

Franciscan

a monthly publication of
St. Francis Episcopal Church



Dear Friends in Christ,

As we complete our 40th year, we are encountering a time of great transition both in the world surrounding, and here in our church. Transition includes moments revealing to us that the past is done, though we aren't quite sure of what the future is going to be. How are we to be as a community of Christians during a season of change where so much is uncertain around us?

As the hymn says, *"The Church of Christ in every age, beset by change, but spirit led, must claim and test its heritage, and keep on rising from the dead."* We start with the good news that the Church of Christ has been beset by change ever since its inauguration. While it feels good to know we aren't alone, the great news is that God's spirit continues to lead us through these times, and brings the church back to life in new ways. Claiming and testing our heritage means returning to our roots and considering the customs and traditions, which have grown up around them. This is a time when we can honestly assess whether we "abandon the commandments of God for human tradition (Mark 7:8)." Transition provides the opportunity for any tradition that gets in the way of loving God & our neighbor to be set aside.

Rembrandt offers that to effectively honor those who've gone before us, "We can honor our grandfather by wearing his hat or by having grandchildren." In other words, the true way to honor those who've gone before us is to give birth to something new and pass on the traits that have shaped our lives, not just the trinkets. I am excited about the new things that we will be giving birth to, including partnering with Covenant Presbyterian on a prayer service for 9/11 and launching Breakfast Church on Sundays at 9am, a new mode of Episcopal worship offered to the many families surrounding us.

There is a danger when starting new customs, that they can replace the old, we get busy and forget the heart of the matter, which is that our hearts are made to be lifted up to God and transformed. When we have our hearts in order, than we have the capacity to be in right relationship with one another in the parish and to model how church isn't an affinity group. This is a witness our world needs right now, that what binds us are hearts shaped by the love of God for love of the world.

So, how's your heart?

If it is anything like mine, it is heavy hearted with all the news and in need of a little work. The good news is this, if the heart is eager and ready, the Grace of God will not be slow! God is deeply concerned with our hearts and partners in its repair.

Diadochus, a 5th century Bishop from Northern Greece writes the following...

The heart is the Holy place, which God has chosen as the ground of encounter between the divine and the human. Those who meditate unceasingly upon this glorious and holy name in the depths of their heart can sometimes see that the name is burning off all the filth that covers the surface of the soul."

Whether endurance not seem possible in these trying times, or you sit today eager and ready... may the grace of God be quick to meet you, cleanse you, and may the Spirit lead us with confidence into this new season of proclaiming the good news of Jesus in the midst of an uncertain future.

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

SEPTEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 NO Bible Study 10:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm	2 Barbershop Singers 7:00 pm Alanon 7:30 pm	3 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	4
5 Sunday School 10:30 am Breakfast Church Sneak Peak Holy Eucharist 10:30 am	6 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	7 Zoom Morning Prayer 7:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm Boy Scouts 6 - 7:00 pm	8 Bible Study 10:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm	9 Barbershop Singers 7:00 pm Alanon 7:30 pm	10 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	11 A Service of Prayer and Remem- brance for 9/11 9:00 am - 9:30 am
12 Breakfast Church 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Parish Potluck & Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am	13 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	14 Zoom Morning Prayer 7:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm Boy Scouts 6 - 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting 7:00 pm	5 Bible Study 10:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm	16 Barbershop Singers 7:00 pm Alanon 7:30 pm	17 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	18 Parish Landscaping Day 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
19 Breakfast Church 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am	20 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	21 Zoom Morning Prayer 7:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm Boy Scouts 6 - 7:00 pm	22 Bible Study 10:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm	23 Barbershop Singers 7:00 pm Alanon 7:30 pm	24 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	25
26 Breakfast Church 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Healing Service & Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am	27 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	28 Zoom Morning Prayer 7:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm Boy Scouts 6 - 7:00 pm	29 Bible Study 10:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm Feast of St Michael & Angels 6:30 pm	30 Barbershop Singers 7:00 pm Alanon 7:30 pm		

September Birthdays

Nancy Glass on September 27

September Anniversaries

David and Virginia Culp

Kate and Steve Hamilton on
September 4

Jeff and Teena Baldrige on
September 12

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

Praying the Daily Offices

Join together every Tuesday morning on Zoom to pray Rite I Morning Prayer. On days that include a commemoration we will remember the holy women and holy men who have gone before us in the faith.

