. Mary, Calvary, and Loretto. About a third of their combined population of 70,000 are Roman Catholics, the highest percentage in the Southeast outside greater Miami and Louisiana’s Cajun country.

It’s a land of front-yard statues of Our Lady of Lourdes and pickup trucks lined up for Saturday night vigil Masses, high-vaulted 19th-century churches surrounded by well-tended cemeteries and flanked by schools rebuilt for baby boomers 75 years ago. There were once seven religious communities based in the Diocese of Louisville, most of them here in the Holy Land. Gethsemani Abbey, the former home of Thomas Merton, still welcomes many pilgrims, as does the Basilica of St. Joseph in Bardstown, completed in 1819 as the first Catholic cathedral west of the Alleghenies, and decorated with paintings sent by Pope Leo XII and King Louis Philippe of France.

Bardstown is more famous these days for its bourbon, and you could fit the basilica inside one of the industry’s seven-story black warehouses without too much trouble. But here, too, the Catholic roots run deep.

The first group of Catholics to settle the region in 1785, 25 families from southern Maryland, were led by Basil Hayden. He was the pioneer distiller of the region (Old Grand-Dad is named for him), but also built its first Catholic church on his farm, Holy Cross, which is the only going concern in the Marion County hamlet to which it gives its name. The Beams (as in Jim Beam) of nearby Clermont were pious Catholics as well, and legend has it that when Father William Byrne founded St. Mary’s College, the first of its kind west of the Alleghenies in 1819, in an abandoned distillery, he used whiskey crates for classroom benches and desks.



I discovered the region while researching my family history, as I am descended from old Maryland Catholics. These English recusants flocked to the colony during its brief interlude as a refuge for Catholics in the mid-17th century. My ancestors gradually made their way west after the colony’s 1689 “Protestant Revolution” banned Catholic worship, and tensions about the Hannoverian succession led to crackdowns on loyalty to the Catholic Stuarts.

One ancestor of mine built a large chapel in his log home as a way around laws against public worship. Some sent children back to Europe to train as Jesuit priests and to join convents. Another was associated with a group arrested for firing a volley in front of the State House on the Old Pretender’s birthday in 1716, when state law banned Catholics from owning firearms. He responded by naming his daughter in honor of the would-be king and his consort a year later. The name “Jacoba Clementina” was proudly passed down through the family for several generations.

None of my relatives were part of Basil Hayden’s first band, but some joined parties that followed soon after, and Kentucky and Maryland cousins kept in contact for generations, often intermarrying, or resettling in each other’s communities to work or be cared for in old age. A first cousin many generations removed, Catherine Spalding, was the foundress of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, a teaching order founded in Bardstown in 1812. Made superior at 19, she ruled the order for 54 years.

The Kentucky Catholics became remarkable institution-builders, founding in a few decades — besides St. Mary’s College — a seminary to train missionaries, several convents, orphanages for boys and girls, and dozens of parishes and schools at a time when central Kentucky was still on the edge of the frontier. They built their churches in brick, generally in a Neoclassical style modeled on the Cathedral of the Assumption in Baltimore. The oldest were adorned with age-blackened Baroque paintings, whose journeys over mountain footpaths or down the Ohio River on keelboats were surely once the stuff of campfire yarns.

Their proclivity for fiery tipples and horseracing aside, the Kentucky Catholics probably most resembled America’s

(Continued on the next page)

(Praying for Renewal in Kentucky's Holy Land Continued-by Father Mark Michael from prior page)

other once-persecuted, culture-building religious group, the Mormons of Utah. Years of opposition from the surrounding Protestant culture confirmed their sense of a just cause and helped cast a vision for the kind of society they could build, if their neighbors would just give them space to do it. Placing a high value on education, they fostered gifted leaders, and hundreds dedicated their lives to helping their new institutions thrive.

I spent a day exploring Nelson, Marion, and Washington counties in December, after attending the Louisville wedding of The Living Church's former executive director, Christopher Wells. I visited several churches and walked long lines of headstones carved with family names I knew well from my research: Elder, Spalding, Mudd.

After vigil Mass on New Year's Eve, I chatted with the pastor of a church that had been served almost 200 years ago by a distant cousin. Like me, he was a Marylander, but most of his ministry had been in the Holy Land. He was a few months short of retirement, and wasn't sure how the diocese would staff his two remote churches once he stepped down.

