

# FRANCISCAN - FEBRUARY 2019

A Publication of St. Francis Episcopal Church – “Proclaiming the Good News in word and deed.”

Dear Members and Friends of Saint Francis Church,

Why is it so important to attend the **Saint Francis Church Annual Meeting, on February 10, 2019**? First, it is a celebration of the previous year in the life of Saint Francis Church. Second, it is an opportunity to enjoy good food and conversation with the people who are Saint Francis Church. Third, it is an opportunity to gain a better understanding of Church life and to ask the church’s leadership questions, as we talk about the future. Importantly, the meeting offers an opportunity to discover what you may want to do within the work and ministry of the Church and how you can exercise your faith. We surely would enjoy your company too.

FEBRUARY, the shortest month of the year by the number of days. But for me, February is the longest month to endure as one longs for spring, spouts of green vegetation, song birds and the resurrection of new life. February is a gift too. Cold cloudy days and fickle weather do cause me to greatly appreciate the realities and delights I miss so much. So, in retrospect, I will express my gratitude for February, despite its drab landscape and short comings. By Faith I know that spring will come; and I prepare for the coming with seed and shovel. My Hope it that the renaissance of new beings will not be delayed as I turn the soil. For the existence of Love never dies.

*Now, faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1). For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one also hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it (Romans 8:24-25). So, faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love (1 Corinthians 13:13).*

FAITH, HOPE. LOVE. “Those are their names of course, those three—as words so worn out, but as realities so rich. Our going-away presents from beyond time to carry with us through time to lighten our step as we go. And part at least of the wisdom of the third one is, as Rinkitink<sup>1</sup> heard it, ‘Never question the truth of what you fail to understand, for the world is filled with wonders.’ Above all, never question the truth beyond all understanding and surpassing all other wonders that in the long run nothing, not even the world, not even ourselves, can separate us forever from that last and deepest love that glimmers in our dusk like a pearl, like a face.”<sup>2</sup>

A PEARL. Valentine’s Day is coming, February 14<sup>th</sup>, a festival of romantic love when many people give presents to their spouse or partner. A simple pearl would be a spectacular gift, an object of great value. Matthew 13:45-46 says, “Again the kingdom of heaven is like a man who is a dealer in search of fine and precious pearls, who, on finding a single pearl of great price, went and sold all he had and bought it.” This story underscores the fact how precious you are to God. Naturally, a pearl is made when an irritant (a grain of sand) is trapped within an oyster. The oyster reacts by surrounding what is irritating with beauty. Layers of nacre coat the irritant, eventually forming an iridescent gem (the pearl). God does the same. God surrounds even the most irritating person with unconditional love – and you and I become beloved children of God, persons of great value.

Love in Christ, *Fr Frank*

<sup>1</sup> “Rinkitink” is a kindhearted king who is as fat and jolly as old Saint Nick himself, and also meet his bytalking goat Bilbil in the book, *Rinkitink in Oz*, written by Baum, L. Frank Baum (1919).

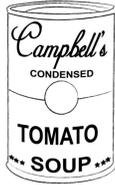
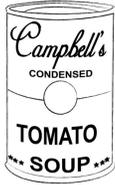
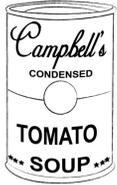
<sup>2</sup> From “The Sacred Journey, a memoir of early years” by Frederick Buechner (1982).

