



ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

January 2012

3506 Lawndale Drive • Greensboro, NC 27408 • (336) 288-4721 • www.stfrancisgreensboro.org

My Dear Franciscan Friends,

As we begin 2012, we also, on January 6th, enter the season of Epiphany. The word Epiphany is derived from the Greek word epiphaneia 'to appear' or 'to manifest.' In classic Greek it often referred to the coming of dawn or the appearance of a god. Today we often speak of an epiphany as a sudden moment of insight or inspiration.

All of these meanings inform the rich tapestry of the Christian usage of the word and to the meaning of the Day of Epiphany celebrated in both the Eastern and Western churches. The following collect though comes from the Anglican Church in New Zealand.

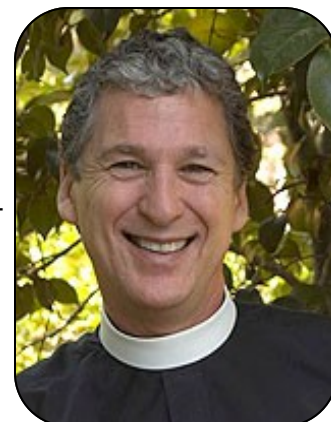
Jesus, as we travel far and fast
lead our minds back to the wise men following your star,
and forward to the day
when all will see your shining light.

Perhaps, as the wise men travelled, the Magi had little understanding of what awaited them, or precisely why they were making this journey. I wonder if an intuition both guided and inspired them. Their path, by our standards, must have unfolded rather slowly. Long moments of silence might have been broken by practical questions regarding shelter and food. A fire at night, under a sky filled with a magnitude of stars beyond our ken, would have provided both warmth and opportunity for deep thoughts and questions to be treasured or shared.

I wonder if they came to this quest all of a sudden and of one mind, or did they greet each other one by one and slowly enter into this search? Did they shop together for the gifts they brought or did they one desert night show each other what gift had at least partly shaped the reason for their journey? Did they understand why they carried these unusual 'birthday gifts' or did that become clear in a flash in the manger? Could the meaning of quest have dawned more slowly on them as they travelled home star struck by an amazing epiphany?

I wonder about these things because as I pondered the prayer above a question formed in my mind. "Why?" Why should we pray that Jesus lead us back to wise men's journey as we travel far and fast? Perhaps it is because even in the furious pace of life, we may slow down enough to see some of the inner meanings and questions that shape the journey that is ours from birth to death making it a holy quest. At the same time, we might catch a glimpse of the craving we have for us and for all to behold God's shining light in the shape of a heart.

Peace,
Michael+



MICHAEL MOULDEN
RECTOR

Simplicity • Compassion • Hope

FROM THE HEART

CELESTE KRUEGER MOULDEN

Earth years...

12 months, a cycle.
4 weeks each month.
7 sequential days, a “week.”
About 52 weeks a year.
365 days most rounds.
24 hours each day.
60 minutes per hour.
Sixty ticking seconds every single minute.
2012. Tock.
Only God knows how many breaths we take in a year.

Liturgical hours...

Vespers (at the end of the day)
Compline (upon retiring)
Vigils (sometime during the night)
Matins (at sunrise)
Prime (during the first hour of daylight)
Terce (at the third hour)
Sext (at the sixth hour)
None (at the ninth hour)
Vespers (at the end of the day)
Only God knows how breath makes these prayers.

Bells...

Hawk cry pre-dawn.
Goat bleat soon after.
Alarm clock near then.
Sound of shower.
Ambulance siren. Or train whistle.
Maybe trash truck.
Feet on morning walk.
“Here kitty kitty kitty kitty” to breakfast.
Email boinks halted. Appointment dings off.
Intersection honks continue.
NPR, on. At this moment, earth still here.
Scan online news.
Colleague talking. And talking. More talking.
“Next!” at post office.

Breath...

Last phone call of day.
“Thank you.”
Smell dinner. Or, open freezer.
Or, earbuds in. Treadmill on.
If conscious, note lights, heat, food, treadmill option. Choices.
“Thank you.”
Like that.

Liturgical hours?
Prayer bells?

Yours?



CELESTE KRUEGER MOULDEN

FROM REV. ROBERT BLACK

Do you blog? Neither did I. I always thought blogs were places on the internet where half-truths were spouted as reality, where anyone with a silly idea could post information. But I noticed a few clergy friends who kept blogs, or Facebook notes where people were engaging in real and substantive dialogue. There was a patio between a few dorms in seminary, and often we would hang out there and discuss professors, events of the day, and often engage in deep theological conversations. I know that seems a bit unrealistic and church-nerdy, but it happened; people really do sit around and discuss the finer points of theology. And such conversations are a blessing to the world and the church. Sometimes on Facebook, many seminary colleagues of mine still discuss issues of theology. Maybe, perhaps, all internet discussion isn't devoid of value.



