

St. Francis at the Point Anglican Church



SEPTEMBER 2021 Newsletter



SEPTEMBER

Sunday, Sept. 5 - 10 am
First Fruit Sunday

Wednesday, Sept. 8 - 10am
GriefShare starts

Thursday, Sept. 9 - 4:30 pm
Finance Committee

Saturday, Sept. 11 - 9:30 am
AWG Meeting

Sunday, Sept. 12 - 9:00am
Adult Sunday School begins

Sunday, Sept. 26 - 11:30 am
Vestry Meeting



VESTRY:

Dick Upchurch – Senior Warden
Gerald Lewis – Junior Warden
Maureen Moreland
Dave Howard
Anne Howard
Gypsie Van Antwerp
Robin Renn – Secretary
Jeanine Wickham – Treasurer

Fr. Gary's Name Submitted for Bishop

Yes, it is true. I have allowed my name to be submitted to the nominating committee to be considered for Bishop of our diocese. This was a difficult decision. It is one that I wrestled and prayed over for weeks. One Monday morning in prayer, I finally had peace to go forward. It is not a position I've ever sought or wanted. But for some reason, I felt the Lord clearly saying to allow my name to go in.

Let me be clear, I believe it will take a miracle for me to be elected. Yes, I've been in this diocese for almost 30 years and therefore I'm well known by those who have been here also. At the same time, many of the new clergy are not known to me. In addition, in a diocese our size, a rector of a large church is usually elected.

Timeline: the nominations are closed. Over the next few months they will interview all the candidates. Then they will narrow the list to about 5 candidates. Those candidates will be interviewed in-person in much greater depth than the initial interviews. From that list, 2-3 names will be submitted to the electing Synod in May. The person selected will be consecrated on August 27, 2022.

If I'm not elected, then you're stuck with me!

In Christ,

Fr. Gary+

Update on the St Francis Youth

As of the end of August, we will have completed two years of having a youth group at St. Francis at the Point Anglican Church. In the last two years, the youth have spent many hours fellowshiping, supporting different projects at the church, taking field trips to places like the Naval Air Museum in Pensacola (with our special guide and member of St. Francis, Dick Upchurch), and playing games like: miniature golf, kick ball, table tennis, foosball and a few board games. The youth also did a lot of fishing which was guided by two of our youth members who are seasoned fishermen despite their young age. As a group, we have also traveled to the Zoo in Gulf Shores and fished and hiked at Blakeley State Park. Recently the youth participated in our first, hopefully annual, St. Francis Youth Retreat. During the retreat, we went to the Learning Campus on the grounds of The Alabama Gulf State Park. We roasted marshmallows, rode bikes, toured the campus, and much more—we all even have tie-dyed T-Shirts to remember the trip. The Youth have participated in events at the church such as the Fall Festival and a few have helped Fr. Gary with some much needed maintenance around the church. We have had a lot of good times the last two years and it's all been "Fellowship". Most importantly, we have also spent time in devotionals and learning about our Heavenly Father.

While dealing with the challenges of the pandemic, several youths, and some of our leaders, have not always been able to participate. With the exception of about three months when we didn't meet at all, we met regularly, even when only a few could participate. We have had a great group of young people participating in our youth group for the past two years. I know that the youth and the leaders have thoroughly enjoyed the youth group program that we have built at St. Francis. The last two years have been a big success.

It has been a true pleasure for myself and the other leaders to have been involved with this great group of young people. It has been especially fulfilling to have gotten to know each one of them as a unique child of God. The youth group includes children and grandchildren of church members and a few of their friends. Getting to know each of them, sharing fellowship, and sharing our faith together has been a highlight of my life. I am so proud of them all have so much hope for their futures. I know the other leaders would say the same.

The success of our youth group to nurture these young people has only been made possible in large part because of the generosity of you, our St. Francis members. We have so many to sincerely Thank. I have only recently been made aware of specific gifts, and I may still not know of everyone's involvement, but I know several members have been very generous in their giving of prayers and financial support. I also want to thank the parents who have been so supportive in allowing our time with their teenagers. As leaders and youth members, we sincerely thank everyone for their prayers, monetary gifts, and support. Please know you are so appreciated because of your generosity; St. Francis does indeed have a viable and wonderful youth program because of it.

I want to thank Fr. Gary for his guidance and the other leaders for their involvement, including Tom and Paula Alvarez for their help laying the foundation our first year, and Stephanie Foster for her support this past year working behind the scenes, providing ideas, enthusiasm and much appreciated participation when it mattered most. And, of course, my wife Tammy, who has done so much, and whom I couldn't love and appreciate more. Furthermore, I and we, would all be wrong not to thank the youth members themselves for their unending enthusiasm for whatever we did, and for their love of each other, their leaders, and for their love of the Church. We love them all, and, we and they love you for your support.

