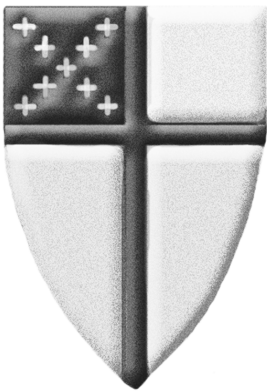


Through the Lych Gate

September 2011

The Rev. Christine Beebe
Rector



St. Francis Episcopal Church
408 North Main Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
828-287-3888
Email: stfrancis@rfci.net

*Please join us for Holy Eucharist on Sun-
days at*

8:00 am and 10:30 am.

*Christian Education is offered at
9:30 am on Sunday mornings.*

Welcome to first edition of the new and improved Lych Gate!

In the almost three months since I arrived at St. Francis Church, it's become apparent that we're just not staying in touch with you the way we should. Some of you who received the Lych Gate by email commented that the link to the website didn't always work, that the print was too small to read, or that our email got lost in the dozens of other messages you receive each day. Folks who don't have email were required to either pick up a printed copy at the church or rely on someone to deliver it to them. Quite a few people were left out altogether. It became apparent that the cost of losing touch with St. Francis' members was much greater than our savings in paper and postage costs.

Here's how distribution will work: on the last Sunday of the month, the printed Lych Gate will be available for you to pick up when you come to church. Your household's copy will be marked with your name, so please check to make sure you don't have someone else's copy. On Monday, copies that have not been picked up at church will be mailed. You can help us save postage by coming to church and picking up your copy.

The monthly Lych Gate is a good way for folks to spread the news about their favor-

ite ministries and upcoming events. A calendar of events and schedule of worship leaders will be inserted but not attached so that you can easily pull it out and put it on your refrigerator or bulletin board. The calendar and worship leader's schedule will no longer be published weekly, but other brief weekly announcements will be included in the bulletin and posted to the website as appropriate. Hopefully this will reduce the amount of time needed for announcements on Sunday mornings.

I hope you'll find this to be a happy solution to our communications gaps, and that you'll take advantage of these opportunities to keep all of us informed about news and events that affect our parish. If you would like to contribute to the monthly Lych Gate, please send your information to Kathryn McGowan by email at stfrancis@rfci.net, or drop it by the church office as soon as possible, no later than the Wednesday morning prior to the last Sunday of the month. If you have an announcement for the Sunday bulletin, please let Kathryn know no later than Thursday morning. And don't hesitate to let us know what you think!

Mother Chris+



Bud & Anita Quinley 1

Chuck & Sue Langdon 24

Musings by Mother Chris

In the weekly e-newsletter over the past few weeks, I've noticed that members of the diocesan staff are reporting on the projects they're working on. I don't find my own activities so easy to summarize. Most days I wake up with a mental list of what I want to accomplish during the day. Often the list changes the moment I walk through the door of the Parish House. Frequently I go home at the end of the day without a single check mark to shown that I've finished something. It's tempting to scold myself for not being more disciplined and focused, but the truth is that ministry is unpredictable and it can't be confined to a "to do" list.

So, you might ask, what *does* she do all day? Often I'm called on to handle unexpected things. Today, for example, the lights in the nave wouldn't come on, so I made a trip to the breaker box for the church. Much of my time is spent talking, and even more is spent listening. That's what is important now: for me to get to know you and for you to get to know me. I enjoy hearing about you and what's important to you, learning about

your history at St. Francis and your relationship with the rectors who have served before me. Often I hear your perceptions about what's take place here over the past ten years or so. Those perceptions are as different and unique as you are, but the common theme is your love for St. Francis.

Frequently I hear two specific phrases. The first is the kind reminder that "you can't do everything at once." The other is "what are you going to do about ____?" Despite the tension between the two, the second question reminds me that there's purpose in our being here together, work that requires our prayers and our thoughtful attention, as well as acceptance of the fact that not everything can be done at once. The important things will always get done and the hard things will be best done once we get to know each other better.

When I meet with couples who are about to be married, I remind them of two things. The first is that in their daily lives they are called to be ministers to each other, seeking the love of Christ in and through and with each other. The second is to be gentle with one another—kind, tolerant, understanding, and forgiving of one another, even when that's not the easiest thing to do. I'm asking you to practice these things in your relationship with me and with each other here at St. Francis. I will do the same, keeping you always in my prayers. Please keep me always in yours.

Blessings and love to each of you,
Chris +

September Birthdays

Ann Gallant	8
Elaine Sprouse	10
Diane Tucher	11
Brett Williams	11
Denise Hempstead	18
David Martin	18
Colin Martin	24
Kimberly Lloyd	25
Bettina Conn	26
Marian Beavers	27
Sandra Middleton	27
Paula McIntosh	27
Judy Scott	28
Reba Beasley	30
Brad Greenway	30



Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop calls for reflection on tenth anniversary of September 11 attacks.

Calling the tenth anniversary of the September 11 attacks "an opportunity for reflection," Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori notes that the Church "continues to work for healing and reconciliation."

"The greatest memorial to those who died ten years ago will be a world more inclined toward peace," the Presiding Bishop states in a statement on the anniversary. (listed below)

On Sunday, September 11, Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori will be in New York City, preaching at St. Paul's Chapel in New York City at 7:30 am Eastern. At 11 am Eastern, she will preach at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine in New York City.

The following is the Presiding Bishop's statement on the September 11 anniversary.

As we mark the tenth anniversary of the events of September 11, The Episcopal Church continues to work for healing and reconciliation.

