

# Franciscan

a monthly publication of  
St. Francis Episcopal Church



The New Year is upon us and the calendar turn can serve as point of reflection for each of us. We may look back on this last year with both joy and with regret. We may both celebrate accomplishments and lament losses. We may confess things done and left undone, and then as Christians we will look ahead as forgiven children of God, beloved and believing the truth that “if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”

What is the new thing God wants to give birth to in your life this year?  
Where is God calling you to tend to the soil of your life?

Perhaps God is calling you into deeper knowledge of the scriptures?

Adult Bible Study restarts on Wednesday’s with a focus on Ecclesiastes, wisdom literature from the Hebrew Scriptures that has a lot to say about changing seasons.

Maybe you want to develop a personal practice of reading scripture, but need some help? I would recommend, *The Blue Parakeet* by Scot McKnight, a book that invites us to read the Bible, not as an ancient text to decode, but as those who continue to carry on the story written by our forbearers in the faith. *The New Testament for Everyone* is a wonderful companion guide to reading through books of the Bible in the New Testament if you are looking for easy to engage perspective to help you navigate through tough passages.

Perhaps God is calling you to serve in a new way this year?

St. Francis has many opportunities to serve, whether caring for the building or hosting coffee hour. One area in need of volunteers is in our liturgical life. Liturgy is the work of the people, our shared worship of Jesus Christ. We need volunteers to serve as lectors (reading the scripture) or acolytes (carrying the cross and assisting the priest as the communion table). Barb Roy is always on the lookout for new members of Altar Guild. Altar Guild helps prepare the church for worship, accentuating the beauty of Episcopal worship. Beyond St. Francis, two great local organizations in need of volunteers are both the Springboro Community Assistance Center, who provide food and material assistance to distressed families in Springboro and Family Promise, who provide housing and furnishings for distressed families in Warren County.

There are many ways God might be giving birth to something new, in our personal life, family life, vocational life, or in our life as a church, but keep in mind that God will always surprise us, so we keep our eyes peeled, ears open and hearts soft because as the Proverbs teach us, “The human mind plans the way, but the Lord directs the steps.”

I look forward to the new thing that God is going to do at St. Francis, even as I look forward to my new call to serve at Trinity Columbus. I am grateful for the opportunity to celebrate with you one last time this New Year and I hope to offer you a blessing on Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, just as each of you have been a blessing at the outset of my ordained ministry and a beacon of love for our family.

Serving with You, Father Jed

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

# JANUARY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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<b>2</b>  <b>Sunday School</b> 10:30 am  <b>Holy Eucharist,</b> <b>Rite II 10:30 am</b>	<b>3</b>  Jazzercise 4:45 pm	<b>4</b>  Jazzercise 4:45 pm  Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	<b>5</b>  <b>Bible Study</b> 10:30 am  Jazzercise 4:45 pm	<b>6</b>  Barbershop Singers 7:00 pm  Alanon 7:30 pm	<b>7</b>  Jazzercise 4:45 pm	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>  <b>Sunday School</b> 10:30 am  <b>Epiphany Pageant</b>  <b>Holy Eucharist,</b> <b>Rite II 10:30 am</b>	<b>10</b>  Jazzercise 4:45 pm	<b>11</b>  Jazzercise 4:45 pm  Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm  <b>Vestry Meeting</b> 7:00 pm	<b>12</b>  <b>Bible Study</b> 10:30 am  Jazzercise 4:45 pm	<b>13</b>  Barbershop Singers 7:00 pm  Alanon 7:30 pm	<b>14</b>  Jazzercise 4:45 pm	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>  <b>Sunday School</b> 10:30 am  <b>Holy Eucharist,</b> <b>Rite II 10:30 am</b>	<b>17</b>  Jazzercise 4:45 pm  MLK Prayer Service Noon @ Wright Station	<b>18</b>  Jazzercise 4:45 pm  Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	<b>19</b>  <b>Bible Study</b> 10:30 am  Jazzercise 4:45 pm	<b>20</b>  Barbershop Singers 7:00 pm  Alanon 7:30 pm	<b>21</b>  Jazzercise 4:45 pm	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>  <b>Sunday School</b> 10:30 am  <b>Holy Eucharist,</b> <b>Rite II 10:30 am</b>	<b>24</b>  Jazzercise 4:45 pm	<b>25</b>  Jazzercise 4:45 pm  Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	<b>26</b>  <b>Bible Study</b> 10:30 am  Jazzercise 4:45 pm	<b>27</b>  Barbershop Singers 7:00 pm  Alanon 7:30 pm	<b>28</b>  Jazzercise 4:45 pm	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>  <b>Sunday School</b> 10:30 am  <b>Holy Eucharist,</b> <b>Rite II 10:30 am</b>						

# PRIEST IN CHARGE

St. Francis would like to celebrate the wonderful news that the Rev. Dr. David Bailey will be rejoining us as our new Priest-in-Charge starting on Ash Wednesday, March 2. His first Sunday will be on March 6 to kick off the Lenten Season.

Please come out and welcome him in person as he celebrates the liturgy with us. We would like to give him a warm welcome!



## SUPPLY CLERGY

St. Francis will have new Supply Priests for the next several months before our new Priest-in-Charge joins us. For any pastoral concerns or Eucharistic visits please contact Stephan Graham, Senior Warden at 937-681-8690. The dates are as follows:

**January 9 - Rev. Terri Thornton**

**January 16 - Rev. Elaine Silverstrim**

**January 23 - Rev. Elaine Silverstrim**

**January 30 - Rev. Terri Thornton**

**February 6 - Rev. Terri Thornton**

**February 13 - Rev. Terri Thornton**

**February 20 - Rev. Elaine Silverstrim**

**February 27 - Rev. Elaine Silverstrim**



# Shining the Light, Sharing the Love

## 2022 Pledge Campaign Update

Thanks to all who have already made a financial commitment to 2022. We have raised \$48,000 towards our goal of \$60,000 in pledges. If you have not pledged yet, please prayerfully consider what you can contribute to support our mission and ministry.