"They call it the Holy Land," he told me, "that's what it used to be, anyway." His two parish schools had closed decades ago, when vocations ran short at the convents and the local farmers just couldn't afford to pay lay teachers. The church buildings were still tended lovingly, and there were a few dozen families in the pews that Saturday night, in a village with an official population of 144 — not all that bad, considering. But his parish was graying, with few children, offerings were down, and there were serious doubts about the future.

"What happened? Was it the abuse scandals?" I asked. "No," he responded, "furthest thing from it. Just laziness — not teaching the faith to their children, not showing up. I guess they just didn't know what they had."

I hope the well-meaning — if rather weary — priest won't have the last word on the Catholics of Kentucky's Holy Land. As a leader in another church blessed with its own glorious past and struggling with similar forms of decline and forgetfulness, I can hardly cast stones. These days, at least, old Maryland Catholics and Anglicans have more in common than our ancestors would have guessed.

In church after church, I gave thanks for those who had brought the gospel to these communities, facing the hazards bravely, inspiring dedication and generosity in those who gathered in them. I also prayed for renewal, that the sons and daughters of Kentucky would fill the convent stalls and seminary desks again, that parish schools would reopen, and leaders be raised up to tackle today's problems: joblessness and opiate addiction.

Lent summons God's lazy people, those who "just don't know what they had." Joel speaks to weary Israel, "Rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love." God, who justly condemns our indifference, also promises new life to those who repent. "I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions."

Once the Spirit was poured out, and a 19-year-old girl became mother superior, cathedrals were raised in the wilderness, and boys learned the faith while sitting on whiskey crates. Who's to say he can't do it again?



Please visit the website <https://covenant.livingchurch.org/> for more articles written by Father Mark, in addition to other educational resources and news.

Don't Miss A Thing!

Each Friday, we send out an email with announcements and information about upcoming services and events. We also send this newsletter and periodic important announcements such as inclement weather updates, upcoming event information, and other notices. These announcements are sent through MailChimp. If you would like to receive these digital announcements, please [Click Here](#) or contact the parish office. We will make sure you are added to the distribution list. You can also go to our website and click the join our mailing list button at the bottom of the homepage.

Spread the word about St. Francis!

How has it helped you?

How has it impacted your family?

What is special about our church family?

Your testimony may inspire someone to walk through our doors

Review us on Google,
Yelp or Facebook

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed

Do you love to chat with fellow parishioners? Then we'd love to have your smiling face greeting our church family and visitors after Sunday services. It's an easy and fun way to get involved here at church, and requires a very small time commitment. Simply set out the coffee, hot water, tea, and donuts and then do a quick clean up after folks have helped themselves. Please [sign up here](#) or contact Kathy Herrmann with questions. Thanks in advance!



Christmas Flower Donations Thank You!

Laurence C. Nolan

Renita Ford

Fan Oleson

John Jason

Wayne Tomlinson

Carol Jarvis

John and Katherine Schaeffgen

Patricia Marsh

Florence Degozzaldi

Kathy & Norm Barker

Carol Thedford

Jules Bernard

Roy Day

Helen Stupar

Chuck & Helen Wilson

Laura Meredith

Our services are live streamed.

By entering the premises, you consent to photography, audio recording, video recording and its/their release, publication, exhibition, or reproduction to be used for live streaming, promotional purposes, advertising, inclusion on web sites, social media sites, and/or any other purpose by St. Francis Episcopal Church.

Don't want to be visible in the live stream? No problem! If you sit in the very back left corner of the church, you will not be visible on any of the cameras - if you can't see the camera on the left side of the altar, it can't see you! The rear camera does not show the back pews.

More information is available on our [website](#).



Faith Resource Recommendation

Three members of Saint Francis have lifted up the Sacred Space books and podcast as helpful companions to their recent spiritual journey. Jennifer Jones wrote up a brief summary and commendation of the resources for us:

Sacred Space is a prayer resource that facilitates daily prayer and can be especially helpful both as an occasional prayer resource, and as a way to cultivate a regular prayer practice. <https://www.sacredspace.ie/content/about-sacred-space>

Sacred Space publishes daily prayer books, which include new editions annually for Advent, Lent, or the entire year. The Sacred Space website has many additional prayer and retreat resources, and it includes links to the daily prayer App or Podcast, “Pray As You Go”. “Pray as You Go” daily prayers are usually 8-10 minutes in a format that guides you through each session of prayer.

