



St. Francis
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

9220 Georgetown Pike
Great Falls, Virginia 22066
www.stfranciscgreatfalls.org

The Weekly Franciscan

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
Sunday, February 9th, 2025

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 | [Isaiah 6:1-8, \[9-13\]](#)

The Response | [Psalm 138](#)

The Second Reading | [1 Corinthians 15:1-11](#)

The Gospel Reading | [Luke 5:1-11](#)

5:00 p.m. Second Sunday Contemplative Worship with
the Rev. E. Weston Mathews, Celebrant
Scott Perkins, reflector
TBD, Lay Eucharistic Minister & Votive Attendant
Amie Flowers Shakespeare, soloist, and
Jamie Kim, pianist

Parish Prayer List

We pray especially for Luke, David, Martin, Janet, Barbara & Bill, Josie, Terri, Jeff Sr., Hugh Sr., Nora Lee, Cathy, Lawrence, David, Jon, Jessica, Paula, Clara Sue, Grace, Sofia & Larry, Debra, Taylor, Kelly & Alex, Nick & Hilary, and Dut. We pray also for Mel & Lillian as they prepare for Holy Matrimony.



Scout Sunday is this Sunday, February 9th 10:00 a.m. Service

Please be sure to welcome a number of St. Francis Scouts and their families for this special service that features boys and girls helping to lead worship. Some St. Francis Scout alumni will be present and are encouraged to attend.



**Second Sunday Contemplative Worship Series begins
this Sunday, February 9th at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

Through candlelit prayer, contemplative silence, poetry, beautiful music, and Holy Communion from the Iona Celtic tradition, this service is different from what we offer on Sunday morning. A brief reflection on spiritual journey will also be offered by a member of St. Francis.

This worship series will be held on the second Sunday night of each month (except for August.) If you are looking for a new or different way to worship and a space to find your sacred center in the midst of a busy, distracted life, this may be the service for you.



Black-Tie Dinner & Auction

For many years before Covid, Franciscans loved getting into our finery and enjoying merriment, fellowship, and a fair amount of frivolity while also engaging in another our other favorite activity - raising funds for special Outreach projects. The **Black-Tie Dinner and Auction on March 1** marks the return of that tradition.!

Due to space limitations, we can only seat 150. Now that the word is really "out", and Franciscans are getting excited, and tickets will go quickly!

After you purchase your tickets, you will receive an acknowledgment with the opportunity to choose your meal and, if desired, to identify those with whom you would like to be seated.

ACT NOW!!

Tickets are \$95 per person. Purchase your Dinner tickets by [clicking here](#) (choose Black-Tie Dinner in the drop down box) or send your check to 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA 22066.

And then there is the Auction!!

We **need** auction items - **especially** vacation homes, experiences, and merchant certificates. Space is limited for silent auction donations. Please make donate items that are of significant value.

[Click here](#) to print a donation form.

Thank You!!

Questions?

Contact Jennifer Murphy at jenniferomurphy@gmail.com

The Future of St. Francis Is Bright!

**Franciscans share their faith like fireworks
by shining God's light into the world.**



The 2025 Stewardship Campaign was wildly successful!

**Not only did we reach the goal of \$600,000,
the matching challenge set forth by Rick Larson was met as well.**

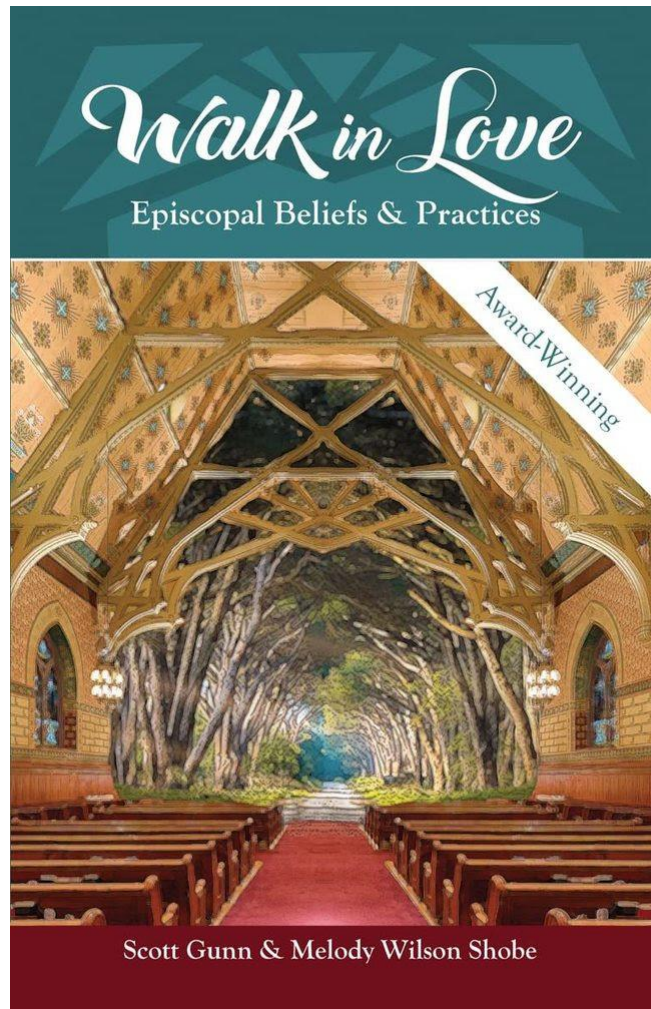
Each and every one of us made this happen.

