



## The Weekly Franciscan

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### Third Sunday of Advent Sunday, December 15th, 2024

You are welcome to the

**8:00 a.m.** Service of Holy Eucharist Rite I with  
the Rev. E. Weston Mathews, Celebrant and Preacher  
and

**10:00 a.m.** Service of Holy Eucharist Rite II with  
the Rev. E. Weston Mathews, Celebrant and Preacher,  
with the St. Francis Choir

Children's Chapel is offered during the Sermon

Coffee Hour Follows Each Service in Millen Hall

[The 10:00 a.m. Service is also live-streamed on YouTube](#)

[View this Sunday's Worship Bulletin](#)

### The Liturgy of the Word

The First Reading | [Zephaniah 3:14-20](#)

The Response | [Canticle 9](#)

The Second Reading | [Philippians 4:4-7](#)

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The Gospel Reading | [Luke 3:7-18](#)

**5:00 p.m.** Advent Contemplative Worship with  
the Rev. E. Weston Mathews, Celebrant  
Pepin Tuma, reflector  
Janet Durfee, Lay Eucharistic Minister & Reader  
Larry Vote, soloist, and  
Jamie Kim, pianist

### **Parish Prayer List**

We pray especially for Terri, Jeff, Hugh Sr., Nora Lee & Richard, Cathy, Lawrence, Bishop Gayle, David, Jon, Jes  
Lynda, Melissa, Paula, Trevor, Clara Sue, Grace, Jeanne, Sofia & Larry, Debra, Taylor, Kelly & Alex, Nick & Hilari  
Dut.



St. Francis  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**Help Make the Future of St. Francis Bright!**

## URGENT REQUEST TO SEND IN YOUR PLEDGE CARDS ASAP!

Pledges account for the majority of St. Francis's income, so the Finance Committee and Vestry need to know how much all church members will be contributing in order to plan for 2025. Starting this week the Stewardship Committee will be following up with phone calls to aid the process.

### IT'S TIME TO PONY UP



We have 75 pledges totaling \$498,570!

Send in your pledge now to raise the total to \$600,000 and beyond!

You may also email your pledge directly to Molly Reynolds at [treasurer@stfrancisgreatfalls.org](mailto:treasurer@stfrancisgreatfalls.org)

Thank you to these Franciscans & Friends who have pledged:

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Anonymous (17)  
Terri Adams  
Nathan Ambler & Paul Herman  
Jackie Amthor  
Kathy & Dana Anderson  
Clara Sue Ashley  
Mattie & Duncan Bowden  
Dut & Carolyn Brown  
Nora Lee & Richard Brown  
Nancy Burkley  
Sharon Callaway  
Anne Carson  
Carmela & Charles Condro  
Lynda Davis  
Janet Durfee  
Mimi & Brice Eldridge  
Sarah & Rick Entsminger  
Nilda Ferrari  
Brenda & Chris Giragosian  
Val & Bruce Goddard  
Ginger & Edward Gotliffe  
Barbara & Mike Hattwick  
Lisa & Joe Hawke  
Kathryn Hinton  
Carrie & Ian Holman  
Mary & Charlie Jackson  
Elaine Jeffrey  
Susan Kawmy  
Elizabeth & Joshua Kim  
Jan & Bill Lane

Rick Larson  
Amelia & Will Logan  
Loriana & Weston Mathews  
Jessica & Kevin Maxson  
Beth & Walt Meyer  
Jennifer & Ray Murphy  
Paul Mutino & Karen Levy  
Wendy & Gary Pan  
Linn Perkins  
Larry & Reyna Pratt  
Jane & Bill Rachal  
Tamber & Mike Ray  
Molly & Joe Reynolds  
Cate & Steve Riihimaki  
Ginger Roll  
Chris & Ray Rollins  
Jennifer & Mike Semko  
Jack & Lori Shafran  
Michael Shuler  
Leslie Siegmund & Jack Mathias  
Judy Stocks  
Pepin Tuma  
Jeanne & Larry Vote  
Sandy & John Walker  
Pat & Paul Ward  
Lois & Darren Willcox  
Tom & Joy Wood  
Kristi & Dave Yarnall  
Nan & Allen Young

