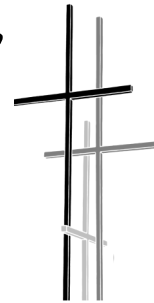


# Saint Francis Journal

## June 2026

A Loving Community, Serving God's Kingdom



# We Have a New Priest!!

It is with deep gratitude and great joy that we announce that St. Francis Episcopal Church has called a new rector, **The Reverend Vivian Shelby**. We give thanks for God's guidance throughout this discernment process and we are pleased to welcome Rev. Shelby to our parish community. We ask that you give thanks to the Lord in your prayers for His faithfulness and providence.

Rev. Shelby comes to us from Trinity Episcopal Church in Longview and her first Sunday with us will be **June 28, 2026**, coinciding with our annual **Fourth of July Ice Cream Social**, sponsored by the choir. To mark this joyful occasion, we will host a welcome reception between services and invite all members of the congregation to join us in extending a warm and gracious welcome.

We also extend our sincere appreciation to the Search Committee, church staff, vestry and EDOT for their steadfast dedication and faithful service throughout this important season in the life of the church, We are especially grateful for those supply priests who helped us continue Eucharist and services during this time of transition, especially The Rev. Robert Odom. Finally, we offer our heartfelt thanks to the congregation for their prayers, patience, and enduring support.

Faithfully & For His Sake, Jay DeOrnellas, Senior Warden



Jay DeOrnellas  
Senior Warden

*God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that... you may share abundantly in every good work*

**2 Corinthians 9:8**

### Tithing, Annual Giving, and Planned Giving at St. Francis

At St. Francis Episcopal Church, we talk about money the way we talk about prayer, worship, and service: as a part of Christian discipleship. Giving is not simply a way to pay the bills. It is a

spiritual practice that shapes our hearts, loosens the grip of anxiety and scarcity, and joins our lives to God's mission in the world. As we reach the halfway point of 2026, this is a natural time to pause, give thanks, and prayerfully review our giving—celebrating what we've been able to do so far and discerning what faithful next steps God may be inviting. In this season of transition, your generosity also helps us sustain our ministries and positions St. Francis to call and hire a rector when the time comes.

The word tithe means "tenth." In the Scriptures, God's people set aside a tenth as an act of gratitude and trust, acknowledging that everything ultimately belongs to God. For many Christians today, tithing remains a helpful benchmark: not a rule to earn God's love, but a clear, prayerful goal that can grow our freedom and joy.

If 10% feels out of reach right now,

start where you are. Some people begin with 2% or 5% and increase a little each year. The point is not the number; it's the intention: to put God first, to give regularly, and to give in a way that reflects your means and your gratitude.

- Give first, not last. Consider setting your gift at the beginning of the month, before other spending decisions.
- Give consistently. Regular giving—weekly or monthly—helps generosity become a stable rhythm of life.
- Pray with your decision. Ask God to guide your next faithful step, and then take it.

### Annual Giving: Your Pledge Sustains Ministry Today

Annual giving—often called stewardship—is the bedrock of our shared life. It supports the ongoing **(continued on next page)**

ministries that happen week by week: worship, music, formation, pastoral care, outreach, hospitality, and the care of our facilities. Just as importantly, annual giving is about the personal transformation of the giver. It is a discipline, like prayer and service, that is essential to discipleship and should be practiced year-round.

A **pledge** is simply a promise you make—prayerfully and realistically—about what you plan to give over the coming year. Your pledges help the vestry and finance team plan responsibly, set priorities, and say “yes” to ministry with confidence. If your circumstances change during the year, your pledge can change too; the goal is faithful participation, not pressure.

- **Review and rejoice.** Look back at where you saw God’s gifts in your life this year.
- **Connect your gift to mission.** Consider which parts of St. Francis’s ministry you most want to strengthen.
- **Choose a next step.** Whether you maintain, increase, or begin a pledge for the first time, every commitment matters.

### Planned Giving: A Legacy of Faith for Future Generations

Planned giving is an act of love—a way to care for the people and ministries that will come after us. It allows us to continue God’s work beyond our own lifetimes, ensuring that resources can support worship, outreach, and formation for future generations.