**Everyone should be proud of all we are doing to make
our transformation happen.**

**May we be blessed to succeed
in our future undertakings with God's grace.**

"The Lord's glory is shining through...."

Numbers 6:24-26



The Inquirer's Class:

All who seek are welcome

It's not too late to join the group

Come to the Inquirer's Class with your questions about the Episcopal Church, the Anglican tradition, and what it means to follow the Way of Jesus.

**Spring 2025 Class: Wednesday evenings, February 5 - March 12,
6:30 - 8:00 p.m., taught by the Rev. Weston Mathews.**

This class is designed for anyone interested in learning about the Episcopal Church and its Anglican heritage, as well as for anyone who wants to delve more deeply into the Christian way of life generally. Although we will cover several topics and conclude the series with an Instructed Eucharist, this class is also

grounded in seeking; therefore, significant time will be spent during each session on your questions.

Any adult or teenager who might wish to be confirmed or formally received into the Episcopal Church should attend these classes, but many long-time Franciscans and newcomers may wish to participate as a kind of refresher, or as a way to sort through some of the questions of faith that are common to many of us.

In this class our text will be *Walk In Love: Episcopal Beliefs & Practices* by Scott Gunn and Melody Wilson Shobe. [You may purchase the book through Amazon, here.](#) A limited number of books will be available in the office to borrow if you are unable to purchase one.

Sign up in any of the following ways:

- o Email Priest-in-Charge Weston Mathews rector@stfrancisgreatfalls.org
- o Call or visit the parish office 703.759.2082 x101

'Getting To Know You' Invitation From The Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is inviting you to attend a gathering on **Saturday, February 22nd, 10:00 am, in the Narthex and Sanctuary.** We will be explaining what we do at St. Francis, answer your questions and most importantly share fellowship. Everyone is welcome!

If you have any questions please email Candy Burt.



Ezo Sunday is Coming!

St. Francis Outreach Committee chair, Jack Mathias and Priest-in-Charge, Weston Mathews invite you to a special service celebrating our relationship with the Diocese of Ezo on **Sunday, March 2 at 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.**

At the 10:00 a.m. service we are glad to welcome the **AFRECS (American Friends of the Episcopal Church of the Sudans) Ambassador, Dane Smith** and the **Rev. Richard Jones of AFRECS and the Virginia Theological Seminary** to co-celebrate with our Priest-in-Charge Weston Mathews.

If you would like to learn more about Ezo or how you can support our ministry with them in South Sudan, please contact Jack Mathias.

The Rev. Richard Jones

Richard Jones is a priest of The Episcopal Church in the United States, canonically resident in the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia. Born in Washington, D.C. in 1943, he studied history at Oberlin College, received the M. A. from the Johns Hopkins School of International Studies and the Ph.D. in theology from the University of St. Michael's College, Toronto. He was the founding president of American Friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan in 2005 and has been involved in Christian-Muslim relations for 30 years. After teaching Mission & World Religions at Virginia Theological Seminary from 1988 to 2009, he taught Muslim-Christian Studies in the Washington Theological Consortium 2009-2014. He is the author of *How to Talk with your Muslim Neighbor* (Forward Movement Publications, 2004) and a life of Jesus for young Muslim readers entitled *Jesus, Son of Mary*. With his wife Christine, he lives in Alexandria, Virginia, and serves as Parish Visitor at Christ Church.

Executive Director Dane F. Smith Jr.