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St. Francis  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**SAVE THE DATE:  
Sunday, January 19, 2025 for the  
St. Francis Annual Congregational Meeting and Election of  
Vestry Members**

This meeting will commence after the 10:00 a.m. service this day, in the Sanctuary. In the meantime, we are seeking **candidates to fill 4 Vestry member vacancies**: three of these are 3-year terms and one is a 1-year term. If interested in "throwing your hat into the ring" as a candidate to serve on your vestry, please contact the parish administrator [admin@stfrancisgreatfalls.org](mailto:admin@stfrancisgreatfalls.org) by *no later than FRI-3-JAN 2025*.

Also, we are calling for **Annual Reports** from "the usual suspects" to be delivered to the parish administrator [admin@stfrancisgreatfalls.org](mailto:admin@stfrancisgreatfalls.org) by *no later than SUN-5-JAN 2025*.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions regarding Vestry service, please contact either Senior Warden, Rick Larson [eylarson@aol.com](mailto:eylarson@aol.com) or Junior Warden, Lynda Davis [lynda@seecaredo.org](mailto:lynda@seecaredo.org).

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY  
in Mills River, North Carolina



12/3/2024  
Dear Members of St. Francis Episcopal  
Church,

Thank you so much for your generous contribution to Holy Family's Storm Recovery Fund. Your thoughtful support is making a real difference for our neighbors affected by Hurricane Helene. In January, we will share some of their stories with you.

Again, we appreciate your kindness during this challenging time. Please keep our community in your thoughts as we continue to rebuild.

With heartfelt Thanks,  
The Storm Recovery  
Fund Committee





## **Breakfast With Santa on 7-DEC was a Huge Success**

Many, many families and friends showed up with gifts to donate to [Second Story](#), and to participate in Breakfast with the "Jolly Old Elf", and craft projects. There were also great photo opportunities.

A special thanks goes to "Santa", none other than our very own Senior Warden, Rick Larson: Thank you, Rick!

## **Winter Coats shipped from St. Francis have arrived at Pine Ridge Reservation, SD**

Dear St. Francis Church:

The first coats arrived today! What a blessing to the people of the Pine Ridge you all are! This makes such a difference as the temperature drops and the winds increase. We celebrated Thanksgiving with the community in Batesland, and I made some pumpkin pies made with my mother's recipe, and an experimental pumpkin/banana bread. We are celebrating Advent at three different churches during the week, which is challenging in the midst of the wakes and funerals that continue to take place. The good news is that these mid week services have nearly the same number of folks as w





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on Sunday at each of these churches!

May you notice the new things that God wants to birth in you and your community this Advent."

Michelle+

Rector  
St. Katharine's Episcopal Church, Martin  
Superintending Presbyterian  
Pine Ridge Episcopal Mission  
605-685-1454



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## You are invited to the 2024 December Troop 55 Cooking Competition and Open House

Scouts will enjoy car camping on the St. Francis Church grounds in Great Falls THIS Friday night beginning at 8 p.m. Troop 55 will use this opportunity to work on pioneering skills, as well as scout skill development. There will be an Open House and Webelos from various cub scout dens will visit our troop during the day on Saturday. All members of St. Francis Church are welcome to attend. Scouts also will participate in the annual troop-wide cooking competition. The scouts of Troop 55 are cooking aficionados, and the cooking competition is a favorite activity among the troop, with menus ranging from deep-fried food, Italian, Asian, Mexican, and a variety of other culinary themes.

### Schedule

Friday Night(12/13): 8pm arrive for camping

Saturday (12/14):

9am -1pm: Webelos and Guests visit

9am -1pm: BSA Troop 55 Cooking competition **\*St. Francis members invited\***

1:30PM -2:30 pm: Guests and Family lunch with BSA Troop 55 **\*St. Francis members invited\***

2:30pm to 6:30pm: BSA Troop 55 Patrol Clean up time

Thank you so much for supporting the BSA troop 55 for this annual event.

