



THE FAITHFUL BELL

St. Francis Episcopal Church

September 2010

STAFF

The Rev. Conor Alexander, Rector
Mrs. Nakita Thompson, Secretary
Mr. Bennett Card, Christian Formation
Mr. Roland Nave, Accompanist
Mr. John Ickes, Music Director
Ms. Frances Doughty,
Nursery Attendant

VESTRY

Victor Rice, Senior Warden
Al Taylor, Junior Warden
Sarah Owens, Registrar
Roxanne Taylor, Treasurer
Susan Clever, Stewardship/Publicity
Onaye Farrish, Evangelism
Dosh Jackson, Finance
Jill Kridler, Social
Myrna Simmons, Outreach
Clay Wise, Christian Formation

PARISH MINISTRY LEADERS

Tsu Fullwood, Altar Guild
Jackie Clarke, Acolytes
Charlotte Newcome, ECW
Erika Grasse, EYC
Sarah Owens, Lay Readers
Bob Fullwood, Men's Group
Ken Clarke, Ushers

Susan Clever, Faithful Bell Newsletter
Elisa Allen, Website

Dear People of St. Francis:

My tenure as your rector has ended. As I leave I want to thank all of you for these past seven years. They have been simply wonderful and very rewarding. Although my wife, Clara, was not able to see the conclusion of this tenure, we have always been profoundly grateful to God for the opportunity to do ministry here. As many of you know she loved nothing more than singing in the choir on those Sundays that she did not have duty on the ward.

I won't try to name any of you by name that have made my stay here so pleasant, because the list would be far too long and I am certain to leave many of you out. But I do want to say that I have enjoyed excellent support from the Wardens and the Vestry, the Choir, the Altar Guild, the Episcopal Church Women, and all of the office volunteers. Also, I want to thank all the parents who contributed to the future of this parish by embracing the biblical junction "to fruitful and multiply." When I first arrived I said to you that I would not stay very long unless we had some "crying babies" in the congregation. Well, some of you came through in a mighty way. During Vacation Bible School, observing the many beautiful children of the Parish, several of us commented that if the parents keep them involved in parish life, the future is very bright for St. Francis.

Since I made my announcement I have been asked often how I feel about my retirement and giving up being Rector of St. Francis. The truth is I feel really good about it. There are things I want to do and places I want to travel to before I am too old. You are a healthy, strong, vibrant and vital congregation that will accomplish great things for God and the Diocese of Southern Virginia in the years to come.

To start with, Bishop Holly has appointed a very talented priest: the Reverend Conor Alexander as priest-in-charge. I am very pleased with the choice of Father Conor. He is one the most gifted, smartest and most orthodox priests in the Diocese. If you give him the same support you gave me during these past seven years your future will be great, and unlimited.

As I take my leave as your rector, I want you to know that St. Francis Parish will never be far from my heart or out of my prayers. I am certain to see many of you around in the Diocese and the city, since I am not relocating any place, but I will only come back to preside at worship upon the invitation of your new priest. God bless.

Faithfully yours,

The Rev'd. James R. Anderson

Cards or letters of love and appreciation for Fr. Anderson may be sent to: 1224 New Mill Dr., Chesapeake, VA 23322 • 410-2146 • jacobum10@yahoo.com

509 S. Rosemont Road • Virginia Beach, VA 23452

Office Phone: 757-340-6884 • E-mail: stfrancisoffice@verizon.net • Website: www.saintfrancisvb.net

THE REVEREND FR. CONOR ALEXANDER WILL OFFICIALLY ASSUME THE DUTIES OF PRIEST-IN-CHARGE OF ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2010.

Dear Friends of St. Francis,

I was delighted when your vestry offered me the call to come in as your next priest. For the past several years I've been serving at Christ and St. Luke's in Norfolk and I did feel like it was time for a change. Fr. Anderson approached me quite some time ago to let me know about his retirement and encourage me to put my name in. As he described the parish to me, I kept getting a feeling that this would be a perfect fit. Now that the time has come, I'm looking forward to getting to know all of you.

