

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



THE PILGRIM PRIEST PONDERES THE WHY OF SAINT FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Dear Friends in Christ,

When I was given the honor of being called as Priest-in-Charge of St. Francis, I told the Vestry and all of you that I had three specific goals to accomplish during my time with you.

Those goals were:

- To define and articulate the WHY of the St. Francis Community.
- To define and articulate the Mission of the St. Francis Community to the City of Springboro and beyond.
- To define and articulate the qualifications of the next clergy person(s) who will serve the St. Francis Community after my time with you has ended.

This article is meant to begin the discussion of the WHY of the St. Francis Community. After six months with you, and lots of prayer and discussion, I offer the following WHY:

“The Mission of Saint Francis Episcopal Church is to proclaim the healing and transformative power of Jesus Christ to a hurting world. This proclamation is made in both words and actions.”

Vital aspects of this WHY include:

- The WHY is centered on Jesus Christ; specifically, Jesus as revealed in the Scriptures and the Historic Creeds of the Church. Three Scriptures that I believe can guide us are:
 - The Summary of the Law (Matthew 22:37-40). We have started using this Scripture every Sunday after the Collect for Purity in our Eucharistic celebration.

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- The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). I use this Scripture as the Dismissal every Sunday, where we hear Jesus' command to invite others to join us in God's Beloved Community.
- Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness (Psalm 96:9). The worship of the LORD occurs during our in-person gatherings, our Broadcast services, and indeed in how we care for the buildings and grounds of our Community.
- While the WHY is centered on Jesus Christ, the direction of our WHY is pointed outward to the Springboro community and beyond.

In today's fragmented and increasingly isolated world, it is essential that we as Christians use all the tools available to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. Those tools include:

- The beauty of our Worship in the Prayer Book tradition.
- The beauty of our building, gardens and grounds offered to the wider community.
- Our offerings of food and funds to the hurting and helpless among us.
- Bible Study on Wednesdays and Sundays, with the sermon specifically based in Scriptures.
- The offering of the prayers of Healing (daily, at the Sunday service, and specific healing prayers to all who desire them, both in person, by electronic media, or by prayer request.
- The use of Social Media (our Web Page, Facebook Page, and electronic broadcasts, among others) to proclaim the Good News to as wide an audience as possible.
- The explicit offer to join us as part of God's Beloved Community.

Well, these are some initial thoughts. Am I on-track, or completely off-base? What have I missed? My hope is that we can arrive at a WHY statement that can be endorsed by all members of our Saint Francis Community. Let me know what you think.

Your fellow Ambassador in Christ,
David+

SEPTEMBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Alanon 7:00 pm	2 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	3
4 NO Sunday Salon Series 9:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am	5 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	6 Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	7 Bible Study 10:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm	8 Jazzercise 9:15 am Alanon 7:00 pm	9 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	10 Will Frush Memorial Visitation 10:00 am Funeral 11:00 am Luncheon 1:00 pm
11 Sunday Salon Series 9:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am	12 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	13 Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting 7:00 pm	14 Bible Study 10:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm	15 Alanon 7:00 pm	16 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	17
18 Sunday Salon Series 9:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am & Special Sunday Luncheon	19 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	20 Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	21 Bible Study 10:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm	22 Alanon 7:00 pm	23 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	24
25 Sunday Salon Series 9:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am	26 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	27 Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	28 Bible Study 10:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm	29 Alanon 7:00 pm	30 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	

September Birthdays

Nancy Glass on September 27

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

September

Anniversaries

Jeff & Teena Baldrige on Sept. 12

Steve & Kate Hamilton on Sept. 4

David & Virginia Culp in Sept.

Address Update

Barb Pascoe has recently moved to Springhills at 3851 Towne Blvd., Middletown, OH 45005 in Room 122. Her new phone number is 513-705-2085.



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.



PRAYER LIST

We have begun a new format for publishing Prayer Requests in the Sunday Bulletin, Prayers of the People, and the Franciscan.

Names will be included after their initial publication for three weeks. After this, the names will be removed from the list unless the submitter asks for them to be included for an additional three weeks. More on these changes will be published shortly.

FEEDING IT BACK



Outreach Ministry Jars

The **School Supplies** were delivered to Pennyroyal Schools with a special thanks for those who donated.

Pennyroyal School's requested that St. Francis start **School Lunch Jar Donations** to help their needy children pay for food. Many children go hungry throughout the school year because they can't afford to eat. Please donate in the month of September.



The Caring Angels Meals Ministry

Are you ill and tired and unable to fix a quick meal? We are here to help.

If cooking is your passion and you want to volunteer to prepare and deliver quick meals to our members, you are welcome.

Contact Chuck Oduah at 937-361-2602 or oduah@yahoo.com.