Jeff Ye

BSA Troop 55

<http://bsa55.com/2024-dec-outing-cooking>

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## Advent & Christmas at St. Francis

**DEC 14 (SAT) St. Francis Women's Casual Christmas Coffee, 9:30 a.m.** At the home of Kathy Anderson (read more, below)

**DEC 15 (SUN) Greening of the Church, 11:30 a.m.** Join us in readying the church for Christmas, with evergreens, flowers, and light.

**DEC 15 (SUN) Advent Contemplative Worship at 5:00 p.m.** Prepare for the return of Love at Christmas candlelit services of prayer, silence, soft piano, song, and poetry.

**DEC 18 (WED) Creche Christmas Pageant, 1:00 p.m.** Adorable! In the Sanctuary, followed by a Cookie Rite in Millen Hall. All are welcome!

**DEC 18 (WED) Blue Christmas Service, 7:00 p.m.** At St. Francis: A service of remembrance and hope for those who are stressed, lonely, or grieving during the holidays. This service will feature soft piano by Jamie Kim and songs by Amie Shakespeare.

**DEC 24 (TUE) Christmas Eve with Festal Brass**  
**4:40 p.m. pre-service Carol singing & 5:00 p.m. service, and**  
**7:40 p.m. pre-service Carol singing & 8:00 p.m. service**  
You are welcome to bring your family and friends for a delightful evening of beautiful liturgy & music to celebrate the Eve of the Nativity.

**DEC 25 (WED) Christmas Day service, 11:00 a.m.** Celebrate the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

**DEC 29 (SUN) First Sunday after Christmas**  
**8:00 a.m.** Morning Prayer Rite I, led by Senior Warden, Rick Larson  
**10:00 a.m.** A Service of Christmas Lessons & Carols

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## Women's Group of St. Francis

Happy Holidays Ladies! The Women's Group coffee at Starbucks will not be held this Friday, December 13th, in favor of the Casual Christmas Coffee for the Women of St. Francis that Kathy Anderson is graciously hosting at her house the morning of **Saturday, December 14th**. Stop by and get your weekly injection of caffeine, fellowship, and good conversation on Saturday from **9:30-11:30am**. See the invitation below for more information. The Friday morning coffee at Starbucks will resume on Friday, December 20th.





**To All the Women of St. Francis:**

Take a break from the holiday hustle and bustle . . .

Join the women of St. Francis for a Casual Christmas Coffee!


Saturday, December 14, 9:30 to 11:30 am

At the home of Kathy Anderson  
1812 Cranberry Lane, Reston

Everyone is welcome! You don't need to bring a thing!

Hosts: Kathy Anderson and Leslie Siegmund

R.S.V.P. to [kquinnanderson@gmail.com](mailto:kquinnanderson@gmail.com) or  
[lesiegmund@aol.com](mailto:lesiegmund@aol.com)



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## Advent Contemplative Worship

**5:00 p.m. Sunday, December  
15th at St. Francis**

This year St. Francis is offering a contemplative worship series on Sunday evenings during Advent, the season of stillness and preparation for the birth of the Christ child at Christmas.

Contemplative spiritual practices vary and emerge from diverse traditions. As disciplines of body and mind, they share a number of features:

- cultivation of self-awareness
- focused, non-evaluative attention
- development of mental and physical steadiness and balance
- fostering greater attunement, compassion, and creativity

Through candlelit prayer, contemplative silence, poetry, beautiful music, and Holy Communion from the Iona C tradition, this service is different from what we offer on Sunday morning. A brief reflection on spiritual journey v offered by a member of St. Francis and St. Francis' own Jamie Kim will offer soft piano music. Larry Vote will be soloist and lead us in singing.

If you are looking for a new way to worship and a space to find your sacred center in the midst of a busy, distract this may be the service for you.

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# St. Francis Creche Preschool's Christmas Pageant

December 18, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.



Conducted by Kathy Walker and the Creche Teachers  
Narrated by Annie Baker

## Program

*The telling of the Christmas Story  
through the voices of our children*

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A poster for a 'Blue Christmas' service. The background is a dark blue night sky with a bright starburst in the upper right corner. The title 'Blue Christmas' is written in a large, elegant white font. Below it, the subtitle 'a service of remembrance and hope' is written in a smaller, simpler white font. On the right side, there are several white doves in flight, and at the bottom, there are silhouettes of mountains.

# Blue Christmas

a service of remembrance and hope

This service of remembrance and hope is for those who are stressed, lonely, or grieving during the holidays.

All are welcome. Dress is casual.

Wednesday, December 18, 2024, @ 7:00 PM  
St. Francis Episcopal Church  
9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, Virginia



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**Donations for Christmas Music  
and Altar Flowers**

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Each year St. Francis is beautifully decorated for Christmas with poinsettias and greens. We also have special meals during for Christmas services. It is the custom at St. Francis for parishioners to make Christmas donations to the Altar Guild and to the Music Program to support these groups' efforts at Christmas and during the year. Donations may be given in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving for someone or something special.

If you would like to give to either or both of these funds, please fill out the envelope enclosed in your Sunday bulletin and put it in the plate or send a donation directly to the church office (9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA 22066). If you have your memorials or thanksgivings listed in the Christmas service bulletins, we need to receive your donation by the **third Sunday in Advent, December 15, 2023.**

To contribute electronically, you may click on the "Donate" button on the website [www.stfrancisgreatfalls.org](http://www.stfrancisgreatfalls.org) or [here](#).

At the drop-down, you may choose to direct your gift to Music or the Altar Guild. (If you wish to split your contribution between the two, you will need to complete one contribution transaction and click on the URL again to designate to the second ministry as the recipient.)

Email the parish administrator at [admin@stfrancisgreatfalls.org](mailto:admin@stfrancisgreatfalls.org) to let her know in whose memory or for what thanksgiving you have made your gift.



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## Christmas Drive for the Homeless

We are doing something different this Christmas Season for [Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington](#), which focuses on the homeless (unhoused) and returning citizens. These are people who are participating in Samaritan Ministry's Steps Program and are committed to making progress toward self-sufficiency. Please consider donating so that each participant can receive a \$25 Target gift card, which will be given to them at an open house in Anacostia hosted by St. Francis Church. You can participate by:

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Sending or bringing a check or \$25 Target gift card(s) to the church. Please write “Christmas Drive” on your check.

Using [PayPal Donate Now](#) to donate. Select Outreach from the optional drop-down list and put “Christmas Drive” on the memo line.

**The drive ends Sunday, December 15.**

Questions? Contact Ginger Roll at [rollginger@icloud.com](mailto:rollginger@icloud.com)

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The logo for "Words & Music" features the words "WORDS" and "MUSIC" in a white, serif font. A red, stylized ampersand symbol is positioned between the two words. The background is a dark, textured area with several overlapping circles in shades of red, orange, and purple.

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**Save the Date!**

**Sunday, January 26, 2025**

**Words&Music** will entertain us with a program “**Let’s Dance**” on **Sunday, January 26 at 4:00 p.m. in Music Hall**. Join us for an unforgettable afternoon of passion, melody, and movement. Revel in a delightful selection of songs that will sweep you off your feet--blending classical, modern, and popular tunes for toe-tapping enjoyment. More information to follow closer to January 26, 2025.

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# Save the Date!!

Yes, Our Beloved Event Returns!



BLACK TIE  
*Dinner & Auction*

MARCH 1, 2025

*St. Francis Episcopal Church*

## **Seeking Volunteers**

If you would like to help with **Dinner** (decorations, coordinating appetizers, coordinating teen servers, event set up, event cleanup and more), contact Jennifer Murphy [jenniferomurphy@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferomurphy@gmail.com)

If you would like to help with the **Auction** (soliciting donations, creating displays & setup, live auction spotter, checkout/closeout), contact Kathy Ditmore [kathy.ditmore@gmail.com](mailto:kathy.ditmore@gmail.com)

## **Ongoing Weekly Activities**

**Morning Prayer offered MON-FRI, at 8:00 a.m. via Zoom.**

are invited to immerse themselves in this supportive offering from St. Francis Church where we regularly pray for our mission in the world.

[Click here to connect to Morning Prayer via Zoom.](#)

Zoom ID: 968 1679 4908; Passcode: church

### **Contemplative Prayer: Mondays at 7:30-8:30 p.m.**

We hope you can join us via Zoom videoconference.

For more information and any questions, please contact the coordinator for the program: Kathy Anderson, 703-476-9000

[kquinnanderson@gmail.com](mailto:kquinnanderson@gmail.com).

[Click here to connect to Contemplative Prayer via Zoom.](#)

Zoom ID: 998 1159 6134; Passcode: church

### **Men's Group: Wednesdays 8:35 a.m.**

Discussing: a six-week course on the book of Genesis entitled: *The Genesis Story: Reading Biblical Narratives*. Join us

Wednesday morning via Zoom. Questions? Contact Stu Edwards at [elchivogoat@cs.com](mailto:elchivogoat@cs.com)

[Click here to connect to the Men's Group via Zoom.](#)

Zoom ID: 922 8116 0056; Passcode: church

### **St. Francis Social Hour meets on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.**

Join us for casual conversation. Grab your favorite beverage and let's reconnect!

[Click here to connect to the St. Francis Social Hour.](#)

Zoom ID: 935 2210 0835; Passcode: church

### **Thursday Afternoon Bible Study at 5:00 p.m.**

Meetings take place Thursdays at 5:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to join and participate in interesting discussions. The Book

Selected for Advent: "The Light Will Shine."

This study consists of five lessons and we would like to finish by December 12 before the Holidays. On the 12th, we will

have an in person meeting at Katie's Coffeehouse in Great Falls at 9:00 a.m.

For further information contact Amelia Logan at [ameliavinteriors@gmail.com](mailto:ameliavinteriors@gmail.com)

[Click here to connect to the Thursday Afternoon Bible Study.](#)

Zoom ID: 836 1505 5434; Passcode: TABS24

### **Women's Group Coffee on Fridays from 10:30 a.m. to NOON at Starbucks in Great Falls**

The St. Francis Women's Group has an open invitation to meet at the Starbucks in Great Falls every Friday morning. Please

## **Second Story Dinners: Sundays at 5:15 p.m.**

needed: Volunteers to prepare and deliver Sunday dinners to the Second Story Teen Crisis Center on Gallows Road. Vol  
to or in pairs, according to their wishes.

nners are made on the first, third, fourth, and fifth Sundays of the month. The count for a meal typically ranges from  
ersons. It has been as many as twelve. Volunteers receive reminders when their Sundays are coming up.

lease contact Jennifer Murphy at [jenniferomurphy@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferomurphy@gmail.com) if you would like to volunteer for this ministry or if yo  
estions.

## **Learn more about our life at St. Francis**

through our new  
website [stfrancisgreatfalls.org](http://stfrancisgreatfalls.org):



**St. Francis**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

- worship services including daily Morning Prayer
- community concerts
- pastoral care
- Creche preschool ministries
- local and international outreach events
- fellowship opportunities
- Bible studies and small group opportunities including Contemplative Prayer

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**Emergency Pastoral Number: 703.759.2082 x 102**

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have a news item you would like to share through the Weekly Franciscan? Or do you have a photo from life at St. Fra  
ke to submit? We welcome and rely on your participation.

## **ergy and Staff**

- E. Weston Mathews, Priest-in-Charge
- . Larry Vote, Music Director
- . Sasha Beresovsky, Organist
- . Cristi Leslie, Creche Preschool Director
- . Dominic Pelegrin, Sexton
- . Rita Arteaga, Nursery Attendant
- . Lynn Fallon, Parish Administrator

## **24 Vestry Members**

- ek Larson, Senior Warden
- nda Davis, Junior Warden
- thryn Lee, Register
- thy Anderson
- izabeth Kim
- ke Semko

- Larry Pratt
- Sandra Walker

- olly Reynolds, serving Treasurer
  - [asurer@stfrancisgreatfalls.org](mailto:asurer@stfrancisgreatfalls.org)
  - ce Eldridge, Facilities Manager
  - [ilities@stfrancisgreatfalls.org](mailto:ilities@stfrancisgreatfalls.org)
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