

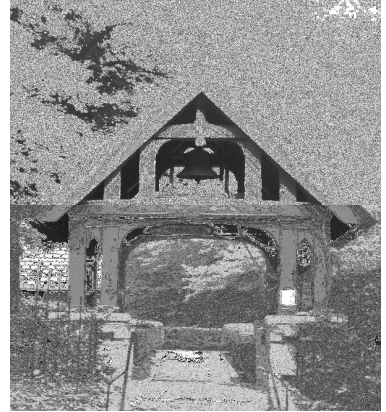
Through the Lych Gate

July 2014

St. Francis Episcopal Church
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*Please join us for Holy Eucharist on
Sundays at
8:00 am and 10:30 am.*

The Vestry

Linda Bailey, Senior Warden
Rob McDaniel, Junior Warden
Vernon Hoyle, Treasurer

2014

Linda Bailey
Linda Norris

2015

Sally Harbin
Sue Lloyd

Rob McDaniel

2016

Carmen Freeman
Denise Hempstead
Jimmy Okpych

What's in a Name?

Have you ever wondered why our newsletter is called *The Lych Gate*? It's named after our lych gate, the covered structure that marks the entrance to our church yard from Main Street. The term "lych gate" is derived from an Old English word for "corpse," probably because it was the place where a corpse was set down prior to burial, the place where a funeral procession formed before entering the church. Although we don't practice the funeral tradition here at St. Francis, we do see the Lych Gate as the entrance to our church yard, and ultimately to our church. In a similar way, our newsletter is a symbolic entrance to the life of our parish.

Highlights of the Vestry Meeting, June 17, 2014

The Vestry of St. Francis Episcopal Church met in regular session on Tuesday, June 17, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Cloister House. The following items were discussed or acted upon.

- 1) Linda Norris opened the meeting with a devotional.
- 2) There was discussion of articles on the focus of the church written by Thom Rainer. Vestry members feel outreach is a very important part of the church and it is important to care for the internal needs of the church and its members.
- 3) The minutes of the May 20, 2014 meeting were approved.
- 4) The May 2014 Finance Report presented by Vernon Hoyle, Treasurer, was accepted.
- 5) Motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the new communication process for the finance reports.
- 6) All information, communication, and feedback from the June 1st Parish Meeting received by members of the Finance Committee and Vestry should be given to Linda Bailey, Senior Warden.
- 7) Motion was made, seconded, and carried to purchase a new Memorial Garden Plaque from International Bronze Company. Money is available in the Memorial Garden Funds for purchase of the plaque.
- 8) The Newcomers' Dinner for 2014 was discussed.
- 9) Linda Norris, Stewardship Committee Chair, presented *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* by Herb Miller to the Vestry.
- 10) Motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the purchase by Day School for a climbing structure for the playground.
- 11) The Rector's Report was received.
- 12) The Junior Warden's Report was received.
- 13) The following SWEEPS Commission Reports were received: Stewardship – Administrative Committee, Building and Grounds Committee, and Finance Committee; Worship – Worship Committee; Evangelism – Evangelism Committee; Education – Day School Committee.
- 14) Training for new acolytes began this year. There are several other young people who are ready and willing to be trained. This training will begin in late summer. Many thanks to Susan Keith, Dee Ullrich, and Lee Roberts for their work with these young folks who are learning to serve God in the church.
- 15) There are currently four Eucharistic Ministers who take communion to parishioners. The number of people receiving communion varies with illnesses, changes in medical status, a return to health, and, unfortunately, death.
- 16) The Choir will be taking a break during the month of August, supplementing with solos and small groups for their special music.

- 17) Twelve graduates from the Day School received their diplomas on May 27. Nine “undergraduates” received certificates and are moving up as our next graduating class.
- 18) Day School Summer Camp has thirty-one students enrolled throughout the summer.
- 19) Handrails at the church and parish house have been painted.
- 20) Storm drains at the church have been cleaned.
- 21) The meeting adjourned with the Prayer of St. Francis at 7:55 p.m.