Americans experienced the first large non-domestic terrorist attack on our own soil that day, a reality that is far too much a present and continuing reality in other parts of the world. We joined that reality in 2001. Many people died senselessly that day, and many still grieve their loss. All Americans live with the aftermath - less trust of strangers, security procedures for travelers that are intrusive and often offensive, and a sense that the world is a far more dangerous place than it was before that day. Our own nation has gone to war in two distant places as a result of those events. The dying continues, and the world does not seem to have become a significantly safer place.

Yet we believe there is hope. People of faith gave sacrificially in the immediate aftermath of the plane crashes, trying to rescue those in the Twin Towers and the Pentagon, trying to subdue the aggressors on the plane over Pennsylvania, and reaching out to neighbors and strangers alike on that apocalyptic day. Clergy and laity responded to the crisis in New York, Washington, DC, and Pennsylvania, and prayer services erupted in churches and communities across the nation. St. Paul's Chapel, near the site of the Towers, opened its doors to the emergency responders, and volunteers appeared with food and socks, massaging hands and praying hearts. Volunteers continued to staff the Chapel for months afterward, and prayers were offered as human remains were sought and retrieved in the ruins of the Towers.

Church communities in many places began to reach out to their neighbors of other faiths, offering reassurance in the face of mindless violence. That desire for greater understanding of other traditions has continued, and there are growing numbers of congregations engaged in interfaith dialogue, discovering that all the great religions of the world are fundamentally focused on peace. The violence unleashed on September 11th and in its aftermath was the work of zealots, disconnected from the heart of their religions' foundations.

This tenth anniversary is above all an opportunity for reflection. Have we become more effective reconcilers as a result? Are we more committed to peace-making? The greatest memorial to those who died ten years ago will be a world more inclined toward peace. What are you doing to build a living memorial like that?

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori
Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church

Volunteers Needed

The Rutherford Regional Hospital Auxiliary is looking for volunteers, men and women, to serve in all areas of the hospital. See Josephine Conn for an application.

Coming in September

--At "Mass on the Grass" on Sunday, September 4 at 10:00 a.m., we'll use a liturgy from Enriching Our Worship, similar in language and tone to the one we used in our Renewal of Ministry service in August. Full-service bulletins will be provided. Please remember there will be only one service on that day.

--Beginning at the **8:00** Eucharist on Sunday, September 11, the announcements will be moved to the end of the service, between the sending forth of Eucharistic Visitors and the Dismissal. This move will provide for a better liturgical flow from the Liturgy of the Word into the Great Thanksgiving and will put the announcements in the same place at both services.

--Also beginning on Sunday, September 11 at the **10:30** Eucharist, the benediction sung by the choir will *follow* the post-communion prayer and *precede* the Blessing and sending forth of Eucharistic visitors. Announcements will be made *before* the recessional hymn. These changes are also being made for better liturgical flow and to enable both the congregation and the choir to remain seated during the announcements.

--During the Communion at the **10:30** service, also beginning on Sunday, September 11, communion hymns will be played for those who wish to sing them. Like almost everything else in the church, some want them, others don't. Singing them isn't required, so take the time to be contemplative if that's what you prefer. The choice is yours.

Comments, questions, or observations? Direct them to Mother Chris by email at stfrancisrector@rfci.net, or by phone at 287-3888 x-2.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER.....

We welcome to the family of St. Francis Church by transfer of membership from St. Charles Borromeo, Orlando, Florida, Kathy Demas.

We welcome to the family of St. Francis Church by certificate of baptism from St. Pauls Church, Diocese of Chicago, Joe Sibley.

We welcome to the family of St. Francis Church by transfer of membership from Lutheran Church of Saint Andrew, New York, Kenneth Ullrich.

We welcome to the family of St. Francis Church by letter of transfer from St. James Episcopal Church, St. James, New York, Dee Ullrich.

We welcome to the family of St. Francis Church by letter of transfer from Holy Cross Episcopal Church, Memphis, Arkansas, Dick Beebe.

A letter of transfer to St. Phillip's Episcopal Church, Brevard, NC was issued for Terry Chandler.

A letter of transfer to St. James Episcopal Church, Black Mountain, NC was issued for Wendy Campbell.

News from the Stewardship Committee

You won't want to miss church on Sunday, September 18 or Sunday, September 25! Mark your calendars, save the dates, and stay tuned for more information!

Christian Formation Classes for the Fall

Classes for children and young people will begin on Sunday, September 11. Teachers will be announced and commissioned during “Mass on the Grass” on Sunday, September 4, when folks from both services are gathered together. Inquirers’ Classes will not be held on Sunday, September 4, but will resume in the Nave of the church at 9:15 on Sunday, September 11. In the Parish Hall, adults will continue their study of the Gospel of Thomas. Plans are underway for a second adult class and details will be announced soon.

Many Thanks

to everyone who has pitched in over the past couple of weeks to get our facilities ready for Christian Formation classes: Bill Coxe, Dick Beebe, Vernon Hoyle, Gerry Roberts, Linda Norris, Becky Huntley, John Roberts, Jennifer Mengel, Linda Bailey, and Mary Ann Hamilton have all taken time to dig, sweep, mop, sort through, haul out, and straighten. What a wonderful difference! Thank you so much!

Our new sexton, John Roberts, is doing an outstanding job of cleaning our facilities each week, and little by little is making his mark on areas that haven’t been touched in quite a while. He does not clean every part of the building every week, however; so please make sure the areas you use are clean and straight before you leave them. You’ll earn stars for your crown when you do!

Relay for Life

The St. Francis Relay for Life team will be having a Cake Walk fundraiser at the Relay for Life Event on September 9th. If you are interested in or willing to bake a cake for this event, please contact Nancy Bole at 429-1631. Also, if you would like to purchase a luminary in memory or honor of someone, please see one of the Relay for Life team members. The luminary forms will be available at both services. Below is the site map for this years event. Our site number is 44.