Fr. David's Salon series will resume on Sunday,

September 11. Please come and enjoy our weekly Sunday Salon Series with Fr. David. We meet at 9:00 am in the Library each Sunday morning.



No preparation is required, although it will be beneficial to bring your Bible to the Salon Series.

Hope to see you there!



Blankets for the Needy

St. Francis' Outreach would like to start having a group of ladies get together to knit, crochet, quilt, etc. blankets for children and babies who are in need. It

would be a great opportunity to visit and drink some coffee together. Please bring your own supplies.

Donations will be given to programs in our area (there are already a few who expressed interest). If anyone would like to be apart of this group please contact Mary Harris at (937) 672-7993 for details about dates and times.



Church Lunch

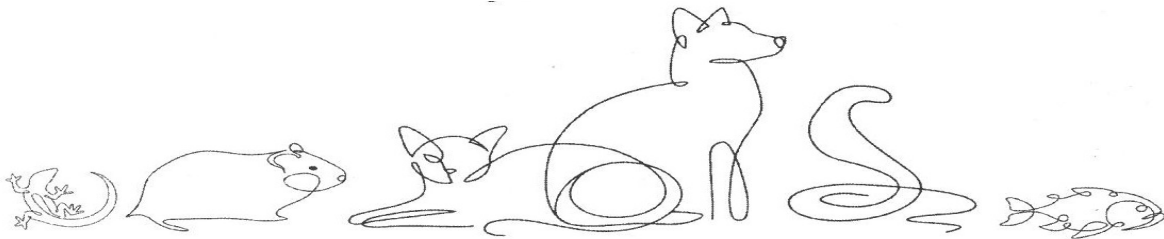
Special Sunday Lunch

Sunday, September 18

Grill-master Jack is at it
again!

Join us for a back to school
smoked pork lunch right after church on Sunday.


Please bring a side-dish to fill out the table if you
can. It will be a great lunch!



The Blessing of God's Creatures and Dedication of the Pets Cemetery for Cremains

Saint Francis Episcopal Church is offering A Blessing of
God's Creatures and Dedication of the Pet Cemetery for
Cremains on October 1st from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm.

All are invited for this free event. Please bring any
animals or animal ashes you would like to be blessed!
Donations will be given to the local animal shelter.



St. Francis Episcopal Church's

Thanksgiving

FOOD DRIVE!





OCTOBER 1 - OCTOBER 31

*Please help us fight hunger by donating
non-perishable food items to help benefit
those in need!*



DROP OFF LOCATION :

225 N. Main Street
Springboro, OH 45066
(937) 748-2592



All donations will go to Franklin
Community Assistant Center



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

From the Standing Committee: Bishop Search Begins

Dear friends in Christ,
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We greet you in love, and we are so grateful for your prayers and support as we move through the process of electing a new Bishop Diocesan. First, we join you in fervent prayers for the **continued recovery** of the President of the Standing Committee, the Rev. Canon Scott Gunn. The Standing Committee is continuing our work without interruption in Canon Gunn’s absence so that he can focus on returning to health.

We write today to tell you that we are prepared to begin the search for the Tenth Bishop of Southern Ohio, and to share with you our draft timeline for the work ahead. In particular, we want you to know that we are preparing to open the application for members of the Bishop Nominating Committee from August 11 to August 19. Because serving on the nominating committee will require a significant commitment of time and attention from mid-September through the end of June 2023, we want those of you who may be called to serve on the nominating committee to have time to discern your commitment before the online application form opens. The Nominating Committee will have the enormous job of writing the Diocesan Profile and ultimately presenting the slate of bishop candidates to the Standing Committee. This committee, which will include lay and clergy people from all parts of the diocese will have diversity that represents the population of our diocese.

You will see in the timeline chart at the end of this letter that we intend to elect our new bishop on September 30, 2023, and to hold the Ordination and Consecration of the Tenth Bishop of Southern Ohio in mid-February 2024 or shortly thereafter. We are working now with Presiding Bishop Curry’s office to secure a date. Please know that these dates, as well as all the dates in the timeline, are probable, but are not set in stone. The Standing Committee will continue issuing regular updates to keep you informed of our progress.

The process for electing and ordaining a bishop typically takes between one and two years, which is longer than most people imagine. Here in the Diocese of Southern Ohio, we spent some time before officially beginning our search addressing essential issues of institutional culture and clarity. We believe that this preparatory period was necessary to create an environment that will foster the ministries of the diocese and our next bishop.

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Based on the feedback that we received at listening sessions we held in May and June, we now have made sufficient progress on these key issues and are ready to begin the search. Dr. James Allsop, the Vice President of the Standing Committee, has assumed leadership as Canon Gunn recovers, and we have confidence that with the support of the Holy Spirit, we will continue our work without interruption.

One of the foundations from which our committee works was summarized beautifully in a recent publication from **The Center for Action and Contemplation** about the future of Christianity:

- This work invites each of us to play a part — a whole body, a whole community, a whole movement grounded in shared vision, values, and experiential knowing of God’s presence. We are called to show up in the world together.
- As we begin the search for the Tenth Bishop of Southern Ohio, we ask you to pray for us, for those who will discern a call to serve on the nominating committee, and for all the people of the diocese.

Prospective Timeline for the Bishop Search

This projected timeline is but a tip of the iceberg of the complex process for the election of a bishop in the Episcopal Church . We are blessed to have an excellent and experienced consultant to guide us. We are including a projected timeline that can be modified according to circumstances. If you have questions, please email us at

standingcommittee@diosohio.org .

2022

August 11: Bishop Nominating Committee Application Open

August 19: Deadline for Bishop Nominating Committee Applications

September 15: Bishop Nominating Committee Members Announced

October 7-8: Bishop Nominating Committee Retreat

November 19: Diocesan Convention

2023

January 15: Diocesan Profile Published

January 31: Transition Committee Application Published

February 28: Deadline for Bishop Candidate Applications

February 28: Transition Committee Members Announced

March 18: Transition Committee Zoom Kickoff

June 15-17: Bishop Nominating Discernment Retreat

June 24: Slate of Bishop Nominees presented to Standing Committee

June 29: Slate of Bishop Nominees Announced

July 13: Petition Nominee Applications Due

August 10: Final Slate Announced

September 11-15: Meet and Greet Sessions with Bishop Nominees

September 30: Special Electing Convention

2024

February 10 (or later): Ordination of the Tenth Bishop of Southern Ohio

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Yours faithfully,

Dr. James Allsop, vice-president; Dr. Elizabeth Barker; The Rev. Dr. Ellen Cook; Mr. Barry Feist; The Rev. David Kendall-Sperry, secretary; *The Standing Committee of the Diocese of Southern Ohio*



From Bishop Smith: The Time Has Come to Move Ahead

Dear Friends in Christ:

As I come to the halfway mark in my ministry as your Bishop Provisional, it is time to turn toward the election and ordination of the Tenth Bishop of Southern Ohio. This letter comes to you alongside **a word from the Standing Committee**, who have primary oversight for this transition and all its details.

There are a few matters, however, that I want you to hear directly from me. Not least of these concerns arises from Standing Committee President Scott Gunn's **sudden and serious illness**. The Committee and I have depended on Scott's abundant gifts and energies, both of which we will miss sorely in the short term, and we pray daily for his return to health. It might be tempting to defer the start of an election process; the Standing Committee and I are resolute in moving ahead, because the time has come.

I also think that the Diocese is on a clear trajectory toward well-being and wholeness. Together we have worked toward addressing addiction and its effects on Southern Ohio. The staff at Diocesan House is in good shape. Morale there and throughout the Diocese is improving. We have addressed issues of isolation, both geographical and emotional. We have become both more confident and more careful in facing the effects of COVID on the Church's life, although the disease still wears on us all. We continue to uncover the effects of systemic racism in the life of this Diocese and the culture around us, and we struggle to address its caustic reality. We are trying, faithfully, to become the Beloved Community whom God desires.

The work remains incomplete in every one of these matters—and so it will be. It is my judgment, and that of the Standing Committee, that we have nonetheless come to the right moment to move toward election and ordination.

You should know that I am willing to consider an extension in my agreed-to time as Bishop Provisional, past the original end date of August 2023. I can imagine continuing in my current role through the time of an election, and then in a scaled-down role until the ordination. The timeline proposed by the Standing Committee sees an election in September 2023 and an ordination in February 2024.

There are details aplenty to sort out with the Presiding Bishop's office, with the Church Pension Fund, and with the Standing Committee. I see nothing insurmountable, however, in any of the likely details.

And know that I remain blessed to be your bishop, during a season of transition.

George Wayne Smith; Bishop Provisional; Episcopal 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 FOR SEPTEMBER

LORD GOD, YOU HAVE BEGUN A GOOD WORK IN OUR LIVES; YOU ARE PROTECTING AND PROVIDING FOR US; YOU ARE BLESSING AND HEALING US. WE PRAISE YOU FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE, FOR WHAT YOU ARE DOING, AND FOR WHAT YOU WILL DO. THANK YOU, LORD, FOR EVERY BLESSING WE HAVE RECEIVED AND FOR EVERY BLESSING WE WILL RECEIVE, IN JESUS NAME. 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, Kimmie Patti, Virginia Culp, Tom Phillips, and Toni Patti.