ROBERT BLACK
ASSISTANT RECTOR

What is a blog, you might ask? Blog comes from a combination of the words web-log. It's essentially a website that posts information, opinions, or news and allows for readers to comment on the topic. There are blogs for everything under the sun. Some of you have found your way to my blog, and I'm glad for that. But I'd love to have many of you find it, and comment on it. My blog is called "Continuing the Conversation." The description of my blog follows:

Preaching, in my mind, is a three part movement. 1) Hear the Word read aloud 2) Sermon reflecting on the Word 3) Applying that Word to our lives. This blog seeks to address that third movement. I view sermons as a conversation, but on Sunday mornings I am the only one in the pulpit. This is a space to reflect, ask, challenge and discuss.

I post weekly on this blog, offering reflections on the lectionary for the upcoming Sunday or one of the feast days that occur that week. Every sermon I preach is also posted there. I welcome your visits and comments on the blog. I decided to create the blog in an effort to create a stronger sense of community and a forum for theological reflection on Scripture. Share it with others if you find it helpful. Please feel free to post openly and honestly there. I am not offended or insecure about criticism or disagreement. If you thought the sermon was bad, or that I made a bad point, then in discussion we will all be richer. If you'd like to hear more about a topic, ask a question. If you wonder something about the readings that I didn't address, let's explore it together. And please, post comments and ask questions- the blog only works with readers who participate in the conversation. I'd love you all to continue the conversation with me on the blog, so that together we might be nourished by God's word.

Blog address: frblack.blogspot.com

Blessings,

The Rev. Robert Black

FROM THE PAST SENIOR WARDEN

Dear Franciscans,

Now that we are into the new year, you may have thought you'd seen the last of the reviews of 2011. However, please indulge me for one last review of 2011. I believe it is important to have a clear understanding of the accomplishments of the previous year as we set goals and plans for the new year so that we can build on our accomplishments and re-group and redirect in areas where we did not fully reach our goals last year.

Three of the goals of the 2011 Vestry were: (i) the kitchen remodel, (ii) realigning and stabilizing the staff, and (iii) improving structures and processes. The kitchen remodel was completed in late summer and turned out beautifully. Many thanks to all those who contributed to this project. We have a new working stove and other new appliances and some fresh paint and updated styling. The project was completed successfully and the kitchen looks great!

Our goal to realign and stabilize the staff involved evaluating our office administrative needs. We were able to combine all of our communications functions into a single position. The church's communications functions are operating quite well now and we believe we were successful in filling this position. We were not able to fill a position for a parish life administrator and this area will need to be re-evaluated and addressed by the rectors and the 2012 Vestry.

Our goal to improve structures and processes involved several specific goals. We wanted to emphasize the duties and responsibilities of the each Vestry member's liaison assignment through continued communication with the liaison's assigned ministries and consistent reporting to the Vestry. We believe we were successful in this endeavor and hope that the 2012 Vestry will continue to foster the very important connection between the Vestry and the church's ministries.

Another structure and process goal was to streamline the Vestry meetings. While this goal may not impress most parishioners, it was a big deal to many of the Vestry members. We were successful in organizing the meetings so that we have more thorough reporting and shorter meetings. Thanks be to God!

Working with the Day School to continue its successful growth and to improve its budgeting process was another structure and process goal. The Day School has made steady progress over the last 3 years and now has over 60 students and is profitable. A fiscal year budget was implemented last year and improved this year. Now the Day School is able to budget almost a year in advance so that tuition can be set for early registration.

The most important structure and process goal was to establish a policy and procedure committee to produce a comprehensive policy and procedure manual for the church. The committee is in place and got a good start on the manual for the church this year. We encourage the 2012 Vestry to support the policy and procedure committee as it continues this lengthy but important project.

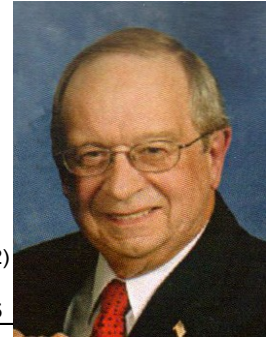
In my view, our biggest accomplishment this year was successfully dealing with the unexpected. With a lot of faith and unwavering trust in God, Michael survived his cancer and we survived his absence. We trusted that Michael was in God's hands. We also trusted the strength and the direction that God gave to each of us. That strength and direction enabled us to support Michael's needs during his healing, keep the church family together, and keep the church running smoothly.

Michael is much better but as with all cancer survivors, the possibility of recurrence is ever present. We must continue to trust that Michael is in God's hands and continue our prayers for Michael. Mostly the church is "back to normal" now and I expect this year to be a little less stressful but we should continue to be thankful to God for his presence in our lives when times were difficult.

Peace to all,
Tessa Leftwich
Past Senior Warden

TREASURER'S REPORT

The financial results for November 2011 and the eleven months Year-to-Date are below.