It is difficult to convey how well the “Pray As You Go” recordings (and other Sacred Space Resources) facilitate spending time with God in prayer, but they really do, in ways that are beautiful and transformative!

Are You New to Our Church Family?

We're very glad you are here! We look forward to getting to know you better, and we hope you will join us at upcoming services and other parish activities. Please [click here](#) to share your contact info so we can give you a proper welcome. [Click here](#) or visit our website to join our email list so you receive the weekly and monthly communications. You can also fill out the communication card in the pew or 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.



Time to Update Our Parish Directory!



Over the next three or four months, we will be assembling a new directory.

If you already have a family photo you would like to use, feel free to send it as a high-resolution email attachment to Pastor Allison.

If you do not have a recent family photo, our AV technician and talented photographer Sean Smith will offer **15 minute photo shoots for \$25 per family** (if you want something more involved, you can do a 30 minute shoot for \$40). You'll get the digital images to use as you wish, and you can choose your favorite for the directory.

Contact **Pastor Allison** for more information or sign up for photos at:
<http://bit.ly/3IWW4N7>

Parish Photo Directory. Our parish photo directory is out of date, with some of the children in it now grown. Over the next three or four months, we will be assembling a new directory. We will do it in-house, so if you already have a family photo you would like to use, feel free to send it as a high-resolution email attachment to Pastor Allison. If you do not have a recent family photo, our AV technician and talented photographer Sean Smith will offer 15 minute photo shoots for \$25 per family (if you want something more involved, you can do a 30 minute shoot for \$40). You'll get the digital images to use as you wish, and you can choose your favorite for the directory. This is a great way to get a quick family portrait and to help us get to know one another better. Sign up soon for a time here: <http://bit.ly/3IWW4N7>

Parish Life

Kathy Herrmann, the Parish Life & Outreach Coordinator here at St. Francis, has planned many fun and interesting events for you. Please come and gather with your church family for these exciting events.

Don't miss the fun! Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

May 21st is Youth Sunday and the annual Parish Picnic. We celebrate the children of St. Francis during the service (maybe they'll even sing for us) and then gather for a picnic to close out the school year.



Our **Talk of the Town** series explores current topics that are important and relevant to our community today. It features a variety of speakers and topics designed to spark discussion and interest about things that are currently affecting our lives. We encourage you to bring your family and friends and to follow up with meaningful discussions about these topics. Mark your calendars for these upcoming presentations.

If you have any ideas for future topics or speakers, please let Kathy know.

April 12

We look forward to our next Talk of the Town, The Gentle Art of Beekeeping April 12th. Dinner starts at 5:30 pm and the event begins at 6:30 pm.

May 10

Patrick Lacefield – Songs and Stories from the Blue and Gray with Patrick Lacefield

