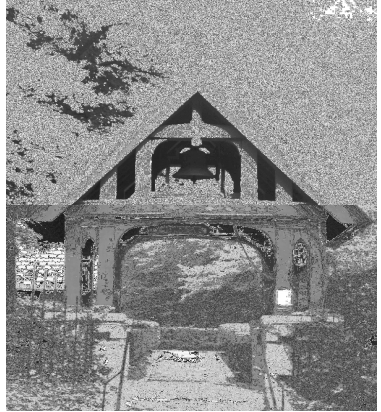


Through the Lych Gate

February 2012

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

The Rev. Chris Fair Beebe
Rector



*Please join us for Holy Eucharist on
Sundays at
8:00 am and 10:30 am.
Christian Education for all ages
offered at 9:30 am on Sunday
mornings in the Parish House across
from the church.*

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. Each month we strive to make *The Lych Gate* informative and pertinent, so that you can know what's going on at St. Francis and why. It's a key element of our connection to the church and to each other, so please take time to look through it, and let us know how we can make it better!

Musings by Mother Chris

Advance Notice: Here Comes Lent!

On February 22, just over four weeks away, we'll gather for Ash Wednesday services and the beginning of Lent. There's so much to plan for: special services and programs at the church and in our community, and more personally, whether or not to seek deeper meaning in the season by giving up something from our lives or taking on an additional practice of faith. The Proper Liturgy for Ash Wednesday includes the invitation to observe a Holy Lent, "by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word." The intent is specific but the scope is broad. The Church recommends we devote ourselves to a season of penitence and prayerful reflection on our lives in Christ, but doesn't give us a "how to" guide to make it happen. So how do we choose?

Like many other things in our lives, the results of our Lenten disciplines are most apparent when we're intentional about them. Spontaneity has its place, but not here. The choice of a Lenten discipline will be more meaningful, and keeping it will likely be easier, if we pray and commit to it in advance instead of waiting to make a quick decision at the last minute. It's a personal choice. No one can make it for you, and no one can make you follow through, so the burden is on each of us individually. Lent will be for you whatever you choose it to be.

There are many tools available to help you keep a holy Lent. If you'd like some ideas, I'll be glad to help.

Chris+

Attention Ushers and Greeters!

Attention Lectors!

If you're an Usher or Greeter, or if you would like to be, and were unable to attend last month's information and training meeting, there's another opportunity. Please plan to gather in the church at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday, January 29, 2012.

If you're a Lector, or if you would like to be, please plan to attend a workshop on the same day, Sunday, January 29, 2012, at 12:15 in the church.

If you're involved in one or both of these ministries and are unable to attend, please contact Mother Chris at 287-3888 x2 or by email at stfrancisrector@rfci.net.

Potluck, 10:30 Coffee Hour & Punch on the Lawn

If you have enjoyed St. Francis fellowship time after the services and our monthly potlucks, please consider helping out! It is that time of year again, sign ups are available for Potlucks, 10:30 Coffee Hour and Punch on the Lawn. Please consider signing up, we have several openings! Call Linda Tribou for information and to sign up. 288-3977

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be on February 21st from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Adult plates will be \$5, children 6-12 will be \$3 and children under 6 years of age will eat free.

Vestry Highlights from January 9, 2012

- Chris+ opened the meeting with devotion and discussed opportunities as a church in our changing culture.
- The minutes for the December meeting were approved.
- Vernon Hoyle presented the Financial Report. A finalized report for the year 2011 will be approved at the February Vestry Meeting.
- The Housing Allowance Resolution for 2012 was approved.
- Gerry Roberts was elected Senior Warden.
- Linda Bailey was elected Junior Warden.
- Vernon Hoyle was elected Treasurer.
- Kathryn McGowan was elected as Clerk for the Vestry.
- Assignments were made for Vestry Standing Committees for 2012.
- Assignments were made for Liaison for SWEEPS Commissions.
- The monthly Vestry meetings for the remainder of 2012 will be held on the third Tuesday of each month.
- Work sessions for the Vestry were planned for January 27th and 28th.
- Vestry members were asked to draft an annual calendar by February.
- Vestry members were asked to work to facilitate higher quality communication.
- Chris+ gave the Rector's report.
- The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm with the Prayer of St. Francis.
- The next meeting will be February 21st at 6:00 pm in the Cloister House.

From the Parish Registrar

We welcome into the family of St. Francis Church through the sacrament of Confirmation on October 9, 2011, John Kelley Cooley, Jr., Patty Lynn Crowder, Carmen Renee Guzman Freeman, Charles W. Langdon, Julie Paige Boylin Pittman and John Franklin Roberts, Jr.

We welcome into the family of St. Francis Church through Reception on October 9, 2011 Carolyn Googe Osborne and Jackie Wilburn Osborne.

Josef Crocker Sibley III was reaffirmed on October 9, 2011.

We welcome into the family of St. Francis Church by letter of transfer from Church of the Messiah, Pulaski, Tennessee, G. Lawrence Beveridge.

We welcome into the family of St. Francis Church by letter of transfer from Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church, Forest, Virginia, Stephanie Ann Rowland Henderson. Stephanie was confirmed on October 9, 2011.

We welcome into the family of St. Francis Church by request for letter from Gilkey Baptist Church Ala Linc Parton McDaniel, Robert Dean McDaniel, Mayden Elise McDaniel, Macy Maeve McDaniel and Owen Parton McDaniel.

The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage for Caroline Renee Toney and Christopher Matthew Buckner was performed on August 20, 2011.

A Memorial Service was held for Joyce Wright James on January 25, 2011.

A Memorial Service was held for Hilda Marie Nunn Wilson on January 30, 2011.

A Memorial Service was held for Augusta “Momse” Hyde on February 26, 2011.

A Memorial Service was held for David Allison Hunt on May 13, 2011.

A Memorial Service was held for Olive Louise Dufault Mistretta on December 19, 2011.

A Memorial Service was held for Michael Stephen Nix on December 22, 2011.

A Memorial Service was held for Catherine Coxe Page on December 29, 2011.

A Memorial Service was held for Gurli Marie Rosling on January 18, 2012.

Count Your Blessings

In Corinthians we are given instruction regarding our giving, our donation, our offering. We receive letters in the mail or hear advertisements on television asking for donations to charitable groups. This is not new and will always continue because we will always have someone in need.

Search your heart; we give out of our blessings to those who have less. What we have is not ours, anyway, it is on loan for a while and then passed on to someone else. "Give us this day our daily bread," is prayed by many. If those who have a little more would give to those who have little or none, we all would have what we need to get by. Grace of God Rescue Mission serves meals each night and served over 400 for Christmas Eve. Rollins Cafeteria donates each week and some individuals have brought gloves and scarves. The winter is cold. Won't you give what you can? This is our community mission; let us heed Paul's reminder of

using our abundance as best we can by sharing with others.

Needs: sectional plates, bowls and cups, coffee, canned foods, gloves, scarves, winter things or a monetary donation.

Yokefellow Donations

For the months of January through April, Yokefellow has ask St. Francis to donate **peanut butter**.

Happy Anniversary!

Gordon & Judy Scott	15
Larry & Susan Lester	22

Happy Birthday!

Linda Bailey	1
Amanda Peacock	2
Ross Beavers	3
Roscoe Conn	3
Ashley Garrett	6
Lucinda Hynett	7
Nancy Bole	10
Larry Lester	13
James Segers	15
Christian Henderson	15
Linda Norris	17
Lynne Tanner	19
John Cooley	23
Ann Crummie	28
Keppie D'Alessio	28

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