# FEBRUARY CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED.	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <b>Annual Meeting</b>		 <b>Schedule Change</b>	 <b>Choir Rehearsal</b>		<b>1</b> Jazzercise 4:00 pm & 5:30 pm	<b>2</b> Jazzercise 7:00 am & 9:15 am
<b>3</b> Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am  Sunday School 10:30 am  Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am	<b>4</b> <b>Office Closed</b>  Jazzercise 4:00 pm & 5:30 pm	<b>5</b> <b>Office Closed</b>  Jazzercise 5:30 pm  Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm  <b>Vestry Meeting</b> 7:00 pm	<b>6</b> Bible Study 10:30 am  Jazzercise 4:00 pm & 5:30 pm	<b>7</b> Jazzercise 5:30 pm  Barbershop Singers 7:00 pm  Alanon 7:30 pm  <b>Choir Rehearsal</b> 7:00 pm	<b>8</b> Jazzercise 4:00 pm & 5:30 pm	<b>9</b> Jazzercise 7:00 am & 9:15 am
<b>10</b> Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am  Sunday School 10:30 am  Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am  <b>Annual Meeting</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Office Closed</b>  Jazzercise 4:00 pm & 5:30 pm	<b>12</b> <b>Office Closed</b>  Jazzercise 5:30 pm  Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm  <b>Choir Rehearsal</b> 7:00 pm	<b>13</b> Bible Study 10:30 am  Jazzercise 4:00 pm & 5:30 pm	<b>14</b> Jazzercise 5:30 pm  Barbershop Singers 7:00 pm  Alanon 7:30 pm  <b>Valentines Day</b>	<b>15</b> Jazzercise 4:00 pm & 5:30 pm	<b>16</b> Jazzercise 7:00 am & 9:15 am
<b>17</b> Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am  Sunday School 10:30 am  Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am	<b>18</b> <b>Office Closed</b>  Jazzercise 4:00 pm & 5:30 pm	<b>19</b> <b>Office Closed</b>  Jazzercise 5:30 pm  Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	<b>20</b> Bible Study 10:30 am  Jazzercise 4:00 pm & 5:30 pm	<b>21</b> Jazzercise 5:30 pm  Barbershop Singers 7:00 pm  Alanon 7:30 pm  <b>Choir Rehearsal</b> 7:00 pm	<b>22</b> Jazzercise 4:00 pm & 5:30 pm	<b>23</b> Jazzercise 7:00 am & 9:15 am
<b>24</b> Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am  Sunday School 10:30 am  Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am	<b>25</b> <b>Office Closed</b>  Jazzercise 4:00 pm & 5:30 pm	<b>26</b> <b>Office Closed</b>  Jazzercise 5:30 pm  Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	<b>27</b> Bible Study 10:30 am  Jazzercise 4:00 pm & 5:30 pm	<b>28</b> Jazzercise 5:30 pm  Barbershop Singers 7:00 pm  Alanon 7:30 pm  <b>Choir Rehearsal</b> 7:00 pm	 <b>February</b>	

# St. Francis News

## Outreach Ministry Program



Each month for Ingathering Sunday, there will be certain items that need to be collected. For the month of February, please collect cans of soup and place them in the Ingathering baskets in the Foyer.



## ADOPT -A- BILLS

are available for support of various ministries and events here at St. Francis.

Please place your check along with the adopt-a-bill slip in the offering.



## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Ron and Roxie Thomas 2/27



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Lauren Kock	2/1
Thomas Korab	2/1
Chinoso Oduah	2/7
Charlotte Bradley	2/9
Andrea Fedchinko	2/12
Tori Hamilton	2/27

If your name does not appear on our birthday or anniversary list, please contact the church office.

## Mark your calendars!

Choir Director, Donna Sprowles will be out of town the week of February 17.

Choir rehearsals will need to be changed the week before to Tuesday, February 12 at 7:00 pm.

All other dates for February and March will be on Thursdays at 7:00 pm. We will be back to the regular Wednesday schedule in April.



## Outreach Ministry Jars

Please look for jars around the church to throw your loose change in. They will be located on the table in the foyer, near the coffee pots in the kitchen, and on the table during coffee hour. These will benefit the soldiers on our prayer list for the month of February. St. Francis will be sending them Easter packages this year.

If you would like to donate to this worthy cause, please put it in the designated containers. You can find a list of most needed items on the bulletin board and in this Franciscan.

Since St. Francis does not know any of the addresses for those on the military prayer list, we ask that you send that to us as soon as possible. Once we receive the correct addresses we can make sure to send them the Easter packages.

Every 2 months there will be a new charity that money will be collected for; please look forward to new charities in the future. This is great way for the Outreach Ministry to serve the community.

~ **ANNUAL MEETING** ~  
**St. Francis Parish**

**Sunday, February 10**  
**following the 10:30 am Liturgy.**

During this meeting, Delegates will be chosen, and new Vestry Members will be announced. An update of budget and finances will be presented as well.

