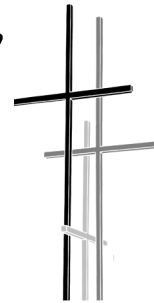


Saint Francis Journal



June 2026

A Loving Community, Serving God's Kingdom

We Got This — With God's Help

“For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become enslaved to one another.”

— Galatians 5:13

Celebrating America 250: With God's Help

In 2026, our nation pauses with joy and gratitude to mark America's 250th anniversary, the semiquincentennial of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. As we look toward this anniversary year, we also give thanks for the new chapter beginning in our parish life and joyfully welcome our new Rector, Rev. Vivian Shelby, to St. Francis. The official America250 celebration describes this milestone as “an opportunity to pause and reflect on our nation's past, honor the contributions of all Americans, and look ahead toward the future we want to create for the next generation and beyond.” That is a fitting invitation for us at St. Francis Episcopal Church: to celebrate, to remember, and to recommit ourselves to the work of love in our community.

On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence gave voice to a bold American hope: that a people could shape a common life grounded in liberty, responsibility, and the dignity of all. That hope did not solve every problem in a single day, and it did not make the young nation perfect. But it began a story that has always required courage, sacrifice, repentance, imagination, and participation. America's promise has never been sustained by words alone; it has depended on people willing to serve, build, forgive, and begin again.

That same turning point in American history also changed the life of Anglicans in the new United States. Before the

Revolution, Anglican congregations in the colonies were tied to the Church of England and its royal structures. After independence, those congregations faced the faithful challenge of becoming a church rooted in the Anglican tradition while living fully within a new republic. In 1789, the Episcopal Church in the United States was formally organized, and the first American Book of Common Prayer was ratified by the first General Convention. The prayers of the church were reshaped for a new nation, no longer praying for a monarch, but for the life and leadership of these United States.

So, as Episcopalians, America 250 is not only a civic anniversary; it is also part of our own family story. The same era that gave birth to the United States also gave rise to an American Episcopal Church marked by common prayer, representative governance, and shared responsibility among bishops, clergy, and laity. We know, from our own tradition, that freedom and faithfulness are not passive gifts. They are practices. They are habits of worship, service, listening, sacrifice, and hope.

America250 encourages communities across the country to celebrate through local gatherings, stories, volunteer service, and giving. Among its national efforts are America's Block Party, described as “the largest synchronized Fourth of July celebration in U.S. history,” America Gives, which seeks to make 2026 a record-setting year of volunteer service, and Giving 4th, a movement to establish July 4 as a national day of charitable giving. These themes speak directly to the heart of Christian community: celebration that becomes generosity, gratitude that becomes service, and memory that becomes mission.

At St. Francis, we will join that spirit in a

very tangible way. On July 5, our loose funds will be given to our St. Francis feeding programs and split between Young at Heart and Church Under a Bridge. In that offering, our celebration of America's birthday becomes more than fireworks and flags. It becomes bread shared, neighbors welcomed, and dignity honored. It becomes a reminder that freedom is strengthened when communities care for the hungry, the lonely, the elderly, the vulnerable, and the overlooked.

The joy of America 250 is not simply that our nation has lasted 250 years. The deeper joy is that each generation receives the opportunity to help America become more faithful to its highest ideals. The Declaration of Independence began with a claim about human dignity. The Episcopal Church in this country grew by learning how to pray, govern, and serve in a new civic reality. And St. Francis continues that same work in our own place and time, offering our hands, our resources, our tables, our prayers, and our hearts.

America is unique because it is not only an idea written on parchment; it is a living community that depends on everyone's involvement. It takes citizens, neighbors, volunteers, teachers, caregivers, veterans, public servants, families, churches, and friends. It takes people willing to give thanks for what is good, tell the truth about what is unfinished, and work together for the common good. Just like at St. Francis, it takes all of us. With God's help.



Jay DeOrnellas
Senior Warden

Welcome Rev. Vivian Shelby!! We are so glad you are here!



Mother
Vivian



Jeremy gives prayer of welcome
& hope for our future together



First Day in Sanctuary



First Birthday
Prayer



Thanks, Choir, for the Ice Cream Social! It was delicious!