For my first several months, I hope to get to know as many of you as possible - preferably through visits to your home or at the Church. I would love to start throwing out ideas right now, but I think it's better to understand you all first. From there we can discern where God is calling St. Francis together. I am excited for the future, and I look forward to our mutual ministry.

In God's Peace,
Fr. Conor+



A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE NEW RECTOR:

The Rev. Conor Alexander was born and raised in Upstate New York, just outside of Syracuse. He attended Cornell University, earning a degree in Biological Engineering and spent three years doing product development for Bristol-Myers Squibb before entering seminary.

While visiting Virginia Theological Seminary, he met The Rev. Samantha Vincent-Alexander, also an ordained priest. They were married on May 20th, 2006. They have a dog named Chance.

In his spare time, Fr. Conor likes to exercise, play music (guitar mostly) or spend time with Samantha and Chance. His passions for ministry involve doing what it takes to make our faith more and more relevant to our daily lives.

"Sell your possessions and give to those in need.
This will store up treasure for you in heaven!
And the purses of heaven never get old or develop holes.
Your treasure will be safe: no thief can steal it
and no moth can destroy it.
Wherever your treasure is,
there the desires of your heart will also be.
Lukel2:33-34



A Message from the Senior Warden



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Retirement shouldn't be a boring time of withdrawing from the world. It has the potential to be the best time of your life. A time when most people can refocus their time and energy into activities that they want to do and sense God calling them to do it. If you make positive choices during your retirement, it can be incredibly fun and meaningful for you. I for one should know. I am having a ball.

It was a sad day when Father Anderson told me that he was retiring and leaving St. Frances. I knew that after the passing of his wife Clara on June 18, 2009, Father Jim was thinking leaving then and there, but instead he took a much needed vacation. I know that I will miss Father Jim very, very much. You see he was not just my Pastor but also a very close friend.

I can recall the first time I met Father Anderson. He came to St Frances and sat in the back. As always Ken Clarke and I were ushering at the service. When the service was over, we had a conversation about St Frances. He told me that he was a retired officer from the Air Force and that after being a Pastor in an Episcopal church in Maryland, he moved to the Hampton Roads area to be close to his daughter and grandchildren. At the time St. Frances needed a pastor even though some said we didn't, that we could just have morning prayer each Sunday. No communion on Sunday! That's not the Episcopal church that I grew up in. So the Vestry voted and called Father James Anderson to be our Pastor.

Yes, I will miss him dearly as a Pastor, a mentor and most of all as my friend. On a personal note, Jim, I hope you enter retirement as you would open a gift - with anticipation, certain that it holds something special just for you. I Hope that you see yourself as the remarkable person I believe you are, someone who has accomplished a great deal and adds so much to so many lives. Thank you for all you have brought to St Frances. This is one Senior Warden that will never forget you.

Victor Rice,
Senior Warden
VicDet1@aol.com

Departing summer hath assumed
An aspect tenderly illumed,
The gentlest look of spring;
That calls from yonder leafy shade
Unfaded, yet prepared to fade,
A timely carolling.
- William Wordsworth,
September

List of Contacts

The Rev. Conor Alexander ...	Rector	conormat@yahoo.com
Nakita Thompson	Receptionist.....	stfrancisoffice@verizon.net
Bennett Card	Christian Formation Director.....	slurpee-bennett@cox.net
Roland Nave.....	Accompanist	N/A
John Ickes	Music Director.....	johnmickes@cox.net
Frances Doughty	Nursery Attendant.....	N/A
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Sarah Owens	Lay Readers	sarah_hewitt81@yahoo.com
Ken Clarke	Ushers	kenjac2@cox.net
Tsu Fullwood	Altar Guild.....	486-6291
Charlotte Newcome	ECW (Episcopal Church Women).....	340-2551
Erika Grasse	EYC	erikagrass@yahoo.com
Bob Fullwood	Men's Group	N/A

**2010-11
PLEDGE DRIVE
FOR ST. FRANCIS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**



Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!

Malachi 3:10

The fall campaign is under construction, contact Susan Clever, cleverinc@cox.net, or cell, 724-448-3712, if you would like to help build this year's campaign.

