

SOUNDS OF ST. FRANCIS

SPRING 2024



ST. FRANCIS
POTOMAC

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ON THE COVER:

St. Francis in Spring
Photo credit: Sean Smith



**ST. FRANCIS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**
WWW.STFRANCISPOTOMAC.ORG

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Pastor for Adult and Youth Formation
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Organist and Choirmaster
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AV and Livestream Technician
Sean Smith
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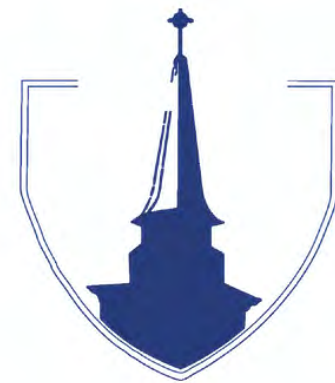
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Photo Credits: Kathy Herrmann, Adam Schneider,
Sean Smith, Pastor Allison

CURRENT SERVICE SCHEDULE



SUNDAYS

No 8:00am Morning Prayer
in June

10:00am Holy Eucharist
*Light Refreshments after the
service*

TUESDAYS

11am Bible Study

WEDNESDAYS

8:30am Morning Prayer
11am Book Club(3rd Wednesdays)

5pm Evening Prayer(not live-
streamed)

THURSDAYS

Noon Savvy Seniors ZOOM
(1st Thursday)

Noon Savvy Seniors
Luncheon (3rd Thursday)

FRIDAYS

8:30am Morning Prayer
5pm Evening Prayer(not live-
streamed)



Welcome to Saint Francis Episcopal Church in Potomac, Maryland! Whether you have been a member of Saint Francis for decades or are new to our community, you will find here rich opportunities to worship the risen Lord, a warm welcome, and many opportunities to grow in faith and love.

Wherever you are in your own walk of faith, we would love to have you with us, not because we want something from you, but because we have tasted and seen that the Lord is good at Saint Francis, and we want to share that with you.



Rector's

thoughts

Dear Saint Francis Friends,

This spring has been a joyful and active time at Saint Francis, and I am so glad for all the ways that the Spirit has been at work. Excellent Talk of the Towns, a wonderful women's retreat, beautiful choral and organ music in worship, and enthusiastic young children have blessed us. If you haven't been around, I encourage you to jump back in as summer draws near!

Spring is a wonderful time to reevaluate your pattern of life (sometimes called a "rule of life" or better yet, a "recipe of life") to find ways to bring your days into balance. It sounds more daunting than it is. Taking stock of the rhythms of your days is nothing more or less than being intentional about arranging your time to nourish your most important relationships and recentering life on the most important things.

Consider taking a moment to jot down the areas of responsibility in your life—God, family, work, friends—and to think about what it might look like on a practical level to nourish and live faithfully in each of those areas of life. The goal is NOT to add tons of items to your to-do list, but to find ways to balance our days so that each facet of your God-given vocation has room to grow and flourish.

Some questions you might want to ask are:

- What helps me cultivate true joy? How can I put more of that in my life? (not the blah feeling we get from too much sitting around for hours or eating too much chocolate cake, but the lasting satisfaction we get from giving, serving, loving, and enjoying good things of this life with gratitude to God!)
- What helps me cultivate patience in the midst of hardships?
- What can I do as a part of my daily and weekly routine to nourish my relationship with God?
- How can I give myself intentionally to members of my family in a way that builds up your love for one another?
- What gifts do I have that can best contribute to my workplace or church community?
- What tasks tend to crowd out the more important things in life? What should I say no to so that I can yes to something better? Is there an area of life where I'm doing more than I should be doing?
- What do I find hard to make myself do, but I'm always glad to have done it after the fact?
- Is there anyone who can support me in this? Would it help to share this rule with someone else for accountability?

It often helps to have a few routine anchors in your days, weeks and months. For example, you may decide that your morning or evening routine will always include some kind of prayer, that you want to have dinner with your spouse once a week, or that you want to volunteer somewhere with your kids once a month. Our recipe for life should include gathering on the Lord's Day to worship with other Christians and receive the sacrament as God has commanded us (yes, even in the summer months wherever we are), and it should include other intentional ways of nourishing relationships with God and with others. All healthy relationships require time and generosity!