You can pledge by using the paper card you received in the mail or picked up at the church in the pew backs. You can drop your pledge card in the offering plate during a worship service or drop it by the church office.

If you would like a pledge card, please contact the church office at [parishsec@saintfran.org](mailto:parishsec@saintfran.org) or Sue Starner at [parishtreas@saintfran.org](mailto:parishtreas@saintfran.org). They would be delighted to talk with you.



## January Birthdays

Mary Martin on January 31

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

## OUTREACH: Supporting Families in Kentucky

As families across Kentucky are dealing with being unhoused and recovering from damage to their homes by the tornados, local churches in Springboro are collecting donations of both Buddy Heaters (portable propane heaters) and Small Steel Propane Canisters (think Coleman camping canisters). If you are able to donate either of these items, we will be collecting through Sunday, Jan. 16.



Special thanks to everyone who generously donated your time to sing carols at the retirement homes this Christmas.

Thank you for those who also contributed Toys for the Christmas FLOC.

Everyone was very generous in their giving and they both were very blessed this Christmas Season!

## How About Helping with Church Maintenance?

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

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

David will be in the building on Wednesday, January 5 from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. Each week will be different so please speak to him about further dates.



## HANGING OF THE GREENS

The Altar Guild would like to thank everyone who helped with the Hanging of the Greens. The nave and sanctuary looked beautiful for the Christmas Season, and we could not have done this without everyone's help.

The Altar Guild is asking once again for folks to come to church on Sunday, January 2 to help take down the Christmas decorations. Your help is so much appreciated and it is great to know we can count on you.



## Epiphany Pageant



Please mark your calendars for Sunday, January 9. The children will present the Epiphany Pageant during the service.

It will be one last opportunity to sing Christmas carols! Please come and support our youth at St. Francis!

## Martin Luther King Jr. Day Prayer Service

On Monday, January 17, 2021 the Springboro Pastors Association will have a Martin Luther King Jr. Day Prayer Service outdoors at Wright Station from Noon - 12:30 pm.

Join Christians in Springboro to hear readings of MLK's sermons and prayers led by local clergy from across denominations.

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Mark your calendars on Sunday, February 20 following the 10:30 am Liturgy there will be St. Francis' Annual Meeting. During this annual meeting Delegates will be chosen, new Vestry Members will be announced, and a presentation of the budget and finances will be given. As well as a list of brief reports from all Ministry Chair persons. All Ministry Leaders should submit their reports from 2021 into the office by February 17.

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

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## **A Message from Bishop Smith**

Dear Friends,

Our world is entering a second Christmas season in the time of COVID, and although Church is closer to “normal” than a year ago, the sobering reality of a new variant is upon us. Yesterday Ohio recorded the highest number of COVID cases since the pandemic began, almost two years ago. It was timely, then, that our Diocesan Medical Task Force also met yesterday to review the data.

At the celebration of our Savior’s birth this year, let us remember God’s gift of love—and Jesus’ own commandment to love God and to love our neighbor. Protecting one another from COVID is a crucial expression of God’s love in our lives. To this end, I remind everyone of the guidelines from our Diocesan COVID Task Force. These are not new guidelines but an emphasis on the ones already in place.

- Masks work—so wear one, regardless your vaccination status. Wear a KN95 mask if available, since this mask is the most effective at preventing disease spread.
- Distancing works, six feet at least. To the extent that they can, congregations should also stream Christmas services online, for the sake of those who cannot be physically present.
- Vaccination works, and the booster helps. Our people and clergy do well to encourage one another to get their shots.
- Because it is the safest practice, communion remains in one kind, the consecrated bread only.

I wish all of you all the blessings of the season, a very merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Faithfully,  
George Wayne Smith  
Bishop Provisional  
Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio

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The Episcopal Church in Springboro  
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## **WORSHIP TIMES**

**SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM - HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II**

**SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM - SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**WEDNESDAYS AT 10:30 AM - BIBLE STUDY**

## **PRAYER FOR JANUARY**

**LOVING GOD, I THANK YOU FOR THE YEAR THAT'S PAST. YOU HAVE SO BLESSED MY LIFE, EVEN WHEN MY FAITH WAS LACKING. I PRAY THAT THIS MONTH OF JANUARY WILL BE A MONTH OF RENEWAL AND GROWTH IN MY LIFE. LORD, CONTINUE TO BUILD MY FAITH AND TRUST IN YOU. FILL ME WITH YOUR HOLY SPIRIT. I PRAY THAT I WILL KEEP MY EYES, AND HEART FIXED ON YOU, O LORD. AMEN.**

## **STAFF**

**Senior Warden - Stephan Graham**

**Junior Warden - David Culp**

**Vestry Clerk - Virginia Culp**

**Financial Secretary - Sue Starner**

**Parish Secretary - Alisha Minamyler**

**Organist - Diana Graham**

**Sunday School Director - Jenny Catalan**

**Vestry Members - Stephan Graham, David**

**Culp, Jenny Catalan, Barb Roy, Chuck**

**Oduah, Jack Emerson, Mary Harris, Ron Thomas, Kimmie Patti, and**

**Virginia Culp.**