Year to Date Financial Information

Total Revenue as of 6-28-14	\$114,924.99
Total Expenses as of 6-28-14	<u>95,660.47</u>
	\$ 19,264.52



Vacation Bible School at St. Francis

Vacation Bible School will begin on Thursday, July 10th at 5:00 pm in the Parish House. The theme of this year’s Bible School will be *Weird Animals: Where Jesus’ Love is One-of-a-Kind*. All children are welcome. The schedule is as follows:

- Thursday, July 10th from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
- Friday, July 11th from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
- Saturday, July 12th from 9:00 - 12:00 pm
- Sunday, July 13th there will be a presentation at the 10:30 am service.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex for anyone who would like to help out in anyway. If you have any questions, please contact Kathryn Cunningham at katcunningham@yahoo.com.



Stephen Ministry Is Coming to St. Francis

Have you ever been through a rough time in your life when you just needed someone to talk to, someone would listen and care? Maybe you lost your job and haven't been able to find another. Perhaps an important relationship has ended or someone you loved has died. Maybe your finances are a mess or your children are out of control or there are so many drains and strains on your time and energy that you just can't cope with them all. There are many situations that bring trouble to our lives. Stephen Ministers can't "fix" any of them; but they *can* walk alongside you while you're working your way through them, helping you cope and heal by offering a listening ear and a loving heart in weekly meetings with you. Stephen Ministry provides Christ-centered care and outreach to hurting people in our church and our community.

Through October 1, 2013, 11,750 congregations and other organizations were enrolled in Stephen Ministry, with 65,012 pastors and lay people trained to be Stephen Leaders, the folks who "run" the program in their churches. Over 600,000 people have been trained as Stephen Ministers and millions of people have received their care. Those numbers underscore the value these congregations have found in the program. Unfortunately, becoming a Stephen Ministry congregation is not cheap! In fact, we set aside \$6,000 in our 2014 budget to cover the costs of it, even though we knew we might not be able to begin. Thanks to the financial generosity of a member of our church who saw the value in Stephen Ministry and the need for it at St. Francis, we were able to move forward despite our parish's financial restrictions. We paid the one-time membership fee early this year, and in late April, Judi Gustafson and Mother Chris completed the weeklong Stephen Ministry Leadership Training which prepared them to lead potential Stephen Ministers through the application and selection process, extensive training (50 hours!), and ongoing support in regular meetings and continuing education.

This fall we'll begin the next phase of the Stephen Ministry program here at St. Francis, with the Stephen Ministry study "Discovering God's Vision for Your Life." It's a proven program that helps Christians discover their spiritual gifts and learn how to use them in ministry, whether that's Stephen Ministry or other ministries in our church or community. You'll find more information about this program elsewhere in this edition of the Lych Gate.

In late fall, applications will be accepted from folks who believe their own spiritual gifts are appropriate for Stephen Ministry. Each applicant will be screened and interviewed to help them complete their discernment. After the first of the year, our training will begin, with approximately 25 weekly sessions over a period of six months. By mid-summer 2015, we'll be ready to match Stephen Minister caregivers with care-receivers—those who are hurting and need care.

Jesus commanded us to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Stephen Ministry is a way for us to love our neighbors. Over the coming weeks we'll be answering some frequently asked questions in our weekly announcements and in the Lych Gate. If there's still more you want to know, ask Judi Gustafson or Mother Chris, or visit the website at www.stephenministries.org. And, *please*, consider whether God is calling YOU to become a Stephen Minister.

Which Boxes Do You Check? (Or do you just leave them all blank?)

When someone hands you a time and talent survey that outlines every single possible ministry sponsored by the church, how do you know which to choose? Maybe you take the easy way out and check the same thing you've been doing for the last 5, 10, 15 (30?) years. There might be something else that appeals to you, but you've never tried it because you certainly don't want to get stuck doing—or even worse, leading—something that bores you or becomes obligated drudgery. That's what can happen when we don't understand our spiritual gifts or how to use them. Every single one of us has God-given gifts to be used for building up the Body of Christ. But sometimes we need help finding the special passion that gives us energy and motivation and deep fulfillment. Do you know what your spiritual gifts are?