Step out and make your voice heard. Maybe you have a better way to encourage stewardship in our parish. I'd be interested to hear it!

Love in Christ,
Susan



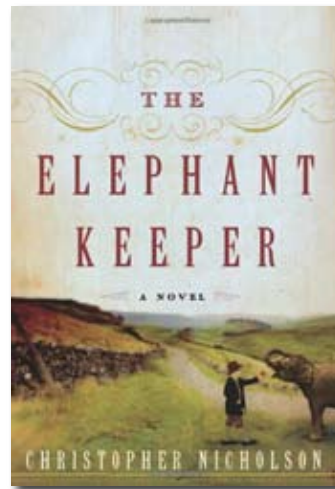
Enjoy the opportunity of worship through music!

The Chancel Choir gathers members of the Saint Francis parish family who have adopted the mission of worship through the Anglican tradition of song. Formal training or experience is **NOT** required – only a genuine interest in supporting the mission of the Church. The words "I can't sing!" are not an option!

Choir rehearsals are on Sunday at 10:00 AM before the 10:30 worship service and again at 12:00 NOON.

Contact John Ickes, Music Director, johnmickes@cox.net, for more details.

On the Social Calendar...



St. Francis Book Reading Club meets Monday, September 13th at 6:00 PM Adult Sunday School Room Light refreshments served.

The book for September is **The Elephant Keeper** by Christopher Nicholson

The Elephant Keeper, the story of Tom and the elephants, in Tom's own words, moves from the green fields and woods of the English countryside to the dark streets and alleys of late-eighteenth-century London, reflecting both the beauty and the violence of the age. Nicholson's lush writing and deft storytelling complement a captivating tale of love and loyalty between one man and the two elephants that change the lives of all who meet them.

Won't you join us as we delve into *The Elephant Keeper*?

NEWS



In July, Saint Francis extended our outreach efforts by supporting the care and education of African orphans in eight Anglican dioceses through African Team Ministries. The purchases of crafts made by unemployed women in Kenya will provide resources for projects of refugee relief, health education, clergy and lay education and building repair as needed.

The result of our outreach effort was \$354.00 and another \$200.00 from my colleagues at work for a total of \$554.00.

Several African instruments were purchased and donated to Vacation Bible School where they were used by our children to enhance Madagascar Music.

God bless all for supporting Saint Francis' mission.

Myrna Simmons
msimmons@nps.k12.va.us



Take delight in the Lord, and He will give you your heart's desires.
Psalm 37:4

AVENUES OF COMMUNICATION...

Submissions for the parish newsletter should be made before the 15th of each month to Susan Clever, cleverinc@cox.net. Typed or hand-written submissions will be accepted.

CHURCH WEBSITE!
Visit our website at <http://www.saintfrancisvb.org>.
Elisa Allen,
elisa_allen19@cox.net.

 Find us on Facebook
St. Francis has joined the facebook crowd. Search for "St. Francis Episcopal Church, Virginia Beach." Post information or photos!



\$T. FRANCIS' FINANCIAL \$TATS

This article is an attempt to help the Parish to understand:

1. St. Francis' financial status
2. How we got where we are
3. Where we will end up if we do not address the situation
4. What we need to do to avoid a year end deficit

By the time you read this article the Vestry will have made a decision on additional spending cuts.

What do we need to do to avoid the deficit?

- Each member who is not current with their pledge obligation should bring their giving up-to-date.
- If each member could increase their giving by \$10.00 per week for the rest of this year this increase would be major help.
- Organize one or two *major* fund raisers before the end of the year.
- Continue to donate office and janitorial supplies.

Financial status for 2010

Approved by Vestry for 2010

Total Pledges from Members Received:.....	\$127,424
Total Projected Income:	\$146,230
Total Projected Expenses	\$166,380
Net Projected Income (Deficit)	(\$20,150)

Year to Date as of July 31

Total Contributions towards Amount Pledged ...	\$10,619
Total Income:	\$11,505
Total Expenses:.....	\$11,765
Net Income (Deficit):.....	(-261)

On September 12, St. Francis will have a new Rector. It is important that a strong financial foundation be in place to help make Fr. Alexander's transition a smooth one and allow him to focus his time on being a good pastor and preacher for our parish.

