

Franciscan

a monthly publication of
St. Francis Episcopal Church



THE PILGRIM PRIEST ANNOUNCES

LENT

"I invite you, therefor, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word."
[BCP pg. 265]

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Through much prayer, sleepless nights, and lots of conversations with others, one aspect of our life at St. Francis has become abundantly clear to me:

We are at a Crossroads.

The last twelve years have been brutal. Our membership, outreach and finances have shrunk. This has occurred at the same time that Clearcreek Township and the City of Springboro have grown by about 20%, and the number of new Churches in our area has increased as well.

We sit on a great piece of property, with a handicap accessible building, near the intersection of two major roads. Why aren't we growing?? Do we lack the verve to carry out our Vision, or are we simply picking the wrong things to spend our time, talent and treasure on in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

Three points:

- 1) Saint Francis is in a growing community.
- 2) Saint Francis is shrinking instead of growing.
- 3) The membership of St. Francis, particularly the leadership, is tired.

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What will lead us out of slow death into renewed growth?

- 1) Prayer. Not just on Sunday mornings, but prayer throughout the week. Not perfunctory prayers, but deep abiding prayer, both individually and corporately.
- 2) Connecting with the Diocese to seek counsel, direction and assistance in charting our course forward. Let me be clear, I am NOT primarily talking about financial assistance, but wise counsel. Some of that counsel may be very painful, but there will be no change of direction without pain.
- 3) Long term clergy presence. All of the studies I have read regard the presence of a long term clergy leader (> 5-7 years) is one of the *essential* components to moving a shrinking congregation into a growing congregation.

And NO, I am not that clergy person!

- 4) The sacrificial giving of time, talent and treasure to St. Francis for the sake of the Gospel by ALL members.

More on this in the days ahead (particularly the Annual Meeting) but let me HIGHLY recommend that the Season of Lent is THE time, to begin the fervent prayer that must proceed and undergird all of the above.

Please pray with me this prayer throughout Lent:

"Gracious Father, we pray for thy holy Catholic Church. Fill it with all truth, in all truth with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in any thing it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ thy Son our Savior. Amen." [BCP pg. 816]

Your Brother in Christ,

David+

FEBRUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Bible Study 10:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm	2 Alanon 7:00 pm	3 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	4
5 Sunday Salon Series 9:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am	6 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	7 Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting 7:00 pm	8 Bible Study 10:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm	9 Alanon 7:30 pm	10 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	11
12 Sunday Salon Series 9:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am Annual Meeting	13 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	14 Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	15 Bible Study 10:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm	16 Alanon 7:30 pm	17 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	18
19 Sunday Salon Series 9:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am	20 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	21 Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm Euchre Tournament 7:00 pm	22 Ash Wednesday Noon Ash Wednesday 6:00 pm	23 Alanon 7:30 pm	24 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	25
26 Sunday Salon Series 9:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am	27 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	28 Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm				



February Birthdays



Lauren Kock on February 1

Chinonso Oduah on February 7

Charlotte Bradley on February 9

Andrea Fedchenko on February 12

If your name does not appear on our birthday or anniversary list, please contact the church office.

How About Helping with Church Maintenance?

David Culp is inviting people to come and help out around the church building.

Maintenance days will be on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10:00 am to Noon.

There are several projects that need to be updated around the church, and any help would be very much appreciated.

Please contact David if you are interested.

MAINTENANCE MINISTRY



Lenten Fellowship Hour

Could you bring soup and bread for the after church fellowship time on a Sunday during Lent? The Hospitality committee would like to have two people bring soup and bread and help serve. There are six Sundays in Lent. It would be so nice if you could help. The sign-up sheet is on the freezer in the kitchen.

Questions? See Ginny Culp (937) 409-2893 or vculp@sprynet.com



Mark your calendars for St. Francis' Annual Meeting on February 12. The meeting takes place after the 10:30 am Liturgy.

During the annual meeting Delegates to Convention and Vestry Members will be elected. A presentation of the budget and finances will also be given.

All Ministry Leaders should submit their reports from 2022 into the office by February 9.



The Salon Series will continue to meet in the library, starting at 9:00 am and ending at 10:00 am SHARP.

No previous knowledge of the Gospel is necessary, but it will be helpful to bring your Bible to our discussions.



Fat Tuesday

Cards, Cards, Cards!!!