Planned giving is not only for the wealthy. It simply means making a considered choice about the ultimate use of what you’ve been entrusted with. Many people begin with a simple bequest in a will, while others explore gifts that can also provide income during their lifetime.

- **Bequest in your will or trust.** A specific amount, a percentage, or what remains after caring for loved

ones.

- **Beneficiary designation.** Naming the church on a retirement account, life insurance policy, or donor-advised fund.
- **Gifts of assets.** Appreciated securities or other property, sometimes with tax advantages (consult your advisors).
- **Life-income gifts.** Arrangements such as charitable gift annuities or charitable trusts that can provide income and support ministry.

If you are interested in including St. Francis in your estate plans, we would be honored to have a confidential conversation with you. Planned giving is, at its heart, a spiritual decision: a “final testament” about the importance of faith and community in your life.

### Why We Give

Christian stewardship is the grateful use of everything God has entrusted to us—time, talent, treasure, and the care of creation—for the purposes of Christ. When we give, we are responding to grace already received, and we are investing in a community that forms disciples, offers prayer and pastoral care, welcomes newcomers, teaches the faith, and serves our neighbors.

- **Giving is worship.** It is one way we say “thank you” to God for all we have received.
- **Giving is formation.** Like prayer, it is a discipline that matures us over time.
- **Giving is mission.** Our generosity fuels the ministries that make Christ’s love tangible in our parish and beyond.

### Next Steps

- **Pray.** Ask God to show you one next step toward greater generosity this season.
- **Make or renew your pledge.** If you haven’t pledged before, consider starting with an amount you can sustain—and revisit it each year.
- **Explore tithing.** If you already give, consider whether you are called to move closer to a tithe over time.
- **Consider your legacy.** If you have a will (or need one), think about including a gift to St. Francis as part of your witness.
- **Reach out.** Contact Jay

DeOrnellas, Senior Warden, Carol Lanthrum, parish administrator or Jeremy Cole, Finance Committee to talk about giving options and ways your gift supports ministry.

*Gracious God, you give us all that we have and all that we are. Grow in us grateful hearts and generous hands, that we may share abundantly in every good work, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## Congratulations to Our Graduates



Macy  
Cabell

Amalia  
Streufert

### Macy Cabell

Graduate of  
Pennsylvania State University  
State College, Pennsylvania  
B.S. Integrated Sciences  
with a Focus in Biology

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### Amalia Streufert

Graduate of  
Legacy High School  
Attending this Fall  
Texas Women’s University  
Denton, Texas



## Prayer for Clergy & People

Almighty and everlasting God, from whom comes every good and perfect gift: Send down upon our bishops, and other clergy, and upon the congregation committed to their charge, the healthful Spirit of your grace; and, that they may truly please you, pour upon them the continual dew of your blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honor of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer 9, BCP, pg. 817



**\*June 5\***



Breakfast for All  
**\*NEW TIME\* 9 AM\***  
Followed by Men's Group

CUB Lunch Prep:  
10:00am  
Join us!

Wed. Schedule

Morning Prayer  
12:00p  
Bible Study  
12:30p  
Grief Support Group  
2:00p

Conversations Exploring  
Cultural Perspective

Sunday, June 14th, Noon  
Lunch Provided

Speaker  
The Rev. Rob Jerger

Questions? See Roy Barron

Out-to-Lunch Bunch

Tues. June 16\*11:30am\*TBD

Book Club

1st & 3rd Mondays  
6:30pm Parish Hall



Reception for  
Carol Ann Chidlaw  
Completion of  
Education for Ministry  
Sun. June 7th  
Between Services

Fourth of July

Ice Cream Social &  
Reception for our New Priest  
The Rev. Vivian Shelby

Sunday June 28th

Between  
Services



Guest Priests

The Rev. Robert Odom  
May 31st  
June 7th  
June 21st

Canon of the Ordinary  
The Rev. Kellaura  
Johnson  
Sunday, June 14th  
Reception Between  
Services

\*DOK Meeting \*

\*Sat. June 13 \* 9am

All Women Welcome

Discussion from DOK Magazine  
The Royal Cross

'How Pets & God Love Us  
Unconditionally'

