

AUGUST 2023

Franciscan a monthly publication of *St. Francis Episcopal Church*



THE PILGRIM PRIEST PONDERES WHO IS WELCOME AT SAINT FRANCIS



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Many congregations, dioceses and denominations have been boldly announcing that “Everyone is WELCOME at [our church]. What does that mean, and does everyone REALLY mean EVERY-ONE? I can only answer from Scripture, as I did last month in a sermon that I preached after we blessed the main doors (Thresholds) of our building. This month’s article is an expansion of that sermon.

First, foremost, and most importantly, we INVITE and WELCOME JESUS CHRIST into our assembly! This may seem obvious to some, redundant to others, but it is the cornerstone of our welcome. As Jesus says in the Book of Revelation, “Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me” [Revelation 3:20; NRSV].

“A Publication of St. Francis Episcopal Church—“Proclaiming the Good News in word and deed.”

If Jesus is not our honored guest, much less our Host, our fellowship becomes merely a group of people who simply enjoy being with each other, and not the Kingdom of God on earth. The ancient Aramaic invitation for the Risen Lord to come be with us is **MARANATHA** (Our Lord, Come!) [I Corinthians 16:22; NRSV]. It is now inscribed in chalk over our main thresholds (see the photo above).

When we invite Jesus into our assembly, we also welcome all those whom He has invited to join with Him. One of the best ways to understand His invitation to these others is found in the Parable of the Great Banquet:

Jesus said, *“Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner, he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is ready now.’ But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.’ Another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.’ Another said, ‘I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.’ So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, ‘Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.’ And the slave said, ‘Sir, what you ordered have been done, and there is still room.’ Then the master said to the slave, ‘Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.’”* [Luke 14:16-24; NRSV].

So I ask you:

Are you a righteous Saint? Jesus invites you in!

Are you a miserable Sinner? Jesus invites you in!

Are you a Seeker after Meaning, Truth and Beauty? Jesus invites you in!

Are you (like me) simultaneously a Saint, Sinner, and Seeker? Jesus invites you in!

At Saint Francis, it is our ministry to welcome all those Jesus has invited to our fellowship!!

But is every being under Creation invited in? The answer is decidedly NO!! Paul explains this in his letter to the Ephesians:

“For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.” [Ephesians 6:12; NRSV]

For those who may doubt the existence of the spiritual forces of evil present in our world, know that the Episcopal Church explicitly renounces these forces at every Baptism (Book of Common Prayer, pg. 302). When we blessed the Thresholds of Saint Francis, we asked God to send His Angels to guard the doors against the intrusion of these evil forces.

So, in summary, who is welcome at Saint Francis?

Jesus Christ.

All Saints, Sinners and Seekers invited by Jesus Christ.

Who is NOT welcome at Saint Francis?

Satan, his angels, and all the powers of darkness who oppose the Kingdom.

Well, that’s enough heavy theology for this month! If you haven’t been to Church for a while, because you feel you are too sinful: **COME ON IN!** Jesus is inviting you!!

Your fellow Saint, Sinner, and Seeker, David+

AUGUST 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	2 Morning Prayer Service 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 am	3 Alanon 7:30 pm	4	5
6 Salon Series 9:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am	7	8 Election Day Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	9 Morning Prayer Service 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 am	10 Alanon 7:30 pm	11	12
13 Salon Series 9:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am	14	15 Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	16 Morning Prayer Service 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 am	17 Office Closed Alanon 7:30 pm	18 Office Closed	19
20 Salon Series 9:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am	21	22 Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	23 Office Closed Morning Prayer Service 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 am	24 Office Closed Alanon 7:30 pm	25 Office Closed	26
27 Salon Series 9:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am	28	29 Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	30 Morning Prayer Service 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 am	31 Alanon 7:30 pm	28	29

August Birthdays

Sue Starner on August 2

Alex Catalan on August 2

Don Parker on August 15



August Anniversaries

Jenny & Augusto Catalan on Aug. 2

Stephan & Diana Graham on
August 2

Fr. David & Molly Bailey on
August 16



Please look for jars around the church to throw in your loose change. They will be located on the table in the Foyer, near the coffee pots in the kitchen, and on the table during coffee hour. The donations for August will help to pay for school supplies.