But apart from that common thread, there's ample room for variety at each phase of life. Whatever you discern, keep it flexible enough to allow for life's surprises and changes! If you ever want to discuss your "recipe for life," Fr. Mark or I would love to meet with you as you think through some of these questions.

Whatever your life looks like at the moment we are both praying that this summer will be for you a time for balance, peace, and joy in the midst of life's ebb and flow.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Allision

Staff and the Vestry

Staff



Shanti Nanan
Parish Administrator
snanan@stfrancispotomac.org



Kathy Herrmann
Sunday School Director and
Parish Life Coordinator
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Sean Smith
Live Stream Producer
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Sarah Harich
Nursery Care



John Widmann
Organist and Choirmaster
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Vestry



Sue Tendell
Senior Warden



Prentiss Feagles
Junior Warden



Tyler Maroulis
Treasurer



Les Smith
Clerk of the Vestry



Mark Michael
Rector



Erica McNeilly
Diocesan Delegate



Debra Byam
Vestry Member



Patrick McNeilly
Diocesan Delegate



Matt Hunter
Vestry Member



Gaines Hurdle
Vestry Member



Reverend Allison Michael
Adult Formation and Youth Ministry
amichael@stfrancispotomac.org



Kenneth Tester



Fan Oleson
Vestry Member



J David Ruf
Vestry Member



Adam Schneider
Vestry Member



Tom Whitlock
Vestry Member



Clay Hough
Legal Counsel



Ann Warren

Our Staff and Vestry welcome new faces as well as members taking on new roles.

Easter Celebrations





*Sunday School & Nursery
Students*



MUSIC NOTES

A Letter from Our Organist and Choir Director John Widmann

Internationally known Carillonneur

It has been a busy month or two! We had an excellent Brass and Timpani Group that added to the music for our Easter celebration. The choir also did a beautiful job on Choral Morning Prayer on April 14.

In organ news, over the last two months, all of the pipes of our organ have been brought back online and are playable. The sound had been all-digital since September. We have some additional digital stops available, and some of the pipe stops need some significant work. As we can afford it, some of those sets of pipes will be returned to Trivo reeds in Hagerstown. Of interest, Trivo was the subcontractor to Moller for reed pipes when our organ was built in 1979, so the restoration on these pipes will be done by the original



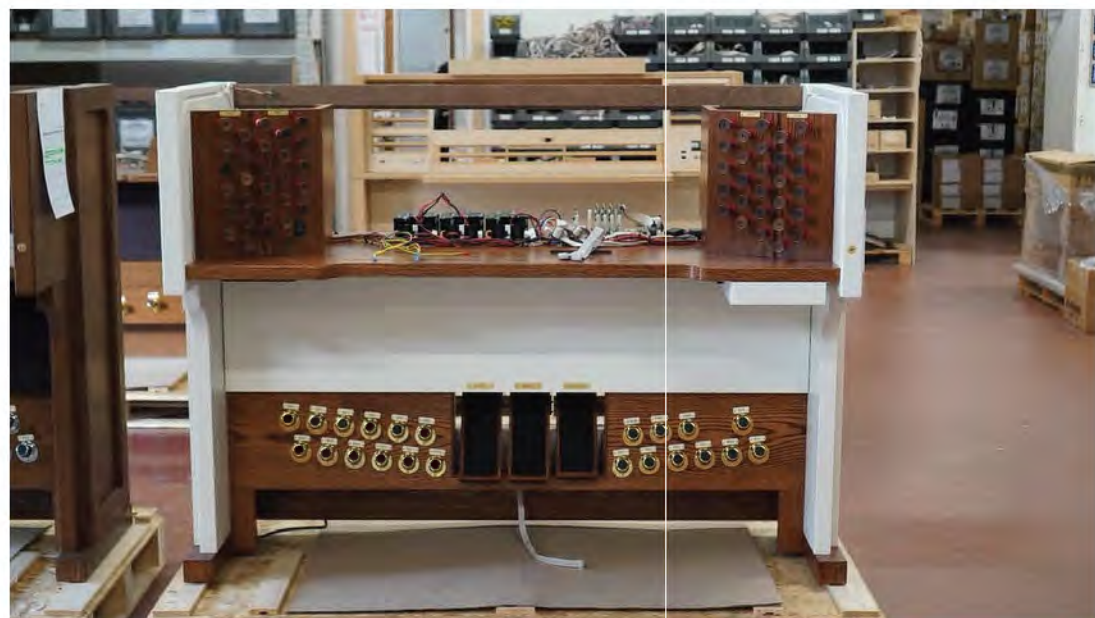
manufacturer. Some of the stops that need the most work are temporarily shut down. They'll play, but the digital representation is much better for the time being.