All are welcome to join. The Zoom link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86267472666>

Meeting ID: 859 1234 4872

Morning Prayer starts at 7:30 am and typically lasts thirty minutes. The Zoom Link is recurring and can be used weekly. Bulletins will be provided in the Zoom Chat Box but all services can be joined using a Book of Common Prayer.

9/7 Kassiani

9/14 Holy Cross Day

9/21 St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

9/28 Paula and Eustachiy of Rome

Breakfast Church: Sneak Preview

Sunday, September 5th we will be participating in Breakfast Church together in place of our usual 10:30 am service. This will be a great opportunity for everyone in the church to experience the new service that we will be offering our community. This is a sort of dress rehearsal and an opportunity for each person at St. Francis to experience the service and gain an understanding of what's happening as we spread the word and invite people from our community to join us! Breakfast will be provided.



A Service of Prayer & Remembrance

Twentieth Anniversary of 9/11
Saturday, September 11: 9:00 am - 9:30 am

On September 11, 2001 our nation suffered devastating acts of terrorism and violence that resulted in the loss of 2,977 innocent lives and over 6,000 injuries in New York, Virginia and Pennsylvania.

We will come together as people of faith to mark the twentieth anniversary of the September 11th attacks. We will remember all who died and the families who loved them. We will pray for peace for all still caught in the aftermath of violence and trauma.



Parish Potluck

Sunday, September 12

Join us for a Back to School Parish Potluck lunch in the Commons after the service.

Please bring food to share and reconnect after a busy Summer. We hope to see you there!



St. Francis will be having a Parish Landscaping Day on Saturday, September 18 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

There will be plenty of areas of work, whatever your physical capacity may be, from weeding to mulching to trimming, small repairs, and so much more.

Bring your work gloves, yard tools to share, and positive spirit.



On Sunday, September 26 during Holy Eucharist St. Francis will be holding a Public Service of Healing, with opportunities for healing prayer that honor social distancing guidelines. The service includes the Litany of Healing, Healing Prayers for the Parish, and Lighting of the Candles.

James 5:13-15 - "Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven."

Mini Refreshment Time

Now that the weather has warmed up, we're trying to reinstate the small cart refreshments outside after church; and we need help. If you could take a turn, please let Ginny Culp know. She can be reached at (937) 409-2893 or vculp@sprynet.com.



ADOPT -A- BILLS

are available for support of various ministries and events here at St. Francis. Please place your check along with the adopt-a-bill slip in the offering.

Holy Eucharist on the Feast of Michael and All Angels
Thursday, September 29 at 6:30 pm
Memorial Garden (Will hold indoor in the event of rain)

We gather in the Memorial Garden at 6:30pm on Wednesday, September 29 to join with Christians across the world in observing **the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels**, commonly known as Michaelmas.

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil; May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; And do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.

The biblical word **“angel”** (Greek: *angelos*) means, literally, a **messenger**. Messengers from God can be visible or invisible, and may assume human or non-human forms. Christians have always felt themselves to be attended by helpful spirits—swift, powerful, and enlightening. Those beneficent spirits are often depicted in Christian art in human form, with wings to signify their swiftness and spacelessness, with swords to signify their power, and with dazzling raiment to signify their ability to enlighten. Unfortunately, this type of pictorial representation has led many to dismiss the angels as “just another mythical beast, like the unicorn, the griffin, or the sphinx.”

Of the many angels spoken of in the Bible, only four are called by name: **Michael, Gabriel, Uriel, and Raphael**. The Archangel Michael is the powerful agent of God who wards off evil from God’s people, and delivers peace to them at the end of this life’s mortal struggle. **“Michaelmas,”** as his feast is called in England, has long been one of the popular celebrations of the Christian Year in many parts of the world.

Michael is the patron saint of countless churches, including **Mont Saint-Michel**, the monastery fortress off the coast of Normandy that figured so prominently in medieval English history; and **Coventry Cathedral**, England’s most famous modern church building, rising from the ashes of the Second World War.

Everlasting God, who has ordained and constituted in a wonderful order the ministries of angels and mortals: Mercifully grant that, as your holy angels always serve and worship you in heaven, so by your appointment they may help and defend us here on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord is glorious in his angels and in his saints: *O come, let us adore him.*

(from *Lesser Feasts & Fasts 2018*, Church Publishing.)