June 14

Patricia Maclay – The Hero of Two Worlds: The Story of the Marquis de Lafayette

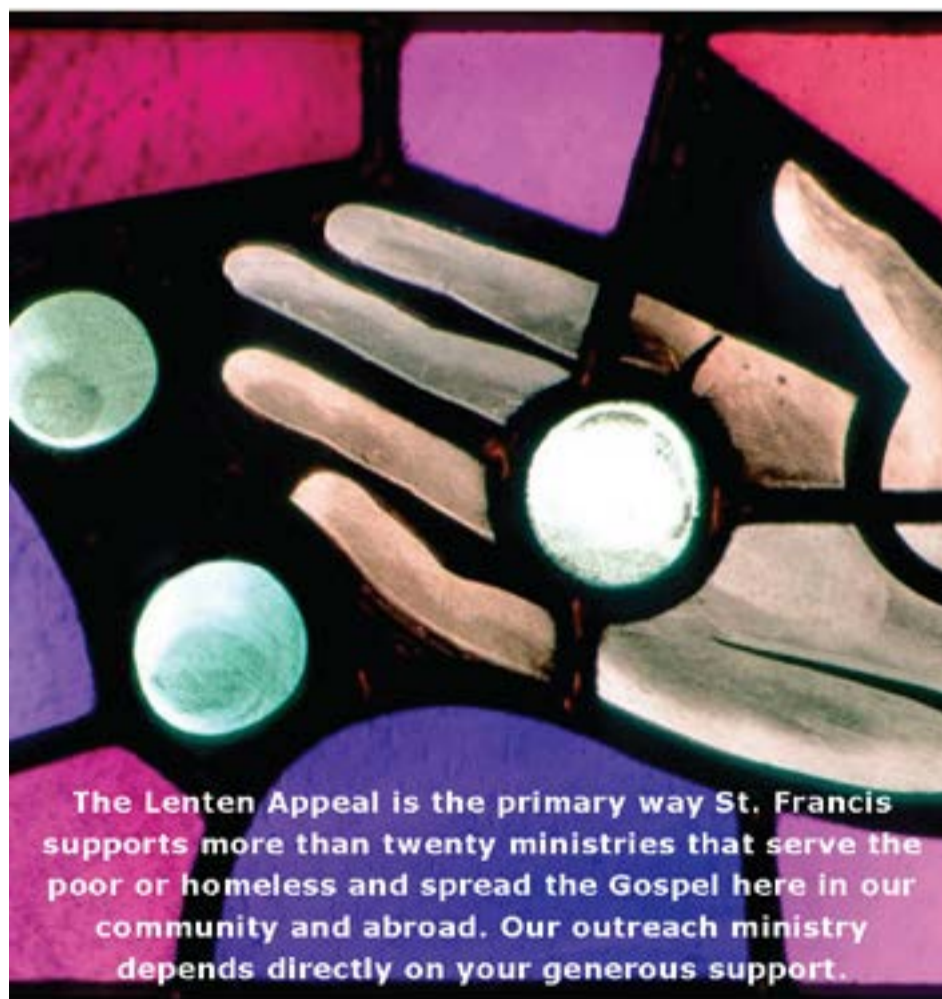
Lenten Appeal Announcement

In response to Christ's call for us to spread his word, as well as support the poor and disadvantaged, St Francis' Lenten Appeal is currently in progress. We appeal to each of our parishioners for an annual one-time financial contribution. The proceeds of this program support our church's vetted partners in Montgomery County which aid those transitioning from homelessness, as well as families in need of temporary shelter, and individuals overcoming poverty due to physical/mental handicaps or adult illiteracy. Further afield, our appeal supports two Anglican Dioceses in Tanzania, and a British/U.S. organization which trains (mainly) women in developing countries with micro-enterprise development skills, as well as to recover from trauma.

Lenten Appeal 2023

'OPEN YOUR HAND TO THE POOR AND NEEDY
NEIGHBOR IN YOUR LAND'

- DEUTERONOMY 15:11



The Lenten Appeal is the primary way St. Francis supports more than twenty ministries that serve the poor or homeless and spread the Gospel here in our community and abroad. Our outreach ministry depends directly on your generous support.

Along with prayer and fasting, almsgiving is a key component of Lenten discipline.

Annual Lenten Appeal

The Annual Lenten Appeal, which is the primary source of funding for the parish's Outreach grants and activities, begins with Ash Wednesday and will run through Easter Sunday, April 9. We hope you will make this form of almsgiving part of your Lenten discipline, and take some time to learn a little about some of the wonderful organizations that are supported by our community:

Community Ministries of Rockville-Seeks to improve the quality of life for the most vulnerable Montgomery County residents by providing them with basic health and human services and advocating on their behalf, with the goal of helping them achieve and maintain self-sufficiency.

<https://www.cmrocks.org/>

Fishing School- An after school tutoring program for at risk youths in Washington D.C.

<https://www.fishingschool.org/>

Five Talents International- Partners with local churches in some of the world's poorest countries to provide training in adult literacy, savings-led microfinance, business development and trauma healing. <https://fivetalents.org/>

Interfaith Works- Provides emergency shelter, supportive housing, essential needs, and employment programs to over 35,000 residents of Montgomery County, MD, every year. <https://www.iworksmc.org/>

Manna Food Center: Regional food distribution center which seeks to eliminate hunger through food distribution, education, and advocacy. <https://www.mannafood.org/>

Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless- Ending homelessness may seem like an insurmountable goal, but we believe that Montgomery County can make homelessness a rare, brief, and nonrecurring experience. <https://mcch.net/>

Samaritan Ministry- We are a faith-based organization, which is bringing together our neighbors who face poverty, homelessness or other debilitating challenges with partner leaders, donors, volunteers and staff in a shared ministry that improves the lives of all throughout the Washington area <https://samaritanministry.org/>

Shepherd's Table- At Shepherd's Table, we aim to improve quality of life, create a pathway towards self-sufficiency, and inspire hope for the most vulnerable in Montgomery County. We welcome every individual who walks through our door—a population experiencing food insecurity, homelessness, and poverty. <https://www.shepherdstable.org/>

