

2020
Annual Meeting
Saint Francis
Episcopal Church

395 North Main Street
Rutherfordton, North Carolina 28139

Office Phone: 828-287-3888

E-Mail: administrator@stfrancisrutherfordton.org

Website: www.stfrancisrutherfordton.org

Church Office: 395 North Main Street, Rutherfordton, NC 28139
Mailing Address: 395 North Main Street, Rutherfordton, NC 28139

**2020 Annual Meeting
December 27, 2020
Agenda**

1. Opening Prayer & Call to Order
2. Appointment of Clerk for Annual Meeting
3. Appreciation of Outgoing Vestry Members
4. Introduction of New Vestry Members
5. Reports from the Discernment Committee, Senior Warden, & Junior Warden
6. Presentation of the Budget for 2021
7. Closing Prayer and Dismissal

Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting December 15, 2019

The Annual Meeting of St. Francis Parish was held at the Parish House on Sunday, December 15, 2019. Members of the parish enjoyed a Brunch beginning at 9:15 a.m. prior to the meeting. The Reverend Gary Coffey called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and opened the meeting with prayer.

Motion was made by Don Corry, seconded by Jennifer Robertson, and carried to appoint Kathryn McGowan clerk of the meeting.

Motion was made by Dee Ullrich, seconded by Robin DeLorenzo, and carried to approve the Minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting.

The Reverend Gary Coffey thanked outgoing members of the Vestry, Don Corry and Liz Segers, and presented them with gifts of appreciation.

The Reverend Gary Coffey explained the process of nominating a single slate of Vestry members to the Parish. The Vestry then presented the following nominees for the Vestry: Steve Ross, Elaine Sprouse and Stephanie Williams. Motion was made by Don Corry, seconded by Jason Abrams, and carried to elect the three members of the parish to serve on the Vestry.

Don Corry introduced the following people as elected members to the Discernment Committee: Elizabeth Abrams, Don Corry (Chair), Judi Gustafson, Mayden McDaniel, Donna Murray, Liz Segers, and Richard Williams.

Mike DeLorenzo updated the Parish on the status of the Rectory Renovation and reminded the parish of the loan that must be paid back to the diocese. Don Corry presented Mike DeLorenzo with a gift of appreciation for his dedication to this project.

Linda Bailey, Treasurer, presented the 2020 Budget to the parish. Don Corry presented Linda Bailey with a gift of appreciation for her five years of service as the Treasurer of St. Francis Church.

The Reverend Gary Coffey gave the Rector's Address to the parish. The Reverend Gary Coffey informed the parish of the newly fostered relationship with St. Gabriel's and the plan to move forward in the process of looking for a Rector to serve both churches.

Don Corry thanked the Vestry, the Parish, and the Diocese for the positive direction in which St. Francis is moving.

The Vestry members were commissioned.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathryn McGowan, Clerk

Report from the Vestry

The Vestry, with nominations from the Parish and Vestry, voted unanimously to present the following slate for approval for the Vestry Class of 2023: Nancy Bole and Rebecca Melton.

Respectfully submitted,
Blue Pittman,
Senior Warden

Vestry Nominees

Nancy Bole

My name is Nancy Bole and I became a member of St. Francis at 5 months old when my parents moved from Seward, Alaska where I was baptized. I married Rob Bole at the age of twenty and for the next nineteen years, I followed him around the world until he retired from the Air Force in 1989. We have been back at St. Francis since he retired. I have served on the Vestry in the past, am currently the leader of the acolytes, a lay reader, and a chaliceist. I will be honored to be on the Vestry.

Rebecca Melton

My name is Rebecca Melton. I have been a member of this congregation for 55 years. Throughout this time, I have served as an acolyte (both youth and adult), on the Altar Guild, as an Usher, on a Discernment Committee, and Director of Joyful Noyze. I am also a member of the Phoebe Chapter of the Daughters of the King. I have two wonderful daughters and a precocious granddaughter. I miss our in-person fellowship and pray we will all stay safe until we can be together again. FHS+

Rector's Annual Report 2020

I came to you just about one year ago, basically the beginning of January. I set about learning the ins and outs of the parish and was pleased to find a people with significant skills in ministry and a passion for mission.