Again, thank you all, for everything!

Sincerely,

Dennis Jernigan

ECUMENICAL DONATIONS

This month, Ecumenical Ministries is requesting instant powdered milk and macaroni and cheese for distribution. All our donations go to families and individuals who are our neighbors.

In these difficult times please be generous as many of our friends and neighbors are in extreme need.



VESTRY MEETING

Our regularly scheduled Vestry Meeting will be held immediately after services on Sunday, Sept. 26, 2021.

Members of the Parish are invited to attend.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

The men's breakfast will be starting back up again soon!



FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Our regular monthly Finance Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, Sept. 9th at 4:30 P.M. in the Parish Hall.

All members are invited to attend.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Please be sure to have your picture taken after services. We are planning to publish a new church directory as soon as all the new photos are taken. We have a number of



new members who are anxiously awaiting the new directory.



AWG MEETING

The monthly meeting of the AWG will be held on Saturday, September 11th at 9:30 A.M. in the Parish Hall. During this meeting we will discuss Hurricane Ida relief.

All ladies of the church are invited to attend.



On Wednesdays starting September 8th and continuing until November 24th from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. we will again offer the Griefshare Program at the Church. John Murphy is the Director and Jacquie Jackson will serve as the leader. If you know anyone who is suffering loss, please have them contact the church office for more information and to register.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Starting the Sunday after Labor Day, September 12, 2021, we will resume Adult Sunday School classes. There will be two or three different curriculums offered so you will be able to choose the class you wish to attend. Watch the inserts for additional information.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Terry Cook - 9/09
David Smith - 09/17
Eric Lacey - 09/25
Henry Russell - 09/26
Katie Justiss - 09/29

ANNIVERSARIES

Thomas and Staci Hand - 09/03
John and Alice Cutright - 09/10
Paul and Libby Botos - 912



If your date is not on these lists or if your information is incorrect, we do apologize.

Please email the church office at stfrancisatthepoint@gmail.com or fill out a communication card with the correct information.

WINE PULL

Again this year, the AWG will offer a Wine Pull at the Fall Festival. We are requesting that members donate red or white wine that retails at a value of at **least \$15.00 per bottled**. The AWG will offer the bottles at \$10.00 each so our guests can expect a substantial savings. Leave the wine in Father Gary's office.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The most recent financial report which has been approved by the vestry will also be posted on the bulletin board next to the vestry minutes. Any member who wants to see a more detailed report can ask the Treasurer, Jeanine Wickham, for a copy.

JULY

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income:	\$ 17,449	\$ 19,321
Expenses:	\$ 20,266	\$ 22,136



MORTGAGE REDUCTION PLAN AND REPORT

Our mortgage currently stands at
\$ 299,332.55 for July

We are asking every member to prayerfully consider giving a small amount every month towards the mortgage. Every dollar you give to reduce the mortgage is worth more than a dollar to the church because we will no longer pay interest every month on that dollar.

total given to date: \$ 9445.00

How to give? Add your gift to your regular check, write a separate check, or put cash in an envelope. In each case, note the amount for the mortgage.

ANNUAL FAITH BANQUET

The Women's Care Medical Center is hosting their annual fund-raising banquet on September 23, 2021 at the Grand Hotel from 6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M. The speaker is Abby Johnson, former Planned Parenthood director. Her best-selling book was made into the movie Unplanned. It is her dramatic story of becoming a pro-life advocate. If you are interested in attending, please let Fr. Gary know and we'll see if we can reserve a table.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes are available. You may pack a box yourself or purchase a pre-made box for a boy or girl in different age groups for \$25.00 each including the \$9.00 shipping fee. For more information please contact Leona Blaylock at 904-327-2914. **PLEASE** make your checks out to the AWG and mark in the note section for Christmas Child.



YEAR OF PRAYER

Just a reminder to everyone to pray a bit more over the next year for our church, our diocese, our province and all churches globally. The world is a mess and God's solution is the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

There is a printed brochure in the narthex with prayers you can use when you pray. Please pick up a copy.



NEW SWING SET

The AWG has donated this new swing set for the use of the children attending Sunday School and our Nursery. The previous set had tumbled into disrepair after years of service. The ladies felt it was time to replace it with a more modern and sturdy set. Please take the time to go out into our enclosed yard and take a look at the newest addition to our facility. (Please note, this picture was taken while it was under construction!)

THANK YOU AWG!