Society for Promotion of Christian Knowledge:

Rooted firmly in the Anglican tradition, our goal is to enable Christians in their local churches to grow in faith and knowledge. We support projects for the creation, preparation, translation, and distribution of Christian knowledge by utilizing print and other media; as a missionary society, we work for the proclamation and understanding of the gospel in and by all nations. <https://spckusa.org/#about-us>

Stepping Stones Shelter: Stepping Stones Shelter Inc. provides a continuum of services (emergency shelter, permanent supportive housing, and post-shelter support) to homeless families with children in order to move them from crisis to a stable home environment. <https://steppingstonesshelter.org/>

The Dwelling Place: Our mission is to help homeless families with their pursuit of self-sufficiency by providing transitional housing, education, financial and life skills, and career enhancement opportunities. Over the past thirty years, we have helped close to 300 families in securing stable housing. <https://tdp-inc.org/>

Bishops Almasi and Gaula: Bishop James Almasi of Masiasi, Tanzania, and Bishop Given Gaula of Kondo, Tanzania have long-standing relationships with Saint Francis, and vibrant ministries in their diocese. We support projects and needs in their dioceses.

Loaves and Fishes: A ministry of St. Stephen and the Incarnation Episcopal Church, which serves meals to anyone in need on Saturdays, Sundays and Federal Holidays (when many other meal services do not operate). <https://www.saintstephensdc.org/ministries-and-small-groups>

First Communion



**“Taste and see that the Lord is good!” (Ps. 34:8).
Three of our young people celebrated their First
Communions on Sunday!
Congratulations Emma, Henry, and Thomas.
January 22nd, 2023**

Periodic Financial Summary

We continue to carefully manage our budget, making necessary expenditures on our property and systems, and planning for upcoming expenses. The vestry and financial committee work hard to schedule the many necessary property repairs so our cash flow is not negatively impacted.

As always, we rely on parishioner pledges and donations to fund our office operations, ministries, and programs, and we encourage you to continue to support St. Francis Episcopal Church. As you can see, our pledge receipts were significantly lower than budgeted this period, and our expenses were slightly higher than budgeted. In light of that, we encourage you to make your periodic pledge payments. The finance committee created our annual budget based on the amounts pledged by parishioners during our pledge campaign, and we rely on that income to meet our expenses. Thank you to everyone who supports St. Francis Episcopal Church and our work here in Potomac, in Montgomery County, and beyond.

St. Francis Episcopal Church Financial Summary

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Pledge receipts	\$ 675,898	629,683	\$ 46,215
Other income	468,833	448,802	20,031
Total Income	1,144,731	1,078,485	66,246
Less: Expenses	<u>1,078,875</u>	<u>1,054,338</u>	<u>(24,537)</u>
Net	<u>\$ 65,857</u>	<u>\$ 24,147</u>	<u>\$ 41,710</u>

GIVING TO ST FRANCIS

We invite you to use one of these methods to make your pledge payments or periodic gifts. Electronic donations are processed through Realm, our secure church management system.

DONATE ELECTRONICALLY

To give electronically, [click here](https://stfrancispotomac.org/give/) or visit <https://stfrancispotomac.org/give/>. You can pay by electronic transfer or by credit card, and your payment will be processed through Realm, our secure third-party system. If you choose to pay by credit card, please consider adding 3% to cover processing costs. Please also consider setting up a recurring gift to meet your pledge.

TEXT TO GIVE

To give by text, text the word "StFrancis" to 73256 to give using your mobile device. Then select the fund associated with your gift (e.g, pledge, flowers, memorial, outreach, etc). If you need assistance with text giving, text HELP.

SEND A CHECK

Mail checks to St. Francis Episcopal Church 10033 River Rd Potomac, MD 20854. Our mailbox is locked to secure all mail. Please note any designations on the memo line (e.g., pledge, flowers, music, memorial, etc.) so your gift is properly applied.

Thank you for helping us do God's work here in Potomac and beyond.

Sundays



Middle and high school students from St. Francis Episcopal Church (10033 River Rd., Potomac, MD), Christ Episcopal Church St. James Episcopal (Seven Locks Rd.), and Christ Church (109 S Washington St, Rockville, MD) gather together for Youth Group meetings on many Sunday evenings. We rotate meeting locations between churches and other venues (restaurants, parks, activities, service projects, etc.). We often do special events or outings, so be sure to check the calendar or contact amichael@stfrancispotomac.org.