I knew right away that your parish had all the tools, expertise, and desire necessary to prosper in the years ahead.

First up were various functions related to the community's MLK, Jr. celebration. The events culminated in a reception hosted by St. Francis and I was proud of the way this was handled, you can be proud of this as well, it was well done. I commend Kathryn for ensuring the event was successful.

A year later I have been asked to give an introductory talk at this coming years' event in January. I was and I am glad to represent you in this worthwhile ministry.

At same time, I set about strengthening relationships with the ministerial association in town, and with Saint Gabriel's. I was introduced to the Welcome Table and the feeding program at Saint Gabriel's. These are solid ministries that are unfortunately necessary. I am glad they have solid support.

About the same time planning began for the Lenten Program. You have some special people in Anita, Susan, and Margie. Their love of Christian formation is unwavering and will serve you well as you bring in a new rector.

In the middle of all this I was given a marriage to arrange, not a problem until the couple wanted the ceremony on Holy Saturday the day before Easter. This just is not done. But given all the details, I thought it best we try.

Not being new to ministry, I knew to go to the Altar Guild and gauge their willingness to "fit this in." I was met with a kind graciousness and a willingness to work together to make things happen in a positive way.

In the end the wedding did happen but with only the bride and groom, their parents, and your altar guild chair present. This was due to the budding COVID pandemic and the need to limit in person attendance at gatherings.

Little did we know that this was the beginning of a year long dance trying to figure out how to minister and live life as a parish, while maintaining appropriate protocol in keeping everyone safe and in good health. Which we have done fairly well to date.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Blue and truly all the vestry for the faithful and responsible way in which they have met this challenge. In all the various cares and concerns of the parish, your vestry has been outstanding!

Once more I am encouraged by the graciousness and willingness displayed by this core group. I am proud to be counted among them and I think you can take justified pride in the accomplishments you all have made as a parish, such as, paying off the loan on the rectory renovations, completing construction of the handicap entrance and the growing relationship with Saint Gabriel's.

As you bring on your new rector, your accomplishments will only increase. You have laid a firm foundation.

In the interest of time, I commend you to the Sr. and Jr. Warden's reports for more details of the various ministries and projects we have engaged in this year.

For now, I just wish to assure you that all you need to be successful is already present among you. You have the talent, the tools, the love and the heart to move forward and prosper in the years ahead. What more you might need, God will provide.

Do not doubt this but believe and all will be well.

IT'S TIME TO MAKE A NEW BEGINNING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Report from the Senior Warden

To My Church Family,

Little did I know what 2020 would bring when I said “yes” to Father Gary and Don Corry last year with regards to serving as Senior Warden at St. Francis for 2020. The issues that we have faced as a church this year serve as a microcosm of what is happening in our world and as a result, it has impacted us all in our homes on a daily basis. I enjoy sharing as much as I can with our daughters in terms of experiences in my past hoping of course that it will help them in some way. However, I have found myself many times this year saying “Dad really doesn’t know what to say girls, this has never happened during my lifetime.”

I really miss our church family and I truly look forward to the day that we can all be together again. After serving as Junior Warden & Senior Warden over the past 2 years, I have gained a deep appreciation and knowledge of “life” in our church. We have our ups and downs just like anybody else, but we have a lot to be thankful for. My prayer and hope for each of you is for a sense of peace and hope not only during this Season of Christmas, but in the new year ahead.

Father Bruce Walker has been a true blessing for our church, may we all continue to stand behind him as he shares his ministry with us. Thomas Alexander has not only blessed us sounds that enlighten our worship weekly, but he has also gone above and beyond with his Bible studies as the Lord continues to guide him in his path towards ministry. I am in awe at how much Kathryn McGowan gives to our church daily, I am so thankful for the friendship that she and I have in our 40+ years at St. Francis. Our Discernment Committee has spent numerous hours so far and will continue to do so in 2021 as we await the call of our new rector. I couldn’t have asked for a better group of people to serve on Vestry with this past year. It’s not always easy making difficult decisions for a group as a whole, but we did so in a loving way and I am very thankful for each of you.

My point in saying all of the above is this -- the Lord uses each of us in His own way when we are open and willing to listen. Our church family has really stepped up this year and everyone has done his / her part to continue to make St. Francis the special place that it is. May we all continue to seek to do the Lord’s will in our lives.