Prayer of thanksgiving for our New Rector

Heavenly Father, we thank you for bringing our new rector to this parish. May she seek you in all things and not stray from your call. Make her a godly priest, pastor and teacher; may your truth always dwell in her mind and on her lips. Refresh her daily as she ministers to our congregation and guide us all to embrace our future together with obedient and generous hearts. Amen.

Wed. Schedule

Eucharist Service

Every Week

12:00p

Instead of Morning Prayer

Bible Study

12:30p

Grief Support Group

2:00p

Rector Installation Service

The Rev.
Vivian Shelby

Wed. Aug 26th
6:00pm

Bp. Fisher Presiding



Sat. July 4th

NO Breakfast for All

NO Men's Group

Due to Holiday

CUB Lunch Prep *10am*



*DOK Meeting *

*Sat. July 11th * 9am



All Women Welcome

Discussion from book
Bible Women by Freeman

DOK Discernment follows
10:30a—Noon

Book Club

1st & 3rd Mondays

6:30pm Parish Hall



Out-to-Lunch Bunch

Tues. July 21st 11:30am

Discovery Series

Baptism/Confirmation Classes &
Learn More about the Episcopal Church

Sunday July 19*12:00p * Parish Hall
Lunch Served

Conversations Exploring Cultural Perspective

Sun. July 12th * Noon
Lunch Provided

Jeremy Cole, Speaker
My Journey from Alma to the
Piney Woods of East Texas

Questions? See Roy Barron

Serendipity Dinner

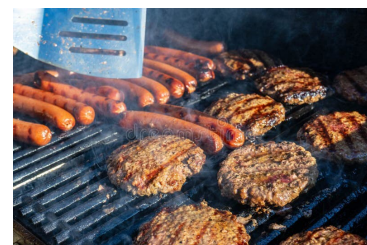
Saturday

*July 11th * 6-8pm*

Home of Bob & Maggie
Taliaferro
1120 Ashwood Drive, Tyler

Hamburgers & Hot Dogs

Sign up in hallway for
Appetizers * Sides * Desserts



JULY BIRTHDAYS

Julia Bienek (7/6)

Kathy Clark (7/10)

Derik Gray (7/14)

Nancy Crawford (7/7)

Polly Kuklewicz (7/10)

Lloyd Bienek (7/21)

Phyllis Wilcox (7/25)

Pamela Haltom (7/8)

Sara Steinbrueck (7/11)

Pat Griggs (7/23)

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Will Abudeye-Fernandez & Brooke Taylor (7/9)

Todd & Jill Lestage (7/11)

St. Francis Episcopal Church
 3232 Jan Avenue
 Tyler, TX 75701
 Telephone: 903-593-8459

Email: office@stfrancistylor.org
 Web site: www.stfrancistylor.org

facebook

www.facebook.com/StFrancisTyler



WEEKLY RECURRING EVENTS FOR JULY
The Rev. Vivian Shelby

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

Nursery available on request

Wednesday

- Noon Noon Eucharist — Sanctuary
- 12:30 pm Bible Study — Parish Hall
- 2:00p Grief Support Group
- 7:00 pm **NO** Choir Rehearsal until September

Thursday

- 5:30 pm Handbell Practice—Music Room

July Special Events

Saturday July 4—Holiday

NO Breakfast for All

NO Men's Group Meeting

Church Under a Bridge Lunch Prep - 10:00am

Sunday July 5, Between Services

**Giving 4th—America 250 Project
 Collection for Food Ministries**

Monday July 6, 6:30pm

Book Club - Parish Hall

Saturday July 11

DOK Meeting: 9:00—10:30am

DOK Discernment: 10:30 am—Noon

All Women Welcome

Saturday, July 11, 6:00pm

Serendipity Dinner

Home of Bob & Maggie Taliaferro

Sunday July 12, 12:00pm

Conversations Exploring Cultural Perspectives

Sunday July 19, 12:00p

Discovery Series for Confirmation

Monday July 20, 6:30pm

Book Club - Parish Hall

Tuesday July 21

Out-to-Lunch Bunch: 11:30am

Vestry Meeting: 6:00pm

Wednesday August 26, 6:00pm

Rector Installation Service

The Rev. Vivian Shelby

The Rt. Rev. Jeff W. Fisher, Presiding

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

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?