St. Francis' euchre tournament will be held on Fat Tuesday, **February 21**. We will start dealing promptly at **7:00 pm**. Water and tea will be provided. Please consider bringing your favorite fattening food. **It is important to have 8, 12, or 16 commitments so tables and partners can be designated.** Please let Kathy Oaks (937-271-0665) know by February 15 if you're planning on joining us. Thanks!



St. Francis will have its annual Ash Wednesday Services on Wednesday, February 22. The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. On this day, Christians gather to begin the journey towards the Cross and the Resurrection with the Ash Wednesday service.

Imposition of ashes will be offered during two in-person services:

Noon: Traditional Rite I Mass without music

6:00 pm: Traditional Rite II Mass with instrumental music
(Streamed online)

Updates from Christ Church Cathedral

Christ Church Cathedral is located at 318 E. 4th Street in downtown Cincinnati.

Music Live at Lunch

Music Live at Lunch is a free, weekly concert series held on Tuesdays, September through May, at 12:10 pm.

Upcoming performers:

February 7: Wayside Winds

February 14: Love Languages of Music with Erin Alcorn (soprano) & Joseph O'Shea (baritone)

February 21: Lagniappe (featuring Cajun French music)

February 28: Michael Ronstadt (cello)



"Music that Makes Community" workshops

From February 17 to 19, Music that Makes Community will present a workshop on paperless song leading at St. Stephen's in Columbus.

Friday, February 17: Community Singing Event from 7 to 8:15 p.m.

Saturday, February 18: Workshop from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 19: Workshop leaders and participants join St. Stephen's in worship!

Thanks to a grant from the Diocese of Southern Ohio, the event is free. To learn more and register, visit ststephens-columbus.org



Red Door Community Concert February 17

The fourth Red Door Community Concert at Holy Trinity, Oxford, will feature Steinway Artist and Miami University Professor of Music Bruce Murray on piano. Murray will perform an eclectic selection of diverse pieces at this free, noontime concert on Friday, February 17.

The concert will also be posted on the Holy Trinity YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@holytrinityepiscopalchurch7097>

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

**From the Standing Committee: Profile Released;
Nominations for Bishop Open until February 28**

Greetings in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ,

The Standing Committee is pleased to share with you the profile of our diocese prepared by the Bishop Nominating Committee as we search for our 10th Bishop. In it, you will find descriptions of our people and our places, of our history and our hopes, and of the person we seek to join us in ministry. We are, as the profile says, a diocese at a crossroads where God is at work, Jesus is present, and the Holy Spirit is up to something. You can find the profile at <https://southernohiobishop.org/profile/>

This profile could not exist without you. Hundreds of people across our diocese attended focus groups, completed a survey, and shared their perspectives generously with the Nominating Committee as it developed this document. We are extraordinarily grateful to the committee for its hard and faithful work, and hope that you will read the profile with curiosity and prayerful commitment to continue participating in the collective discernment that will culminate on September 30 when we elect the 10th Bishop of Southern Ohio.

The Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for bishop until midnight on February 28. We invite you to read the profile and consider whether God is calling you or someone you know into discernment with us. Please share the profile widely with your colleagues and friends across the Episcopal Church and help us spread the good news that the Diocese of Southern Ohio is ready to sing a new song unto the Lord.

Yours faithfully,
Dr. James Allsop, president
Dr. Elizabeth Barker
The Rev. Jed Dearing, secretary
Mr. Barry Feist
The Rev. Scott Gunn
The Rev. David Kendall-Sperry, vice president
The Standing Committee of the Diocese of Southern Ohio

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 10:30 am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Wednesdays at 10:30 am - Bible Study

Prayer February

Dear Father in heaven, You have called us to be holy in all we do. Help us to spend time in Your Word and live according to Your Word so we can stay on the path of righteousness and holiness. Help us to daily present our body to You as a living sacrifice. Let the words of our mouth, the thoughts in our heart, and all we do be pleasing and acceptable in Your sight. **Amen.**

Staff

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

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

Senior Warden - Stephan Graham

Junior Warden - David Culp

Vestry Clerk - Virginia Culp

Financial Secretary - Sue Starner

Parish Secretary - Alisha Minamyer

Organist - Diana Graham

Sunday School Director - Jenny Catalan

Vestry Members - Stephan Graham, David

Culp, Jenny Catalan, Barb Roy, Chuck Oduah, Mary Harris, Virginia Culp, and Tom Phillips.