**Don't Let Your Pledge Go on
Vacation!**

**As you enjoy warm temperatures
and vacations, please consider
keeping your pledge up to date. Summer is typically a
downtime for receiving contributions, but an uptime for utility
use, which means good cash flow is a must! Thank You!**

40th Anniversary Fundraising Appeal

Saint Francis Episcopal Church has been active in Springboro for 40 years. We don't know about you, but that makes us want to celebrate! We hope you have been blessed along the way by the many ways God has used this community.

Four decades of proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ have flown by. We are looking ahead with hopeful expectation at the next forty years of ministry, and we need your help to get there. This month gives us just a peek at how St. Francis is moving forward into the future. There is the launch of Breakfast Church, [a new worship offering geared towards families], a collaborative prayer service with Covenant Presbyterian, a healing service, and all while continuing our rich tradition of Episcopal liturgy on Sundays with Rite II Holy Eucharist and Rite I Morning Prayer on Tuesdays.

Your financial support is invaluable to us as we both carry on our favored traditions and begin new ones. We're asking you to make a special one-time donation in honor of this anniversary. Please help us achieve our goal of raising \$10,000.00 and make our 40th Anniversary appeal a success.

40th Celebration Eucharist & Reception

St. Francis was started as a church plant from The Episcopal Church of the Ascension in Middletown and has enjoyed four decades of proclaiming the good news through word and deed, dedicated to the love of Jesus Christ and the truth of his message.

We will commemorate the occasion together on October 3rd at 3:00 p.m., [in place of our normal Sunday service] we will celebrate the Holy Eucharist in Thanksgiving for continual blessings bestowed upon the people of St. Francis by Almighty God. The Rt. Rev. George Wayne Smith, Provisional Bishop of the Diocese of Southern Ohio, will officiate. There will be a reception to follow the service with hor d'oeuvres & drinks.

We have commissioned a special anthem to mark St. Francis Church's 40th year. . Robert Benson, long-time member of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Oxford, has composed an anthem, "All Creatures of our God and King," based on the words of St. Francis. Mr. Benson is an accomplished organist and composer whose music has been performed in churches and cathedrals in America, Canada, and England, as well as in concert in Rome. Over 100 of his anthems, including the one written for St. Francis, have been published.

We would like to invite you and other singers you may know, whether members of a choir or not, to join us for the premiere of this piece. Please contact Jenny Catalan if interested.

CELEBRATE WITH US



Proclaiming the Dream: Diocesan Convocation

Saturday, September 25 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Procter Center

We're gathering the diocesan family for our first in-person event in almost 2 years! Part country fair, part tent revival, there will be fun, formation and fellowship for all ages – Story Sharing, Liturgical Free-Cycle tent, DSO Bake-off, Revival Eucharist at 3 p.m., Exhibits & Vendors, Games, Kid's activities, Arts & Crafts, Music, and more!

Activities will be mainly outdoors. Masks will be required for any activities inside buildings at Procter. This event is free! Food will be available for purchase or you can bring your own.. Registration is required for planning purposes. Register at <https://episcopaliansinconnection.org/convocation/>

Carpool with Fr. Jed to this exciting event. He will be leaving from St. Francis Episcopal Church at 9:00 pm. Please contact him to let him know if you would like a ride at 614-327-4299 or revjed@saintfran.org

Highlights

Story Sharing

Throughout the day, there will be opportunity to share stories and connect in our faith. The StorySharing Tent will offer dynamic, fun, and deep ways to practice storysharing. We will explore the Four Sacred Questions designed by The Episcopal Church, including: *What do you love? What have you lost? Where does it hurt? What do you dream?*

There will be three sessions:

11:00: Speed dating version!

12:10: Deeper dive, in small groups!

1:20: Daring to Dream through Creativity, Contemplation, and Dialogue

A StorySharing Showcase will exhibit video, visual, and written stories collected the past year, speaking to who we are, what we are learning, and how we are being changed in our journey to Becoming Beloved Community. Have a personal and/or communal story to share? Contact Amy Howton at ahowton@diosohio.org.