Dane Smith assumed the role on an interim basis in October 2019 and became Executive Director in June 2020. An AFRECS Board member since 2016, he has been a consultant and lecturer on international peacebuilding, with a recent focus on faith-inspired peacebuilding. He visited South Sudan for AFRECS in 2018 and both South Sudan and Sudan in 2020 and 2022. In 2014 and 2016 he was visiting professor at the Martin Luther King Jr. Evangelical University of Nicaragua, where he taught courses on "Christian Models of Peacebuilding." In 2011 and 2012 he was Senior Advisor on Darfur in the Office of the U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan. From 2006 through 2009 he was a Senior Associate at the Center for Strategic & International Studies, Washington D.C., where he authored *U.S. Peacefare: Organizing American Peace-Building Operations*. From 1999 to 2003, he served as President of the National Peace Corps Association, the alumni group for former U.S. Peace Corps Volunteers. He was US Ambassador to Guinea 1990-1993 and to Senegal 1996-1999. Between those assignments he served as Special Presidential Envoy to Liberia 1995-1996. He was Deputy Chief of Mission at the US Embassy in Khartoum, Sudan, 1986-1989. He and wife Judy were Peace Corps Volunteers in Eritrea 1963-1965. He holds an A.B. from Harvard College and a PhD in international

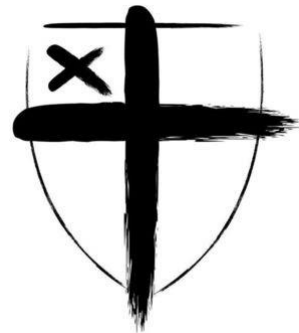
relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. He has studied at the Union Theological Seminary in New York and is a lay preacher in the United Methodist Church. He and Judy have three children and seven grandchildren.



**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, March 4th
at 6:00 p.m. in Millen Hall**

Come and enjoy this special tradition before Lent begins.

**Ash Wednesday services will be offered at St.
Francis on March 5th at 7:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
with St. Francis Choir**





Special Lenten Guest Preacher

Riley K. Temple

Sunday, March 16 at 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. services

Riley K. Temple is a teacher and preacher on Art and Theology. He is the author of *Aunt Ester's Children Redeemed: Journeys to Freedom in August Wilson's Ten Plays of Twentieth-Century Black America* (Cascade, Eugene) 2017. He is currently exploring theologian Howard Thurman's Christian mysticism in contrast to the African mysticism that courses through August Wilson's cultural and theatrical landscape.

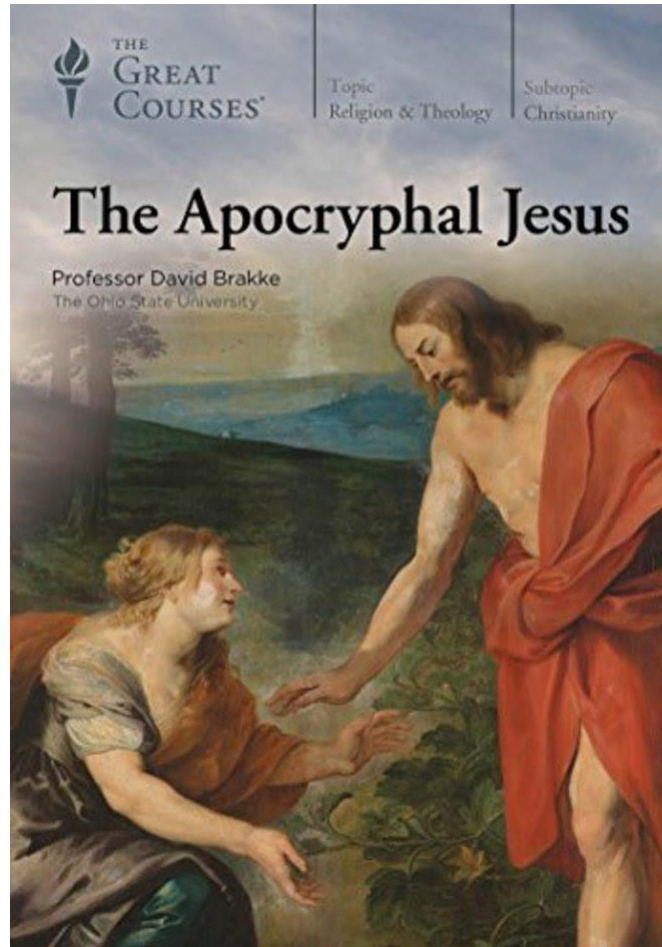
He practiced telecommunications law in Washington, DC for over 40 years, representing large telecommunications conglomerates and media companies, including the former Bell companies and their descendants. His public service included terms as communications counsel to the US Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

He has served on several Boards, including a term as Senior Warden of the vestry at St. John's Lafayette Square. Currently he is a trustee of WETA, the Protestant Episcopal Cathedral Foundation, and the Campaign Legal Center. Prior Board service includes the National Archives Foundation, the Trust for the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Protestant Episcopal Cathedral Foundation.

His honors and awards have included: The Mildred Claypoole Community Service Award; the Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington's Individual Arts Patron Award; inclusion in the Library of Congress' HistoryMakers African American Oral History Archive; from Lafayette College, the Joseph S. Bell Award for Distinguished Service, the Doctor of Laws degree Honoris Causa (2009), and the naming of the Riley K. Temple Art Gallery (2011). He is a proud co-founder with Tony Award winner Kenny Leon of the Kenny Leon's True Colors Theatre Company.