The Vestry approved a deficit budget at the beginning of the year with the understanding that we would avoid a deficit with *additional giving, fund raising and future expense cuts.*

We knew that this would be difficult since we had already cut the budget to the bare minimum.

Fundraisers: If any of you have ideas or want to take the lead on fund raising, contact any Vestry member.

Time, talent and treasure is what God wants to share. We can come together to make St. Francis financially sound. So, continue to pray for solutions to this problem.

WELL, AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THE FIGURES ABOVE, WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED ADDITIONAL GIVING.

Dosh Jackson
Vestry Finance Chair
drjackso@aol.com
757-430-3253



Thanks to Christian Formation for helping by turning over some of its fund raising to the General Fund. Father Anderson was able to sell the RV that was donated to the church for \$5,000. Thanks for those who volunteer every week to clean the church. This will save the church \$4,000.00 this year.

However, the giving and spending trend leads us to believe that unless we do something soon, we will end the year with an unacceptable deficit, approximately \$15,000.00. These trends will result in a reduced cash flow, limiting our ability to stay current with our bills.

With Heartfelt Thanks

Many thank all those who called, sent cards, and offered prayers for my recovery. Special thanks to all Meals on Wheels volunteers who made sure that St. Francis did their part.
Charlotte Newcome

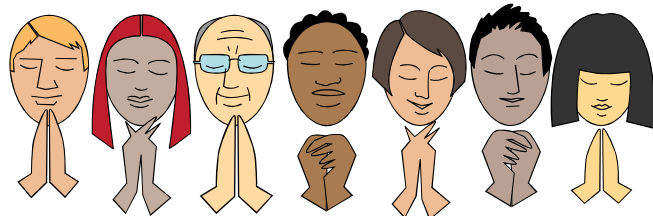
EVANGELISM...

A brief message for September...

We are all evangelists!

How can that be? Good question. We are greeters, we show God's love to all who choose to worship with us. Help us put together a welcome packet for those who chose to be a part of our community. Any and all suggestions will be considered and appreciated.

Onaye Farrish
ofarrish@hotmail.com



PRAYER GROUP

Meets at 6:45 PM every Wednesday evening in the Nave of the Church.

Our numbers have grown from 3 to 5 people each Wednesday evening. Everyone is welcome to join this group of prayer warriors. What a blessing to pray for the people of St. Francis! Won't you join us?

Blessings,
Onaye Farrish



MEETING
Saturday, September 12th
10:00 AM • Crigger Room
Refreshments • Door Prize

The ECW will hold their first meeting of the fall on Saturday, September 12th at 10:00 AM in the Crigger Room. Topics will include ECW plans for the 2010-11 year.

All women of St. Francis are invited to attend.
Newcomers are especially welcome.
Contact Charlotte Newcome, 340-2551,
for more details.

Friday September 24th through
Sunday , September 26th



September means Neptune Festival...

...and that means YOUR opportunity to be part of the celebration and help bring home a little ca\$h for Saint Francis.

Arranged for by a member of St. Francis, *who shall remain nameless*, our parish has had the opportunity these past few years to run the ice concession for the Festival vendors during the three days and nights of this community Festival.

Information bits:

- By our volunteers working the ice concession, St. Francis receives money for our general fund.
- Many different time slots are available for volunteers beginning early Friday morning, September 24th and ending mid-evening Sunday night, September 26th.
- All time slots must be covered. You may volunteer for one, two or all three days.
- Each time slot requires two people, one of whom must be able to lift a large bag of ice.
- Every volunteer gets a FREE Neptune Festival T-shirt as well as food vouchers for one meal compliments of the Festival management.
- Parking vouchers will be available on request.

This is a great chance to share time with other Saint Franciscans on the Oceanfront and also to enjoy one of the last celebrations of the summer.

Who knows, you might just get to drive the golf cart!

Watch for sign-up sheets in the commons as they become available. Sign up early to get **your spot**.