Merry Christmas,

Blue Pittman
Senior Warden

Report from the Junior Warden

The handicap access project was completed in the spring. This involved rebuilding the stone wall, widening the ramp access, and repairing the pavement at the entrance at the back of the church. There are many thanks to go around but I would especially like to thank Don Corry - for his vision and spearheading, and Blue Pittman - for continuing to deal with contractors and issues even though he was no longer Junior Warden.

We had a lot of tree work completed in 2020. Multiple trees near the back wall were removed due to their poor condition. This area has been mulched to provide for easy future upkeep. The trees overhanging Main St. near the Cloister House were also trimmed.

Our boxwoods have hopefully come to the end of this year in better shape than when it started. It was determined that the boxwoods were suffering from a fungus. Fungicide was applied at the ground and the boxwoods were covered in pine needles to help protect the roots. Unfortunately, a group of boxwoods near the church entrance had to be removed. If desired, we can plant more in a few years when we can be sure the fungus is no longer in the soil.

Some areas of the Memorial Garden are in the process of being replanted. The beds closest to the church had all vegetation removed and will be replanted in the spring. The bushes were trimmed along with the ivy, while seed was applied to the grassy area to help rejuvenate it in the spring.

Rutherford County received three significant rainfall events in 2020. These heavy rainfalls caused flooding in the children's Christian Formation area, the office area, and the entrance area closest to the Commons Room. It has been determined that the problem is one of the main drainage lines, which runs underneath the Parish House beginning near the HVAC units. It is clogged with roots which hampers the effectiveness of our gutters. We have temporarily remedied the problem and have an estimate from Rollins Plumbing to permanently fix the issue.

The Rectory remodeling was just completed in 2019 so there was very little to do in regard to the Rectory in 2020. The water heater has a burned out element that needs to be replaced before a new rector can reside there. It also could use a new stove but I would recommend waiting until a new rector is here so they can help pick out the kind of stove they would prefer. Also, a small water leak near window in basement was repaired by boarding up said window.

An estimate to completely waterproof the undercroft of church was received from Tarheel Basement Systems. It was determined that waterproofing the area was not a necessity at this time.

We managed to squeeze in two workdays in 2020. Much was accomplished on these two days but even more was accomplished by parishioners who showed up throughout the year when they could to knock things off our to-do list. These are some of the things that were done:

All the gutters and downspouts were cleared out at both the church and the Parish House.

- The outside Stations of the Cross were repaired and repainted.
- The ark and the wooden bridge to the dentist parking lot were repaired.
- The kitchen door was repainted and a kickplate installed.
- All heating elements on the stove were replaced.

- The door to the Parish House utility area was repaired and the door to the undercroft at the church was replaced.
- All the kitchen cabinets and drawers were cleaned out and reorganized.
- Four new security cameras were installed.
- The faucet in the Commons Room was replaced.
- The office had new light fixtures installed.

Going in to 2021 it is likely a lot of our efforts with the buildings and grounds will need to focus on the Parish House. This includes the previously mentioned drainage issue, replacing carpet, and repaving the parking lot.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Junior Warden this year. We are fortunate to have so many parishioners who are eager to help and blessed with many whose times and talents save St. Francis A LOT of resources. Many prayers have been offered in thanksgiving for you and I know many more will be in the future.

In gratitude,

Stephanie Williams

Report from the Discernment Committee

Merry Christmas and a Great New Year from the Discernment Committee.

This year, as with all of us, has been a tough year for the Discernment Committee. This year we have met, using all of the infectious precautions, worked very hard to be able to present to the Vestry two documents. The first is a Statistical Analysis of our parish with Essay Questions. The Second is the Parish Profile, taken directly from the Holy Conversations taken earlier this year.

The Vestry, after making useful additions, unanimously approved both documents, which was then sent in November to the Diocese for approval by the Bishop and will be used as an advertisement for our New Rector. The two documents, when final approval by the Diocese is obtained, will be made available to the Parish.