Most weeks, Youth Group includes dinner. We are a dynamic, welcoming, and judgment-free group of faithful and thoughtful teens who gather to apply our Christian values to our everyday lives. Come join us! We examine the everyday struggles, anxieties, and issues that today's teens face, and we learn to use our Christian faith to help us navigate these hurdles. Together, we serve those who are in need through service projects, mission trips, fundraisers, and other activities. Come join us – many of our kids bring their friends to these meetings. All middle and high school students are welcome!



2023 SF YOUTH EVENTS

March 12	Movie Night and Blanket Making 6:30-8:30pm Saint Francis Church
March 26	Peeps Dioramas 6:30-8pm Saint James Church
April 9	Easter Christ is Risen! Worship!
April 16	Earth Day Service Project 6:30-8pm Christ Episcopal Church
April 30	Movie Theater Outing Time and Movie TBD
May 21	Youth Sunday 9:15am Saint Francis Church

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL amichael@stfrancispotomac.org

Celebrations

Please celebrate with these members of our church family

Happy Birthday

Cynthia Alexander
Debbie Alexander
James Alexander
Jordan Barker
Sarah Barpoulis
Pat Bernard
Faye Bonner
Kian Buffington
Devar Burbage
Wendy Burr
Warren E. Burton
David Byford
Charles Byrd
Lara Caputo
Ruth Celi
Diana Courie
Dillon Cuddapah
Nathan Cummings
Nathan Cummings Jr.
Olivia Cummings
Caroline Davis
William Davis
Sharon Day
Roy Day
Elena Detwiler
Laura Dinsmore
Lee Elliott
Steven G. Ertel
Taylor Estrada
Cynthia Ewel
Heather Farrell
Prentiss Feagles
Kimberley Fraser
Anne Gaddy
Lisa Gaddy
Sandy Gaddy
Alice (Cissy) Grant
Julia Hancock
Allen Herrmann

Kathleen Herrmann
Madison Herrmann
Andrea Tracy Holmes
Elizabeth Hough
Mary Hulen
Cashell Hurdle
Katherine Jannotta
Carter Jillings
Emma Jillings
Lee Anne Jillings
Fred Johnsen
Bret Johnson
Caleb Johnson
Kendrick Johnson
Marion Jordan
Harrison Latimer
Eleanor Leak
Dylan Leemhuis
Katelynn Leemhuis
Katie Ludwick
Cyril Lyskowski
George Maroulis
Hollis McLoughlin
Philip Michael
Tommy Morey
Kaaren Agnez Morgan
John Mott
Shanti Nanan
Fifa Northrop
Ruby Oleson
Hugh O'Neil
Coreta Osborne
Andrea Riccio
Theo Ritchie
Marlys Rixey
Adam Schneider
Karen Schneider
Katherine Schneider
Sally Schofield
Margie Scott
Hallie Stosur, MD

Helen Stupar
Elizabeth Sturgeon
Sue Tendall
Geoffrey Tinkham
Louise Todd
Grayson Tozer
Henderson Tozer
Hunter Tozer
Terri Vande Sande
William Weglicki
John Whatley
Kathleen Whatley
Nancy Whitlock
William C. Wyatt
Jeff Young