DOK Discernment follows  
10:30a—Noon



Reception  
In Thanksgiving  
For our Faithful  
Supply Priest

The Rev. Robert Odom

Sun. June 21st  
Between Services



Serendipity Dinner  
\*Fri. June 12th\* 6 to 8 pm

Main Dish: Fried Chicken  
Hosted by Jay DeOrnellas &  
Nancy Crawford

Sign up in hallway for  
Appetizers \* Sides \* Desserts

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Kayla Hartman (6/12)

James Barr (6/18)

Alberto Cruz (6/25)

Carol Lanthrum (6/26)

## JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Mike & Jane Johnson (6/6)

Buz & Norma Gagliano (6/10)

Lloyd & Julia Bienek (6/13)

Bp. Jeff & Susan Fisher (6/17)

Paul Streufert & Sara Steinbrueck (6/17) Dave & Cindy Meyer (6/22)

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**WEEKLY RECURRING EVENTS FOR JUNE**

**The Rev. Vivian Shelby  
 New Rector Begins June 28th**

**Sunday**

- 8:30 am Rite I—No music
- 9:30 am Adult Lectionary Discussion  
 Children/Youth Sunday School \* On Request \*
- 10:45 am Rite II—Traditional Music  
 Live-Stream on FaceBook & YouTube

**Wednesday**

- Noon Noon Morning Prayer — Sanctuary
- 12:30 pm Bible Study — Parish Hall
- 2:00p Grief Support Group
- 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary

**Thursday**

- 5:30 pm Handbell Practice—Music Room

**June Special Events**

Monday June 1, 6:30pm  
 Book Club - Parish Hall

Saturday June 6  
 Breakfast for All—9:00am  
 Men's Group Meeting—9:00am  
 Church Under a Bridge Lunch Prep - 10:00am

Sunday June 7, Between Services  
 Reception for Carol Ann Chidlaw  
 Completion of EFM

Friday June 12, 6:00pm  
 Serendipity Dinner  
 Parish Hall

Saturday June 13  
 DOK Meeting: 9:00—10:30am  
 DOK Discernment: 10:30 am—Noon  
 \*All Women Welcome\*

Sunday June 14  
 The Rev. Canon Kellaura Johnson  
 Reception Between Services  
 Conversations Exploring Cultural Perspectives: Noon

Monday June 15, 6:30pm  
 Book Club - Parish Hall

Tuesday June 16  
 Out-to-Lunch Bunch: 11:30am  
 Vestry Meeting: 6:00pm

Sunday June 21—Father's Day  
 Reception for The Rev. Robert Odom  
 Between Services

Sunday June 28th  
 The Rev. Vivian Shelby Begins as Rector  
 Ice Cream Social & Reception



**Mission Statement**  
*Why do we exist?  
 What is our purpose?*

St. Francis is a community of Christians whose mission is to love one another, serving God's kingdom on earth through

- Developing discipleship through worship, prayer, education, and fellowship,
- Ministering to one another
- Offering ourselves as servants in God's world.

**Vision Statement**

*The parish we aim to become*

**The vision of St. Francis is to**

- Promote spiritual growth through education and worship,
- Reach out in service to the community,
- Increase diverse music ministries to create a joyful sound in celebration,
- Provide vibrant children's, youth, and campus ministries,
- Create a variety of ministries and programs for everyone.

**VESTRY**

Jay DeOrnellas  
 Senior Warden (2026)

Dan Amy (2026)

Dominique Lucas (2027)

Gay Barron (2028)

Ann Bush (2028)

Kathy Clark (2028)

Sandra Dugan (2028)

Connie Wilson (2028)

Carol Lanthrum, Clerk

**CHURCH STAFF**

The Rev. Vivian Shelby  
 Rector, begins June 28th

Dr. Cameron Rose  
 Director of Music

Carol Lanthrum  
 Parish Administrator

Susan Kohler  
 Treasurer

Alberto Cruz  
 Sexton

**We want to know!**

What are your concerns?  
 What are your questions?  
 What are your suggestions?