On the 2nd and 4th Thursday evenings in September and October, we'll gather for a study called "Discovering God's Vision for Your Life: You and Your Spiritual Gifts." Biblically based, each session combines lecture, discussion, and practical application. Through the Haugk Spiritual Gifts Inventory and other gifts discovery activities, we'll gain insights about our own God-given gifts and how to use them. Here are some examples of course content:

Love: The Heart of Spiritual Gifts
The Jesus Connection
Gifts, Offices, Functions, and Fruit of the Spirit
Spiritual Gifts and Burnout Prevention
The Deep Spirituality of Spiritual Gifts
Who are the Gifted People?
How Permanent are Spiritual Gifts
Spiritual Gifts and Your Life's Work

Classes will be held on September 11 and 25 and October 9 and 23. We hope to offer supper for attendees before class begins, and each session will last approximately 2¼ hours. More information will be available in the coming weeks, but mark your calendar now—you won't want to miss this fun, interesting, potentially life-changing study!

Food Ministry

The mission of the Food Ministry at St. Francis Church is to support the parish's mission by delivering a meal or two to a person or family that has had a new baby, is going through a period of convalescence related to illness, injury, or hospitalization, or is in crisis because of a death in the family, or the loss of work. More than just a meal, this sustains a sense of community in our church family.

If you would like to participate in the Food Ministry at St. Francis Church, please call Linda Bailey at 828-245-7456.

A Great Big Thank You!

The Christian Formation Committee would like to thank everyone who helped make our Pentecost Celebration a great success. Special thanks to Anita Quinley, Katy Hunt, Denise Hempstead, Diane Dickerson, and Missy Hughes for working so quickly to set up and clean up, to everyone who provided the delicious sandwiches, cupcakes and drinks, and to our church family for staying around to enjoy it all. A huge thank you goes out to our Sunday school classes who worked so tirelessly on the artwork that helped make the day very special. We heard many compliments, such as "The art was such a welcoming sight when I came up the steps". I even had a phone call the next day, saying how well it was done.

Liz Segers,
Christian Formation Chair

Come join the fun

Do you remember the Advent event last year? We made ornaments for our new tree at an intergenerational Sunday school class, and had a great brunch. Have you enjoyed the Epiphany play with all our children re-enacting the birth of baby Jesus? More recently, did you have fun at the Pentecost celebration, playing games and fellowshiping with your church family?

Christian Formation Committee plans these and other events. We are looking for 4 people who enjoy planning and brainstorming for new ideas. We meet the first Monday of the month at the Cloister House at 7:00 pm. Please call Liz Segers @ 828-223-0236 if you think you might be interested in our service.

Bread Guild Forming

Earlier this year, we took a survey to find out if you prefer wafers or bread. The results were very close! At the 8:00 service, 11 folks voted for wafers and 12 voted for bread. At the 10:30 service, 37 voted for wafers, 40 voted for bread. One person at each service voted on

“the line,” indicating either was okay. Totals were 48 for wafers and 62 for bread. Later this summer we’ll begin testing recipes for gluten-free communion bread. If you would like to be part of this test group, and ultimately part of the Bread Guild, please contact me by email, text, or by leaving a message on my office or cell phone. Some of you have already told me you’d like to participate, but I need to hear from you again. Please do not tell me in passing—especially on Sunday—as I will likely forget.

Thanks! MC+

A Note of Thanks

As you know, I have resigned as chair of the Crisis Committee. I want to express my deepest appreciation to all who have been my “partners” over the years in offering aid to our fellow parishioners. None of the receptions or meals would have happened without your willingness to cook, deliver, set up, serve, clean-up, etc. and I want to say a great big “thank-you” to everyone-you know who you are!

With my love & gratitude,
Sue Lloyd

Newcomers' Dinner

On June 19th the Vestry and the Evangelism committee hosted a Newcomers' dinner. This was an opportunity for food and fellowship with over 15 of St. Francis' newest parishioners. Special thanks to all those who helped make this a successful event. Hebrews 13:2 “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.”

Linc McDaniel,
Evangelism Chair

Happy Birthday!

Sophia Bell	1
Kathy Demas	6
Brannon Freeman	6
Marilyn Corry	7
Meredith Garrett	7
Linda Jeanne Harrill	8
Blue Pittman	16
Patty Crowder	18
Tom Northrup	20
Becky Huntley	20
Jay Seagrave	21
Chad Helms	29
Maggie Bell	31

Happy Anniversary!

Kenny & Dee Ullrich	4
Pete & Diane Dickerson	6
Randy & Karen Patterson	10

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