Susan Clever

CHRISTIAN FORMATION



Bennett Card,
*Director of
Christian Formation*

BA OBA B BLA ST
This year's Vacation Bible School was enjoyed by over 60 children, youth and adults July 26-30. The church was redecorated to resemble our rendition of the African Savannah, dominated by the huge Baobab Tree. The participants enjoyed singing, games, arts and crafts, a worship story and music filled with authentic African instruments.

Evenings began with a hearty meal prepared by loving volunteers who donated a week of their time to cook in the hot kitchen! Each evening during the week, we met a new animal indigenous to Africa who introduced us to the biblical theme appointed for the evening.

We also had a special visit from Norfolk Zoo staff who brought animals from the African continent. There was a special slide show prepared for the closing evening of the week to highlight the important events of the week.

Finally on Sunday, during the 10:30 AM service, participants from bible school gathered in the church to present several songs and talk about their week-long experiences.

Thanks to all who participated and gave of themselves as volunteers for the week.

Faithfully,
Bennett



Christian Formation Classes begin September 12th

Christian Formation classes begin on Sunday, September 12th from 9:15 to 10:15 AM for all ages, **preschool to adult.**

You are never too old to participate and learn something new, so consider joining this special ministry. Please look for additional information on the Christian Formation bulletin board in the commons and a special information, registration sheet in the Sunday bulletin at the end of August.

There will be special events for everyone scheduled for some of the principal feast days and holidays of the church in addition to our regular Sunday School classes.

We look forward to seeing everyone in September for CF classes. Join our CF family as we learn and grow together.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION LEADERS

Bennett Card, *Director of Christian Formation*

Michelle Wise, *Ages 3 to Prek*

Twila Levitt, *Grades 1-3*

Susan Clever, *Grades 4-6*

Erika Grasse, *Youth - Grades 7-12*

Pete Levitt & Eleanor Anderson, *Adult Studies*

Frances Doughty, *Nursery Attendant*



Faces of VBS 2010

...Bears Repeating...

generosity-

- the habit of giving freely without coercion
- an essential aspect of the life of St. Francis

Day to day, week to week, St. Francis Episcopal Church depends on the work of parishioners who contribute to the smooth running of church services, gatherings and action initiatives.

The Vestry Building and Grounds Committee frequently sponsors a Saturday of cleaning and repairing the property, inside and out, making the buildings sparkle and shine. Whether your level of expertise is “professional” or simply a “ladder-holder,” all parishioners are encouraged to participate. Next clean-up day TBD.

FYI: The property committee needs your help. Keep an ear out or let the committee know you’re open to a call as needed. Children, youth and adults are welcome. Volunteer to help!

- Fill potholes with crushed stones and asphalt filler (from Lowe’s or Home Depot)
- Clean rest rooms
- Take down cobwebs inside church
- Buff floors (Commons area and Parish Hall)
- Re-paint parking lot spaces
- Clean windows
- Dust and vacuum - pick a space
- Take out trash
- Pick up trash
- Cut grass & trim
- Clean the pews
- This is the short list, folks.

What can you do? _____

~ Jackie Clarke



Beautiful Christ and St. Luke's
Episcopal Church
was the setting for
*A Mid-Summer Magnificat
for the Feast of
St. Mary the Virgin*

Saturday Evening, August 14th
Choral Evensong at 6:00 PM

Under the direction of John Ickes, Music Director of St. Francis the Parish Choir and invited soloists gave a joyful and spiritually beautiful choral performance, accompanied by our own Roland Nave on piano. Scripture and descriptive paragraphs describing the music were read by members of the Parish. Fr. Conor Alexander, priest-in-charge of Christ and St. Luke's, chanted the opening sentences and Fr. Anderson gave a brief homily.

Choral highlights of the evening included *The Magnificat*, *I'm Gonna Sing* and *Mozart Alleluia*. Instrumental pieces were *Ava Maria* with violinist Brittany Denig, accompanied by Roland Nave, and *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*, with flutist Jennifer Gammil, also accompanied by Roland Nave. A reception followed this soul-lifting service of praise and worship.



ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH **FUNDRAISER EVENT**

Back to School...
End of Summer...

August 22nd & 29th

Haircuts!
OR STYLING by Jill Kridler

Many thanks to Jill Kridler, a stylist for over 30 years, for her willingness to provide this wonderful fundraiser. Not only was money raised to benefit St. Francis but everyone who took advantage of this opportunity was pleased as punch with their cut - even little Tyson Dunn who squirmed and wiggled the whole time.



It seems apparent that Maureen Fuster likes her new do - enough to model it for photographer Dosh Jackson. Thanks, Maureen and Dosh!

WHO: All children ages 3 through 12

WHAT: *Angel Choir for children*

WHEN: Rehearsals will begin Sunday, September 19th following the 10:30 AM worship service. (This is the same time that the adult choir rehearses.) Rehearsals will last approximately 1/2 hour.

WHERE: Rehearsals will take place in the Sanctuary



Choir rehearsals begin Sunday, September 19th in the Sanctuary following the 10:30 worship service.

St. Francis Episcopal Church

Angel Choir • Registration Form

Please complete one form for each participant.

Questions? Susan Clever, cleverinc@cox.net,

C 724-448-3712

Please return this form to Susan.



Date: _____

Child's Name: _____

Nickname: _____

Parent's/Guardian's First & Last Name): _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Best Cell Phone Contact: _____

E-Mail: _____

Emergency Contact (Name Required): _____

Emergency Phone (Required): _____

Birth Date: __/__/__ School: _____ Grade: _____

Extracurricular Activities/Hobbies: _____

Special Needs: (allergies, medical conditions, etc.) _____

Musical Instruments Played: _____

Experience in reading music? Some Experience No Experience

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 *Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have.*

"We found some people who were in deep financial trouble and had to get rid of their boat. We got it for practically nothing."

It was a bargain. It was sharp dealing. But was it right? To look for and find someone on whose misfortune one could capitalize? Greed may be the most insidious of sins because it is so accepted. Hasn't everyone done just what this family did, for a house, a car, a bicycle? Much of our lives are spent pursuing bargains, something for nothing.

Many people have the same attitude about their spiritual lives. Get as much as possible for as little as possible. God, the church, and Christianity are supposed to meet all their spiritual needs at bargain prices. There are religion shoppers, too. And there are those who think God is so desperate for souls that he will surely lower the requirements at the last moment. But as far as we know, there are no bargain days in heaven and God is not desperate.

Lord, I don't want a bargain.
I want you.

(1973) Reprinted from
Forward Day by Day
August/September/October 2010



THE FAITHFUL BELL

**St. Francis Episcopal Church • 509 S. Rosemont Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23452 • Office: 757-340-6884**



VESTRY LOCK-UP SCHEDULE

Through December 2010

September 5.....ONAYE FARRISH
September 12CLAY WISE
September 19MYRNA SIMMONS
September 26SUSAN CLEVER
October 3VICTOR RICE
October 10DOSH JACKSON
October 17ONAYE FARRISH
October 24CLAY WISE
October 31MYRNA SIMMONS
November 7SUSAN CLEVER
November 14VICTOR RICE
November 21DOSH JACKSON
November 28ONAYE FARRISH
December 5CLAY WISE
December 12SUSAN CLEVER
December 19VICTOR RICE
December 26DOSH JACKSON

LEM SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 5TH

8:00 – SUSAN GOLDEN
10:30 PRAYERS – BARBARA TAYLOR
10:30 READINGS – SARAH OWENS

SEPTEMBER 12TH

8:00 – BENNETT CARD
10:30 PRAYERS – DAVID WHITTED
10:30 READINGS – LYNN KENNEDY

SEPTEMBER 19TH

8:00 – BENNETT CARD
10:30 PRAYERS – LYNN KENNEDY
10:30 READINGS – BARBARA TAYLOR

SEPTEMBER 26TH

8:00 – SUSAN GOLDEN
10:30 PRAYERS – BARBERA RADFORD
10:30 READINGS -CAROL MCCARTHY