The entire process has been affected by several different issues that has impeded our time schedule. Of course, the COVID-19 Pandemic has greatly slowed this process but not halted our search. Last week I was contacted by Canon Augusta Anderson, Canon to the Ordinary, who said that both she and the Bishop have reviewed the documents and their reaction was "Wow".

So, in early January, a ZOOM meeting will be conducted so that the Diocese can make some small changes and edits to our Profile that will be sent out to prospective Rectors. My hope and expectation are that the Discernment Committee will begin actual interviews beginning in March.

So, while not the time schedule we planned on this year, we moved forward in the process to bring a new Rector to St. Francis. My thanks to all the St. Francis membership that participated in the Holy Conversations as those thoughts were how the Committee framed the Profile. Thanks to the Vestry for it's guiding us along the way and special thanks to the Discernment Committee, who along with our Parish Administrator made all of this possible.

Thank you for allowing us to serve,

for the Discernment Committee,

Don

Don Corry, Chair

Revenues

General Revenues	
Offering Income	
Non pledged Offerings	\$18,000.00
Pledged Offerings	\$138,270.00
Total Offerings	\$156,270.00

St. Gabriel's Rector Contribution **\$10,000.00**

Other Budgeted Receipts	
Maude Coxe Trust	\$2,418.00
Daisy Coxe Wright Endowment	\$27,000.00
Facilities Usage Fee	
Edna Hampton Endowment	\$13,940.00
Martha Baker Wilkins Memorial	
Fund	\$2,260.00
Coxe Family Fund	\$1,790.00
Total Other Budgeted Receipts	\$47,408.00

Total Revenues **\$213,678.00**

Expenses

 Diocesan Pledge **\$19,131.00**

Salaries & Benefits Clergy	
Interim Clergy Salary	\$19,500.00
Interim Rectors Mileage &	
Expense	\$500.00
Clergy Cash Stipend	\$24,000.00
Pension Premiums	\$6,037.20
Rectors Insurance	\$5,928.00
Housing Allowance	
Rectors Mileage	\$2,500.00
Continuing Education	\$1,000.00
Clergy Supply	\$1,500.00
Discernment Committee	
Expenses	\$7,500.00
Rector's Equity Allowance	\$500.00
Total Salaries & Benefits Clergy	\$68,965.20

Contract Services	
Sexton-Outside Church	\$3,200.00
Sexton-Outside Parish House	\$2,500.00
Sexton-Outside Rectory	\$2,000.00
Organist	\$11,200.00
Total Contract Services	\$18,900.00

Salaries Other Employees	
Sexton-Inside	\$7,800.00
Parish Administrator	\$35,568.00
Payroll Taxes	\$3,317.65
Pension Premium	\$3,903.12
Total Salaries Other Employees	\$50,588.77

Operational Expenses

Utilities Church	\$5,000.00
Telephone & Internet	\$2,700.00
Office Expense	\$1,500.00
Postage	\$1,000.00
Software Support	\$1,380.00
Copier Contract	\$1,000.00
Supplies	\$800.00
Building Maint. Church	\$2,000.00
Building Maint. Rectory	\$2,000.00
Building Maint. Parish House	\$2,000.00
Utilities Rectory	\$2,000.00
Utilities Parish House	\$7,200.00
Rectors Phone	\$300.00
General Insurance	\$12,500.00
Subscriptions	\$1,300.00
Total Operational Expense	\$42,680.00

Ministry/Mission Expense	
Seminary Gift	\$0.00
St. Gabriel's Food Kitchen	\$3,000.00
Missionary Fund	\$4,800.00
Prison Chaplaincy Fund	\$1,200.00
Welcome Table	\$5,000.00
Total Ministry/Mission Expense	\$14,000.00

Other Budgeted Expenses	
Fellowship	\$500.00
Altar Supplies	\$1,500.00
Music Supplies	\$300.00
Christian Formation	\$500.00
Christain Formation Committee	\$300.00
Vestry Ministry Formation	\$500.00
Diocesan Events	\$400.00
Pastoral Care	\$200.00
Evangelism	\$600.00
Stewardship	\$300.00
Total Other Budgeted Expenses	\$5,100.00

Total Expenses **\$219,364.97**

Total Revenue	\$213,678.00
Total Expenses	\$219,364.97
Total Revenue over Expenses	-\$5,686.97

2021 Budget