Liturgical free-cycle tent

Got “stuff”? Clean out those church closets of excess or unused liturgical items (vestments, linens, paraments, etc.) and make them available for churches who could use them. Need stuff? Come and “shop”! All items are free to a good home.

DSO Bake-Off

Enter your best pie/cake/cookies to win a prize! Sales of desserts will benefit Episcopal Community Ministries. Entry details coming soon.

Revival

Cap off our time together with Eucharist at 3 p.m. in the new Procter Pavilion with guest preacher, the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, Canon to the Presiding Bishop for Evangelism, Reconciliation and Stewardship of Creation. ~ The Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers

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

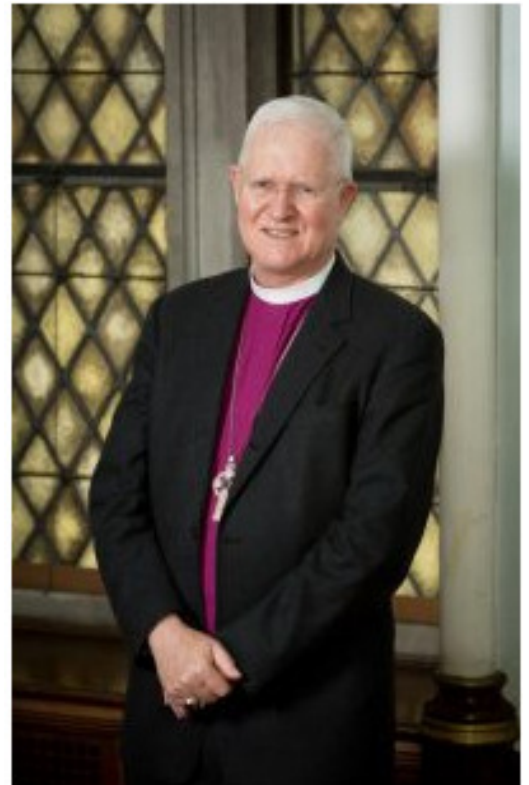
Greetings from Bishop Smith

Dear People of the Diocese of Southern Ohio:

Greetings! As I begin now my second full day as your Bishop Provisional, I’m also settling in to a new temporary office at Christ Church Cathedral. I join here the Diocesan staff who have also just moved into their makeshift workplaces for the construction at Diocesan House, and we are learning a new space for work even as we get to know one another.

These first few weeks will be filled with many meetings, opportunities for me to listen and to learn all I can about the Diocese, clergy, staff, and people of Southern Ohio. I have met quite a few of you during Zoom sessions in June and at a gathering at Procter in July. I look forward to developing these relationships. And I look forward to meeting even more of you in various venues around the Diocese, as I develop a rhythm of serving as your bishop.

I am glad at last to begin our work together, especially the work toward identifying and ordaining a next Bishop Diocesan. There is much to do toward this end—in addition to the ordinary details of a shared life of faith, of a people and a bishop trying to be faithful to God’s claim on our lives I am confident that together, we can accomplish the work ahead of us. May God grant us faith and confidence in Jesus Christ—and show us a way on the road.



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

WORSHIP TIMES

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

SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM - SUNDAY SCHOOL

TUESDAYS AT 7:30 AM - MORNING PRAYER ON ZOOM

WEDNESDAYS AT 10:30 AM - BIBLE STUDY

PRAYER FOR SEPTEMBER

GOD OF ALL CREATION, WE THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR GOOD GIFTS, ESPECIALLY THE MANY RESOURCES THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO US TO LIVE HAPPY AND HEALTHY LIVES. WE PRAY THAT YOU MIGHT GIVE US THE GRACE TO SEE THINGS DIFFERENTLY. WE KNOW THAT THIS WILL NOT BE EASY. WE NEED YOUR GRACE. WE ASK THIS THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN.

STAFF

Clergy Resident - The Rev. Jed J. Dearing

Senior Warden - Stephan Graham

Junior Warden - Joe Spangler

Vestry Clerk - Virginia Culp

Financial Secretary - Sue Starner

Parish Secretary - Alisha Minamyer

Organist - Diana Graham

Sunday School Director - Jenny Catalan

Vestry Members - Stephan Graham, Jenny Catalan, Barb Roy, Chuck Oduah, Jack Emerson, Mary Harris, Ron Thomas, Kimmie Patti, and Virginia Culp.