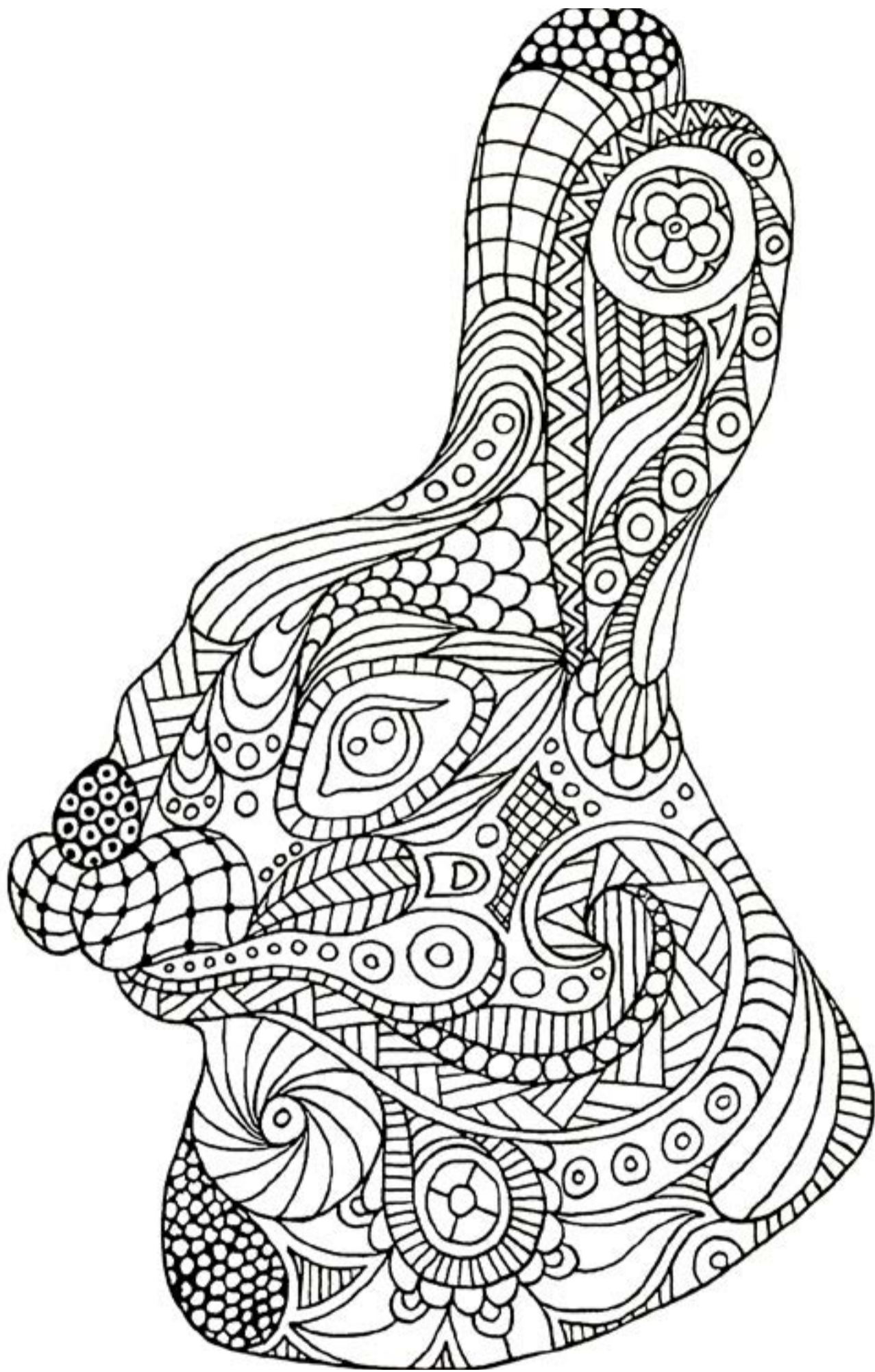
Happy Anniversary

Martyna & Matt Hunter
Katelynn & Matthew Leemhuis
Jon & Nancy O'Connor
Dustin Todd & Andrea Riccia

Celebrations

We have had (and will have) a joyful throng of baptisms this spring. We welcome Ruby and Desmond Oleson, Louise and James Todd, Holden Huth, and Theo Lundelius to the household of God! If you haven't already, please introduce yourselves to the families, and welcome their young ones as you would your own children and grandchildren!







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:

Sunday at: 9:15am

Morning Prayer:

Mon, Wed, Fri at 8:30am

Evening Prayer:

Wed, Fri at 5pm



301-365-2055

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday - Friday 10am - 4pm

Email Us!

Rector: Mark Michael
mmichael@stfrancispotomac.org

Pastor for Adult Formation & Youth Ministry: Dr. Allison Michael
amichael@stfrancispotomac.org

Organist & Choir Master: John Widmann

Sunday School Director: Kathy Herrmann
kherrmann@stfrancispotomac.org

StFrancisPotomac.org



Property Manager: Shanti Nanan
sanan@stfrancispotomac.org

Parish Life & Outreach Coordinator:
Kathy Herrmann
kherrmann@stfrancispotomac.org

Business Manager: Marybeth Krajcik
mrbeth@stfrancispotomac.org

Communications:
communications@stfrancispotomac.org

AV & Livestream: Sean Smith
communications@stfrancispotomac.org



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