We continue to use the excellent temporary console that was loaned to us by the builder until our permanent one gets installed, which should be soon. Attached, you will find some pictures of our permanent console's construction in Italy. The permanent console is painted and stained to match our pews.

Many of my organist friends have been by to try the instrument, and we hosted an American Guild of Organists member recital on April 21.

If you would like to join in making a special contribution, you can do so by going to REALM and into the Giving section, clicking on the tab captioned "Organ Appeal." Any contributions are greatly appreciated!

John Widmann



PARISH LIFE

Recent Activities and Events

We have been busy with a wide variety of activities here at St. Francis. We work hard to have activities that appeal to a wide range of ages and interests, and we hope you have enjoyed some of the recent things we have done together. Mark your calendars now for the upcoming events, so you don't miss out on any of the fun.



Car Care Workshop at the Schneider's garage



Flower Making with Lisa Ruff



Not Pictured:
The Altar Guild had their annual luncheon on May 11 at Debra Byam's beautiful home. Everyone enjoyed a lovely day of fellowship and fine food. A special recognition was given to Liz Harrison for her dedication to St. Francis.

Talk of the Town Series- Eyewitness 10/7



Love Your Neighbor

Service Project Round-Robin



Photos of those who came to participate in projects for veterans, nursing home members, and local children in need.

Saint Francis Women's Retreat



Road from Hilldene

Growing Up
on a Farm in the
Great Depression



LeROY DAY



LeRoy -
Maybe it grows in your heart -
think the Enterprise looks great -
even aerodynamically speaking! All
those many and continuing meetings,
reviews, boards, etc. have
brought home fruit. You find
the time.

"The Girls Who Stepped out of Line"

Major General Mari K Eder joined the St. Francis book club to speak to the book "The Girls who stepped out of Line"- Untold Stories of the Women Who Changed the Course of WWII. She also shared a powerful presentation at Talk of the Town.



On Saturday, 06 April, 12 St Francis members represented our parish at Samaritan Ministry's (SM) annual Next Step Breakfast at the National Press Club. The event was a great opportunity to hear from SM leadership, as well as an individual that turned his life around with SM support after a period of homelessness. The breakfast was also a joyful opportunity for us to commit to following Christ's admonition to love our neighbors as ourselves.



Appalachian Mission Trip Preparation

Ken Hurdle teaches MERCY teens and adults some tool skills and worksite safety ahead of our June mission trip to West Virginia!

Mercy Youth

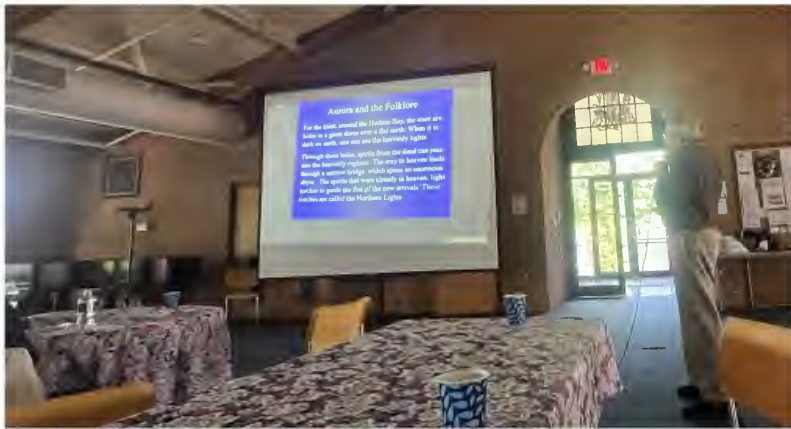


First Communion

William Davis, Eleanor
Buckwalter, and Vega
Hearn celebrate their First
Communion

Multicultural Night

The church enjoyed a wonderful potluck dinner. A laid back evening. Attendees shared dishes from all over the world.



Savvy Seniors

Members participated in a lovely presentation about the Aurora Borealis.



Reaching Out

Our Faith at Work in Our Community

LENTEN APPEAL 2024: Thanks to all contributors!

The 2024 Lenten Appeal has concluded, and the parish Outreach Committee is grateful to the many who contributed. As you may be aware, the Lenten Appeal is the primary source of funding for all Committee grants and activities. Without your support we wouldn't be able to offer this financial assistance to our outreach ministry partners, or undertake projects requiring underwriting as well as equity. With your generosity, the 2023 Appeal has raised over \$30,000 to aid the less fortunate nearby and abroad.

Once the committee has determined this year's grant allocations, we will again publish a list of recipient organizations. For now, we would like to acknowledge all 2024 donors, and apologize if any names inadvertently have been omitted from the list.

- Susan Dolan, Outreach Committee

Leigh and Kathleen Alexander

Mary Ashworth

Laurel Bahar

Brooks Bowen

Devar Burbage

Debra Byam

Charles Byrd

Roy Day

Susan Dolan and Mal Kiniry

Faith and William Doody

Norman and Marianne Enger

Prentiss and Gail Feagles

Renita Ford

Donald and Elizabeth Harrison

Allen and Kathleen Herrmann

David and Barbara Heywood

Audrey Hillsley

Bob and Shelly Jannotta

John Jasin and Marion Jordan

Matt and Lee Anne Jillings

Fred Johnsen and Karen Brinkmann

Eleanor Leak

Katie Ludwick

Frank Martin and Tricia Mussante

Patrick and Erica McNeilly

Karen Meyers

Mark and Allison Michael

Laurence Nolan

C.O. and Shelley North

Fan Oleson

Grace Rood

Russell and Sally Schofield

Tim and Dian Seward

Les Smith

Skip and Sue Tendall

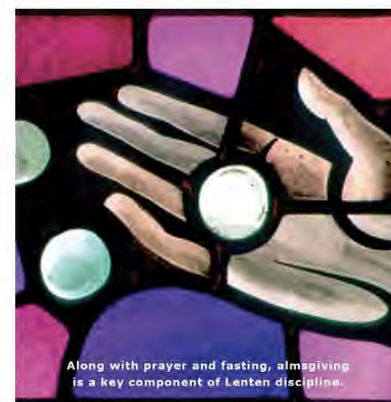
Kenneth and Sarah Tester

Carol Thedford

Wanda Tomlinson

Thomas and Terri Vande Sande

Dottie Vogelsinger



Margaret P. Warren

Bill Weinig

John and Kathleen Whatley

Tom and Nancy Whitlock

Charles (Chuck) Wilson

Steven and Janet Wilson

Jeff and Norma Young

Youth Sunday and Parish Picnic

***Sunday, June 2nd,
10 am worship, 11
am picnic with
bounce house,
games, good food,
and other fun!***

***We want ALL of
the kids and teens
involved in
worship that day!***

Contact

***kherrmann@stfrancis
potomac.com for
more information!***



VBS

2024

STELLAR

SHINE JESUS' LIGHT

VACATION BIBLE STUDY

August 12–15

9a.m.–3p.m

St. Francis Episcopal Church
10033 River Road Potomac

301-365-2055



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 upcoming services and other parish activities.

Please share your contact info so we can give you a proper welcome. 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, Pastor Allison Michael, our newcomers committee, and our entire church family welcome you with open arms.





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 Facebook or Yelp

Refreshment 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 assist with setting up a table for light refreshments followed by a quick clean up after folks have helped themselves. Please contact Kathy Herrmann with questions. Thanks in advance!



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](#).

Financial Summary: St. Francis ended the month with a \$16k positive change in net assets (net surplus). April had a large negative impact on the bottom line, mainly due to the timing of the lease payment from the tenant, giving being lower and a downturn in investment performance, which brought the bottom line down by \$40k in April, after a strong 1st quarter of investment performance. [There has been some significant market rebound in May.] The operating change in net assets was a -\$14k (net deficit). Revenue YTD through April 2024 exceeded budget by \$26k due to pledge giving and Other Gifts and Offerings (driven by the Lenten Appeal, which in total for FY24 was \$35k), but higher expenses in most categories drove the deficit April YTD. The church is in an overall strong cash position with \$1.1m of cash and marketable securities which is 7.1 months' worth of expenses.