Temple holds the AB degree from Lafayette College (1971), the JD degree from Georgetown University (1974), and the Master of Theological Studies degree, cum laude from the Virginia Theological Seminary (2014).

Most recently, he is the curator of the African American Episcopal Historical Collection (AAEHC), a partnership of the Historical Society of the Episcopal Church and the Bishop Payne Library at the Virginia Theological Seminary. The AAEHC chronicles the history of Black Episcopalians.



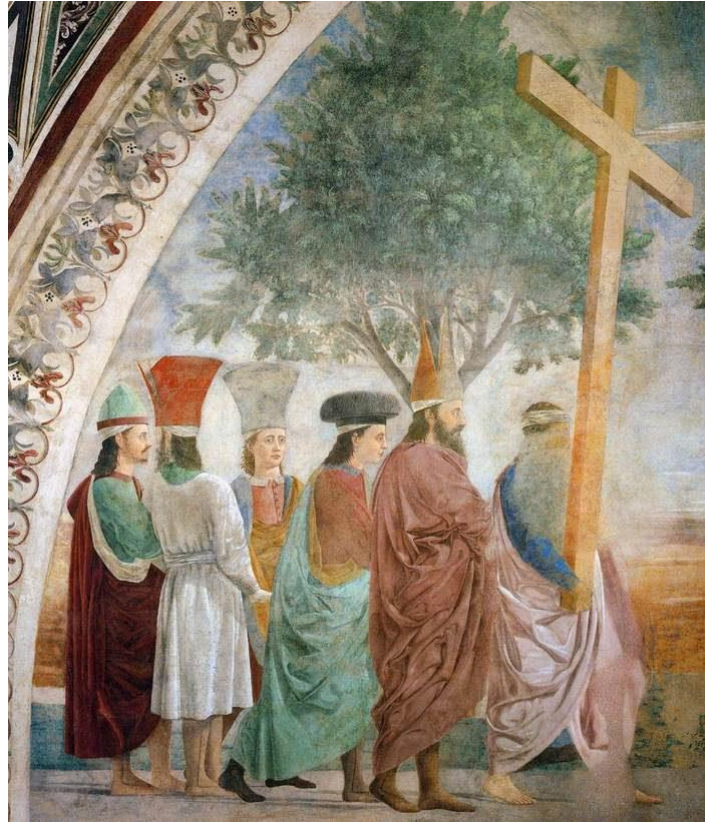
SAVE THE DATES: Sunday Evening Lenten Series on "The Apocryphal Jesus"

March 16, 23, 30, & April 6, Fellowship and Simple Supper begins at 6:00 p.m.;

30-minute Great Courses film begins at 6:30 p.m.

Gain a new perspective on early Christian life and history through non-canonical Christian literature, led by Dr. David Brakke of The Ohio State University. Sessions will include these topics:

- Jesus and Mary in the Proto-Gospel of James,
- Young Jesus and the Infancy Gospel of Thomas,
- Sayings of Jesus from the Gospel of Thomas, and
- The Gospel of Judas's Gnostic Vision



**SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, March 22nd
at 7:00 p.m. for a Special Lenten Concert at St. Francis**

Plan now to attend a very special Lenten concert that will feature our organist/pianist **Sasha Beresovsky**, and the St. Francis Choir and soloists under the direction of Larry Vote. The concert, a performance of the rarely heard **Via Crucis (Stations of the Cross)** by Franz Liszt, will take place on ***Saturday, March 22nd, 7 p.m.*** at **St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, Virginia.** **The concert is free and open to the public.**

Via Crucis is a set of musical meditations on the Stations of the Cross which prominently features the piano supported by choral and solo vocal movements with texts appropriate to the subject. The performance will be further enhanced by the showing of slides of paintings by Renaissance painters who visually interpreted each of the 14 Stations of the Cross. This presentation is an excellent opportunity to immerse oneself in an example of music that dramatizes the Passion of Jesus Christ.

RISE AGAINST HUNGER[®]



Rise Against Hunger Family Event at St. Francis

Save the Date: Friday evening March 28, 2025

Ongoing Weekly Activities

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

All are invited to immerse themselves in this supportive offering from St. Francis Church where we regularly pray for one another and 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, 703-476-9065.

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

Zoom ID: 998 1159 6134; Passcode: church

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

Reading and Discussing CS Lewis's "Mere Christianity", beginning this WED and the first assignment is the Preface, Ch 1 and Ch 2. Join us every WED morning: All are welcome. Questions? Contact Stu Edwards.

[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: