



Grounded in Faith, Growing in Fellowship

- Parish Leaders & Staff**
 Gigi Nicholas, *Senior Warden*
 Dan Bradley, *Co-Jr. Warden*
 Nancy Long, *Co-Jr. Warden*
 The Rev. Kate Cullinane, *Interim Rector*
 The Rev. Jesse W. Abell, *Associate Rector*
 The Rev. Steve Giovangelo, *Priest In Residence*
 A. Lee Barlow, *Organist & Choirmaster*
 Laura Gronski, *Parish Administrator*
 Woody Muse, *Sexton*
 Scott Sanders, *Treasurer*
 Geoff Hoops, *Vestry*
 Jerry Munson, *Vestry*
 Tom Merchat, *Vestry*
 Jan Fezatte, *Vestry*
 Warren MacKellar, *Vestry*
 PT Buntin, *Vestry*
 Bob Royalty, *Search Committee Co-Chair*
 Wendell Walls, *Search Committee Co-Chair*

Service Times:

Saturdays 6pm
Sundays 8am & 10am

This Month at St. Francis:

Adult Forum Sundays 9am

Middle School Youth Group
2nd Sunday of the Month 11:15am
(March 14th)

High School Youth Group
3rd Sunday of the Month 7pm
(March 21st)

Search Committee 7pm
2nd & 4th Mondays
(March 8th & 22nd)

Daylight Savings Begins March 14th

- Vestry Meeting 7pm March 15th
- Newsletter Deadline March 17th
- Diocesan Retreat for Individuals & Families March 19th-21st

OFFICE CLOSED
Good Friday April 2nd

March 2010 *FieldNotes*

Living in Lent

It's finally here. Lent. It's hard to believe that the Epiphany season is already over. We now shift into that penitential season.

The Church offers us Lent as a time to reflect on our lives, to find aspects of them that need spring cleaning, and to put those back into order. The big three traditional practices the Church suggests to us during this season are **prayer, fasting, and charity**.

Peter Chrysologus, the fifth century Bishop of Ravenna and one of the "doctors of the Church", wrote "There are three things, my friends, by which faith stands firm, devotion remains constant, and virtue endures. They are prayer, fasting and mercy. Prayer knocks at the door, fasting obtains, mercy receives. Prayer, mercy and fasting: these three are one, and they give life to each other."

Prayer is the first thing we're asked to do. Perhaps that means that we're even more determined to attend church every Sunday or even to attend a mid-week service at St. Francis or somewhere near home or work. But, we shouldn't be praying only at Church. We can pray in the car while we're driving instead of listening to the radio, or we could even add a devotional time in the morning with reading some scripture and praying, or maybe even saying Morning Prayer out of the Prayer Book's Daily Office. Praying helps us to think of God more often and to realign our priorities.

Fasting is the second big Lenten practice. Usually we think of fasting as abstinence from food. There are only two days the Episcopal Church specifically asks her members to fast: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Now the Prayer Book doesn't define fasting, and there are different ways to fast. If we're able, we could do an "absolute fast:" refraining from solid food (and other unnecessary drinks: alcohol, soda, etc.) throughout the day until we break our fast after sundown. Or, we could do a partial fast, only eating a single meal on those days, or eating just a couple small meals. Or, we could simplify our diet that day: cutting out any snacks during the day, abstaining from meat during our meals, drink only water or juice but avoid alcohol, soda, and coffee, etc. Of course those who are sick or frail are never expected to fast.

There are other types of fasting in lent though. It's a common practice to "give something up for Lent." I myself am giving up ice cream this year, and I do love ice cream. Giving something up is a form of self-denial. We might give up watching TV or eating sweets or going out to movies. For me, I give something up, not necessarily to punish myself but because every time I have a craving for what I gave up, I'm reminded that I'm giving it up for Lent and why I'm giving it up. Often, this becomes a good moment to say a little prayer and helps me to grow closer to God. In this way, fasting leads into a devotional time.

Finally, we come to **charity**. During Lent, we are especially mindful of those who are less fortunate, and we give money to the homeless or to agencies that help the poor and needy. Charity also includes service, like donating our time to help out at a soup kitchen, the Dayspring Center, or at Kids Against Hunger. Almsgiving keeps us from taking the things we have for granted and reminds us how blessed we are.

I pray that this year all of us experience Lent as a meaningful, reflective time, and that as the days of Lent progress, we'll find ourselves drawing closer and closer to the heart of God.

May God bless you with a holy Lent.

Father Jesse+

Choir

- Wednesdays
 - 5:15pm Treble I
 - 6:15pm Treble II
 - 7:15pm Adult/Teen Choir
- Thursdays
 - 7pm Handbell Choir

Holy Week Schedule

- Palm Sunday March 28th: 8am, 10am
- Maundy Thursday Eucharist: April 1st, 7pm
- Good Friday Eucharist: April 2nd, 7pm
- Holy Saturday Office: April 3rd, 10am
- Easter Sunday Eucharist:
 - April 4th, 8am, 9am & 11am

Bible Study

Thursdays 10am
(See Fr. Jesse for details)

Update on the Search Process

By Wendell Walls, Search Committee Co-Chair

Last summer, our Vestry asked for volunteers to serve on a committee to search for a new Rector. The Vestry received an overwhelming response and appointed a committee that has been meeting every other week or so ever since. We began by learning our responsibilities as defined by the Episcopal Church and the Vestry. We have had the assistance of Diocesan staff along the way. The committee is unanimous in our belief that we are responsible for prayerfully discerning the needs and desires of the entire congregation for a new Rector; not merely our own. Most of our effort thus far has been toward that end. We conducted a number of interviews and a written survey of the congregation. We hosted over a dozen forums to educate the congregation on the search process and to solicit input from parishioners, including forums with the choir and our two youth groups. Of course, parishioners have been forthcoming with advice to committee members individually.

We had two primary objectives in gathering information. First, we wanted to reaffirm and prioritize the goals included in our most recent long-range plan. Second, and most importantly, we wanted to gather the best possible information for use in compiling our *Parish Profile* for the search process. Thanks to your willing participation, we feel we accomplished both objectives. We believe, in one way or another, we heard from over half the congregation. We determined that the strategic goals continue to resonate with the congregation and their relative priority appears to be congruent with the skills and abilities desired in a new Rector (see Summary below).

We distilled all of this information and attempted to reflect it in a *Parish Profile*, approved by the Vestry and initially distributed at the Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday. The final version must be approved by the Diocese. Creating a *Parish Profile* is arguably the most critical step in the search process. This is our recruitment document. It describes our history, who we are as a congregation, and what we seek in our Rector. We hope to attract candidates who want to work with a congregation like ours and who has the qualities we seek. If we fail to accurately describe either who we are or what we want and need, we are unlikely to attract a pool of applicants who are a good match for us.

It is clear to the committee that St. Francis has many attributes the congregation wants to retain and build upon; there are also many areas where we seek change or are unsatisfied. Nonetheless, we recognize that primary purpose of the *Profile* is to *recruit* candidates, not discourage applications. Thus, we chose to be somewhat circumspect in our presentation.

We invite you to read the *Profile*, available in the Narthex, carefully. We have done our very best to represent the congregation's collective input fairly and completely. Thus far, the Search Committee's work has been intentionally public and visible. At the point that we begin processing actual candidates, it must cease to be so. We are required to conduct all interviews and candidate communication in complete confidence. We ask your trust and prayers as we move into this next stage of selection.

SUMMARY OF INPUT FROM PARISH SURVEY & FORUMS

GOALS AND PRIORITIES

Those completing the written survey ranked eight goals in St. Francis's strategic plan as follows (**mean average ranking**):

- Provide Christian education, experiences and activities that deepen spiritual growth (**3.36**).
- Provide appropriate clergy and lay staffing to support the programs that the church undertakes (**3.53**).
- Provide programming for our youth that builds community, engages their energies and enhances their Christian formation (**3.61**).
- Improve internal and external communications (**4.89**).
- Increase participation of current membership in church activities (**5.13**).
- Increase our commitment to Christian service through outreach to the community (**5.19**).
- Increase the visibility of St. Francis in the community (**5.77**).
- Explore additional forms of worship (**6.79**).

There were suggestions to add a goal related to buildings and grounds and to omit the goal related to additional forms of worship. It is difficult to quantify answers to open-ended survey questions and forum discussions. Themes were common and there were no obvious areas of polarization. Below are common representative comments as well as the few exceptional topics raised.

MOST IMPORTANT THING ABOUT S T. FRANCIS

Sense of family; community; inclusiveness; music program; tolerance; spiritual development; clergy; worship service (including Saturday); Christian education; intimacy; youth involvement; family-friendly; fellowship; willingness to change; welcoming.

ST. FRANCIS DOES BEST

Cares for each other; traditional worship style; acceptance of others; outreach; welcoming of newcomers; supportive; eat.

ST. FRANCIS NEEDS BUT DOESN'T HAVE

More programs for congregation segments; money; endowment; youth/children's services; enough members; more active members; leadership; focus; completed organ; opportunities to know each other better; willingness to change and accept new ideas; good follow-up with visitors; ways for adults to connect with one another; growth; more lay and pastoral support; guidance for lay ministries.

DESCRIBE ST. FRANCIS TO A FRIEND

Warm, family-friendly, open, welcoming of new people and ideas, relaxed, comfortable, tolerant, inclusive, intimate, non-judgmental, accepting, caring; there when you need it; friendly but bland; formerly fun; inviting; good place to be.

VISION FOR FIVE YEARS FROM NOW

Bigger; more active parishioners; more participation; vibrancy; enthusiasm; a buzz of activity; exceptional and recognized music program.

LENTEN DISCIPLINES

Often as Lent approaches we begin to wonder about what we might give up for Lent. The idea of giving up something during Lent: meat, T.V., candy, watermelon (my father always gave up watermelon for Lent); beer, etc. is quite common as we talk about the discipline we might take on during this penitential season of the church year. We participate in additional religious study programs, as well as additional worship services. In the end all of these efforts seem to me to become somewhat commonplace and just another ritual or discipline to observe without much thought or spiritual benefit.

This Lent I would like to recommend a book to you entitled, Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth. The author, Richard Foster, is a Quaker pastor and he re-examines in a new way some of our older and traditional patterns of Christian spiritual discipline. In his book Foster talks about three movements of the Spirit and how each of these movements can contribute to a balanced spiritual life. Foster speaks of the *inward disciplines*: meditation, prayer, fasting; and study as avenues of personal examination and change. Foster then speaks of the *outward disciplines* of simplicity, solitude, submission, and service as means for us to contribute and enable the world to be a better place for all of God's creatures. Finally, Foster talks about the *corporate disciplines* of confession, worship, guidance, and celebration as means that bring us closer to one another and with one another to God. This is the only book I have ever found which actually has practical and useful day-to-day advice about how to go about the ancient discipline of fasting. I highly recommend it to all of you as good reading for a spiritual, prayerful, and holy Lenten season.

Praying and hoping for all of us a Holy Lent,

Mother Kate+

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING: SICK

Nathan, PJ, Glen, Levi,
Gretchen, Susanna, Caroline,
Sue, Mary Lou, George, Bruce,
Elmer, Helen, David, Mandi,
Laura, Susan, Amos, Frank

ARMED SERVICES

Daniel Nield, Ben Sheldon, RJ Kinzel,
Nicholas Helsel, Mark Haxton

Newsletter

If you would like to contribute to April's Newsletter, please email your addition to Laura at lhiggins@stfranciszville.org by Noon on Wednesday April 21st.

If you would like to receive this via mail, please let Laura know as soon as possible! Thanks!!



THE RECONCILIATION OF A PENITENT (AKA Confession)

A sacrament often associated with Lent, is always available when requested. If you are interested in this, please speak with a priest of your choosing. (The rite of Reconciliation can be found on page 446 of the Prayer Book.)

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2: Barry Harris, Jason Greaves,
Guerin Wagner
6: Carla Bennett, Amy Millyer, Kim Said
7: Julie Nield, Amanda Long
8: Bob Poppleton
9: Andra Walters, James Moon
11: Jean Becher, Ted Booher, Steve James
13: Phyllis Thomas, Kyle James,
Katie Dattilo
13: Robin Roberts
14: Libby Kilway
15: Pat Stevens
18: Lee Greaves
19: Andy Brown, Missie Best
25: Amanda Harris
27: Ann O'Leary, Alison Lanie
29: Taylor Said
31: Pat Harris

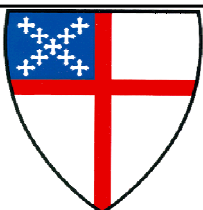


- 23: Jack Roettcher
26: Lauren Dinsmore
28: Lauren Kubes
30: Elizabeth Bradley

TRAINING FOR YOUTH WORKERS

Dontie Fuller will be conducting a Safe-guarding God's Children training session on April 18th from 2-5pm in the Parish Hall. **Anyone who works with young children MUST complete this course as well as anyone who would like to attend the Mission Trip, or anyone who hasn't retaken the course since Spring of 2007.**

If you would like to complete this course online, please contact Laura at the church office; otherwise contact Joanna Hoops (jhoops@indy.rr.com) to register for the in-person session.



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MARCH 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 5:15pm Treble I Choir 6:15pm Treble II Choir 7:15pm Adult/Teen Choir	4 10am Bible Study 7pm Handbell Choir	5	6 6pm Holy Eucharist
7 3 Lent 8am Holy Eucharist 9am Adult Forum 10am Children & Youth Eucharist	8 7pm Search Committee	9	10 5:15pm Treble I Choir 6:15pm Treble II Choir 7:15pm Adult/Teen Choir	11 10am Bible Study 7pm Handbell Choir	12	13 6pm Holy Eucharist
14 4 Lent 8am Holy Eucharist 9am Adult Forum 9:45am Sunday School 10am Holy Eucharist 11:15am Middle School Youth Group	15 7pm Vestry	16	17 St. Patrick's Day 9am Newsletter Deadline 5:15pm Treble I Choir 6:15pm Treble II Choir 7:15pm Adult/Teen Choir	18 10am Bible Study 7pm Handbell Choir	19	20 10am Kids Against Hunger 6pm Holy Eucharist
21 5 Lent 8am Holy Eucharist 9am Adult Forum 9:45am Sunday School 10am Holy Eucharist 7pm High School Youth Group	22 7pm Search Committee	23	24 5:15pm Treble I Choir 6:15pm Treble II Choir 7:15pm Adult/Teen Choir	25 10am Bible Study 7pm Handbell Choir	26	27 6pm Holy Eucharist
28 Palm Sunday 8am Holy Eucharist 9am Adult Forum 9:45am Sunday School 10am Holy Eucharist	29	30	31 5:15pm Treble I Choir 6:15pm Treble II Choir 7:15pm Adult/Teen Choir	1 Maundy Thursday 12:15 Chrism Eucharist at Cathedral 7pm Maundy Thursday Liturgy	2 Good Friday Office Closed 7pm Good Friday Liturgy	3 Holy Saturday 10am Holy Sat. Office 10:30am Decorating for Easter