Each month for Ingathering Sunday, there will be certain items that need to be collected. For August please collect any items for the back-to-school supplies and place them in the container in the Narthex. Requested items are: paper towels, kleenex tissues, ziplock quart bags, ziplock gallon bags, and black dry erase markers.

A Note from Jazzercise

Wanted to express our complete thanks and gratitude for all you and the wider St. Francis Parrish have done for us and for the women in our entire community over the past 17 years. You have provided a place where women could focus on their physical health. (I like to say we are providing preventative health care).

Many of the women in class have been able to eliminate the need for blood pressure, and cholesterol medicine and/or the need for meds for anxiety or depression. We also have a surprisingly large community of breast cancer survivors. Movement is crucial to their physical health following chemo and radiation and you have provided a wonderful place for that. Our age demographic skews a bit older so many were dealing with aging issues as well; movement can be hugely helpful here.

By providing space to us, St. Francis has also sponsored indirectly our annual fundraiser for Breast Cancer Research and Awareness. We've raised a significant amount towards those causes over the years. My hope is that we have been able to provide you with some financial support, particularly during COVID when we were not able to meet in person. Heartbroken to say good-bye. Thank you so very much for everything. ~ Deborah Bielecki

Morning Prayer and Healing Service

We would like you to join us for our Morning Prayer and Healing Service every Wednesday starting at 9:00 am with Jeff Baldrige as the officiant.

The focus will be: "We seek God through Christ and the Holy Spirit to provide healing and wholeness of life to all those hurting or in need".

There is a mini booklet that anyone can access on our website at www.saintfran.org. Parents can use them for their children during Morning Prayer.

You can participate by coming to St. Francis and meet with us in our Sanctuary or by watching us on Facebook. Send any prayer requests to prayer@saintfran.org, we would love to pray for you!

Questions or comments?

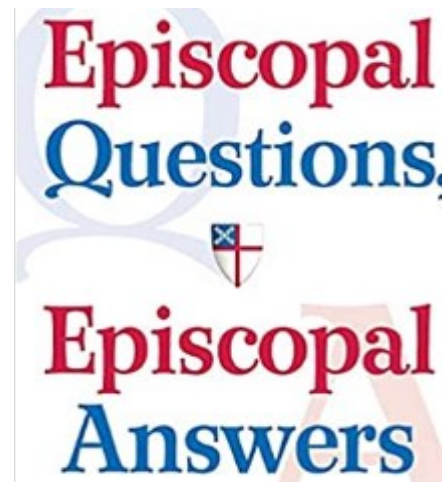
Please contact Fr. David at fr.david@saintfran.org or Jeff Baldrige at prayer@saintfran.org.

Soli Deo Gloria, to God alone be the glory!



The Salon Series will continue to meet throughout the summer. This summer the series will be on structures and ministers of the Episcopal Church.

No previous knowledge is necessary, but it will be helpful to bring your Bible and Prayer Book to our discussions.



How About Helping with Church Maintenance?

Jacqui Parker is inviting people to come and help around the church building. There are several projects that need to be updated around the church, and any help would be very much appreciated. Please contact Jacqui if you are interested.

We could use your help!

How about signing up to do coffee hour some Sunday? All you need to do is a little setting up and putting away and to bring a plate of cookies or muffins or whatever you like. The sign-up sheet is on the freezer in the kitchen. Any questions, talk to Ginny Culp: (937) 409-2893. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless.

**VOLUNTEERS DO NOT
NECESSARILY HAVE THE
TIME; THEY JUST HAVE
THE HEART**

Fall Rummage Sale

St. Francis would like to hold a Rummage Sale sometime this Fall. If there is enough interest from the Congregation and Community, then we will finalize a date and time for the event.



If you would like to be involved in this Community Outreach or would like to donate any items, please contact Mary Harris at (937) 672-7993 or Allison Ferriell at (937) 430-5201. We hope you can be apart of reaching out and connecting with our community!

All donations will go to our Outreach Fund.



**The Diocese
of Southern Ohio**
Episcopalians in Connection

Diocese of Southern Ohio News
News around the Ohio area

“It’s our connection to God and each other that gives meaning to our lives.”

Search for the Tenth Bishop of Southern Ohio

Nominees

On June 29 the Standing Committee presented the Bishop Nominating Committee's **slate of nominees** to be the Tenth Bishop of Southern Ohio: the Rev. Canon Whitney Rice, the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, the Rev. Dr. Elaine Ellis Thomas, and the Rev. Canon Kristin Uffelman White.

Learn more at <https://southernohiobishop.org/candidates/>

Petition nomination received

On July 14, the Standing Committee [informed the diocese](#) that it has received a petition nomination. The Standing Committee will review materials, conduct background checks, schedule interviews, and check references of the person nominated by petition, applying the same criteria used by the Nominating Committee in its presentation of the initial slate. If the petition nominee is added to the slate, that announcement will be made on or before August 10, once the Standing Committee has completed its due diligence.

[Read more](#) at <https://southernohiobishop.org/2023/07/from-the-standing-committee-petition-nomination-received/>

Election

The election of the Tenth Bishop of Southern Ohio will take place at a special **in-person electing convention** on September 30 at Christ Church Cathedral.

Registration for the electing convention will open on August 1.

<https://diosohio.org/event/special-electing-convention/>

Meet-and-Greets: submit questions by August 21

From September 11 through 15, the **Bishop Transition Committee** will hold seven meet-and-greet sessions for the people of the diocese to meet our bishop candidates. During each session, every candidate will each have a 20-to-30 minute period to answer questions presented by a moderator. Everyone is invited to **submit questions** for the nominees online by August 21 at

<https://form.jotform.com/231495002536148>

Meet-and-greet sessions that are open to the entire diocese will also be broadcast on Zoom. Save the date for the sessions that you would like to attend, and watch for Zoom links coming later this summer.

Meet-and-Greet Schedule:

Monday, September 11, 7 p.m.: **Church of the Redeemer**, Cincinnati

Tuesday, September 12, 7 p.m.: **St. Barnabas**, Montgomery

Wednesday, September 13, 4:30 p.m.: **All Saints'**, Portsmouth

Thursday, September 14, 1 p.m.: **Procter Center** (clergy only; in person only)

Thursday, September 14, 7 p.m.: **St. Margaret's**, Trotwood

Friday, September 15, 1 p.m.: **St. Patrick's**, Dublin

Friday, September 15, 7 p.m.: **Trinity**, Columbus

Questions? Please **email the Transition Committee.**

Ordination

With thanks to the Bishop Transition Committee for its work, the Standing Committee has announced that the ordination of the 10th Bishop of the Diocese of Southern Ohio will take place on February 17 in the Short North Ballrooms of the **Greater Columbus Convention Center** (GCCC), located at 400 N. High Street in Columbus.

As you may recall, the election process for bishops in the Episcopal Church includes an opportunity to nominate additional people by petition. This is in lieu of nominations from the floor of the electing convention. The deadline for submission of materials for the petition process was July 13, at 11:59 p.m.

We received materials for the nomination of one additional person.

The Standing Committee will review materials, conduct background checks, schedule interviews, and check references of the person nominated by petition, applying the same criteria used by the Nominating Committee in its presentation of the initial slate. As with all nominees, the Standing Committee will discern and make the final determination on whether the petition nominee will be included on the final slate of nominees for bishop.

If the petition nominee is added to the slate, that announcement will be made on or before August 10, once the Standing Committee has completed its due diligence.

Saint Francis Episcopal Church
The Episcopal Church in Springboro
225 N. Main Street, Springboro, OH 45066
(937) 748-2592 www.saintfran.org

Gathering Times

Sundays at 9:00 am - Sunday Salon (Discussion Group for All)
Sundays at 10:30 am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Wednesdays at 9:00 am - Morning Prayer and Healing Service
Wednesdays at 10:30 am - Bible Study

Prayer August

Thank you, Lord, for the summer you gave us. Thank You for protecting and preserving our life and family. May you give us the capacity to show your love to others so that your light shines through us this new season. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Staff

Priest-in-Charge - The Rev. Dr. David Bailey

fr.david@saintfran.org - (513) 310-0127

Senior Warden - Tom Phillips

Junior Warden - Jacqui Parker

Vestry Clerk - Allison Ferriell

Treasurer - Beth Phillips

Financial Secretary - Sue Starner

Parish Secretary - Alisha Minamyier

Organist - Diana Graham

Sunday School - Jenny Catalan

Vestry Members - Tom Phillips, Jacqui Parker, Allison Ferriell,
Beth Phillips, Virginia Culp, and Diana Ledford.