LARRY UPSON

	November 2011			January thru November Year-to-Date		
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Total Revenue	\$56,628	\$69,975	(\$13,348)	\$521,336	\$529,077	(\$7,742)
Total Expense	42,626	50,413	7,788	561,035	587,631	26,595
Gain/(Loss) from operations	14,002	19,562	(5,560)	(39,700)	(58,553)	18,854
<u>Net Total Gain/(Loss)</u>	<u>\$14,002</u>	<u>\$19,562</u>	<u>(\$5,560)</u>	<u>(\$39,700)</u>	<u>(\$58,553)</u>	<u>\$18,854</u>

Revenue was below budget in November by more than \$13K. This was a bit of a surprise, since receipts for the month are historically about 11% of total budget. This November we achieved only 9%. Thus, we fell behind projected annual revenue by almost \$8K. By the time this report is published, the year will be done. Receipts for the first three weeks of December have been slow, but we remain optimistic that the last week will be great one and we will make the revenue goals.

Expenses for the month were less than budgeted. Some are due to timing difference of items that were paid in October and expected in November. Some are due to lower negotiated cost reductions such as cleaning services.

Overall, November was a mixed bag; we suffered from lower revenue, but made up for some of the short-fall by lower than expected expenses.

Not knowing when *The Franciscan* will be published, I pray you all a healthy, prosperous and Happy New Year for 2012.

Peace.

Larry Upson

STOP HUNGER NOW

On December 4th, St. Francis made 25,000 meals in our Parish Hall to help impoverished people in underdeveloped countries. We thank all the record 94 parishioners and guests who put together these meals in less than 1-1/2 hours. The Stop Hunger Now leaders are impressed with our efficiency in assembling these meals. This is the fourth Stop Hunger Now event sponsored by our Outreach Committee and St. Francis. Additionally, our coin offering totaled over \$220.00 that will go to reducing operating costs at Stop Hunger Now. Hunger in the USA means having one meal a day, whereby hunger in many other countries means having one meal every 1-2 weeks. Please keep impoverished people locally and abroad in your thoughts and prayers as we strive to stamp out world hunger one step at a time. Thanks, Jon & Kate Wallner



O U T R E A C H

We are happy to welcome Jacob Bauser and Emily Moss to our outreach team. Please let us know if you are interested in helping with this exciting ministry. We meet the third Monday, 7:00 to 8:30pm, of each month in the St. Francis library.

We continue to have record numbers of requests for funding. Presently we have 10 new requests that are under consideration. We do research and due diligence on each request to continue to be good stewards of the available funds.

We are excited that two of our refugees, Mama Love Oodee and her son BK, are being considered for jobs at Cone Health. Hopefully by the time this goes to print they will be working! Another son, Bari Oodee, a senior in high school (riding his bike to school every day) is a member of our Heaven Help Us Band and is a "natural playing the drums and the guitar." The support from the St. Francis community has been a blessing to this family and they are humbled by each and every kindness shown to them. Bari is interested in working on "any of those many chores you have around the house and yard". People who he has worked for say he is a " fast, hardworking, very personable young man!" Contact Mary, Betty, or Dan for more information.

Betty Barry: 545-6946 or bdbarry@triad.rr.com
Mary Plybon: 282-0019 or maryplybon1@gmail.com
Dan Jones: 294-4194 or danj@triad.rr.com

C H A P T E R S I N O U R L I V E S

DEATH:

Daniel Hinkle - Parishioner

TRANSFERS OUT:

Lee Anna Pittman to St. Paul's Episcopal Church

ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Parish of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina

The Rt. Rev. Michael B. Curry, Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Albert (Chip) Marble, Assisting Bishop

The Rt. Rev. William Gregg, Assistant Bishop

PARISH STAFF

The Rev. Michael Moulden, *Rector*
The Rev. Robert Black, *Assistant Rector*
Rae Augustin, *Day School Director*
Liz Harvey, *Youth Activities*
Susan Elam, *Director of Christian Education*
Sam Doyle, *Choir Director*
Pat Copley, *Organist*
Jane Woody, *Junior Choir Director*
Linda Allgood, *Parish Administrator*
Bonnie Thyer, *Communications Coordinator*
Linda Lambe, *Bookkeeper*
Mike Taylor, *Facilities Manager*
Rigoberto Bautista, *Custodian*

On the web at: www.stfrancisgreensboro.org

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PARISH VESTRY

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Lynn Sandlin (13), *Junior Warden* 644-8056
Bill Ronemus (11), 273-2081
Bruce Barnes (12), 674-3193
Bill Kopald (12), *C* 299-2520
Martha Shafer (12), 643-0151
Jenan Jones Benson (13), 545-0964
Keir Davis (13), 856-7680
Jennifer Mangrum (13), 665-0521
Dick Miller (14),
Midge Spong (14),
Charlie Fetter (14),
Lynn McNair (14),

Larry Upson, *Treasurer*

547-7966

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