All Ministry Chair persons should write a brief report of what has taken place during the past year and what their plans are for the year to come. All reports must be turned into the Church Secretary by February 7.

**Shrove Tuesday Spaghetti Dinner**  
**St. Francis Episcopal Church**

March 5 at 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM  
Per Person - \$7.00 and  
Kids 12 and under - \$5.00



Come and eat all the spaghetti, salad, bread and dessert you want before beginning our period of fasting for Lent. If anyone would like to help with the Spaghetti Supper, please let Barb Roy (937) 859-3501 know. See you there!

**Ash Wednesday Worship**



Ash Wednesday: Imposition of Ashes  
will be held Wednesday, March 6 at  
7:00 pm in the Nave.

During this service, Holy Communion will be administered and ashes will be imposed upon our foreheads, reminding us of our mortality. Please come!

## Request from Sunday School



The children will be making cards to send to those on our prayer list. We are in need of colored card stock, fabric scraps, scrap booking paper, stamps and ink pads, etc. If you have anything to donate, we will put it to good use!

### PRAYERS FOR OUR PARISH

As we begin our worship each Sunday we have the opportunity to quietly pray. This helps our minds and hearts to focus on our Lord. Here are some prayer suggestions that may help:

Pray that:

- The presence of Jesus will be known to all of us
- The Holy Spirit will move freely among us
- Father Frank will be blessed as he leads us
- Eucharistic ministers and acolytes will be blessed as they serve us
- The choir, organist, and director will be blessed as they provide us with music
- All who hurt and suffer will be touched by Christ with healing
- The healing prayer team during communion will be inspired by Christ

This is not intended to be an exhaustive list, but it provides us with some suggestions of prayer helps. Our church (meaning us) needs this support and strengthening.

Everyday we all need this same kind of prayer support. Try taking home with you a list of those who need our prayers and of those who are serving in the military. We can use these lists in our everyday prayers.

#### A Prayer For The Parish

“Almighty and ever living God, Father of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”

The Book of Common Prayer, page 817 (#11)

Mary Martin, Parish Health Ministry

## Get Up and Get Moving!

There are many of us that just don't want to go out when the weather is too cold, snowy, or slippery. Seriously, it's better to stay cozy than to subject yourself to a fall.

One day while we were in Germany, I took our two children over one street with our sled. It had snowed the night before and the roads were not plowed so the sledding was sure to be great fun. We trudged to the top of the street and off we went. I was pushing while the children sat on the sled. They kept yelling for me to go faster. Somewhere between the top and bottom I slipped and down I went. I was in my 30s at the time. I don't know how I managed to get home. I pulled tendons from the bone or something. I had to wait for Jeff to get home from work. But it started to snow so badly that I had to wait all night before he could get me to the clinic. I will never forget the excruciating pain I went through that night. I absolutely could not move one inch so I prayed all night and tried to concentrate on breathing. And then when we got to the clinic, there were no braces as they depleted their supply. From then on, I try to be very careful outside. Making sure you have good boots with tread is very helpful. Take it from me, it's much better for you to learn from my mistake because I wouldn't want to wish that on anyone!

No matter what the weather is doing outside, there are many ways to keep your body moving. Instead of dwelling on going stir crazy from being in the house during this time of year, help is on the way!

A Fitbit is a great device. It tracks how many steps you take during the day. I'm no Spring Chick now, but I try to get at least 10,000 steps in each day. Some days are better than others. The trick is to figure out a way to do just that in your own home. One way that helps me to keep moving is during commercials on TV. I go up and down the stairs as many times as I can. Then I will change it and walk quickly around our kitchen island. When the dogs are out they chase me. So I get a good laugh while I'm at it because they have no traction going around the corners. I try to get in 5,000 steps by 1:00 pm to keep me on track. Everyone should have their own goal.

Time's a wasting! Get your runners on now. Then when the Spring comes you'll be ready to get out and enjoy yourself.

If you take the time to read this and have some other helpful ideas, please let me know.

Teena Baldrige, Parish Health Ministry

**Saint Francis Episcopal Church**  
**The Episcopal Church in Springboro**  
**225 N. Main Street**  
**Springboro, OH 45066**  
**(937) 748-2592**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED  
TIME DATED MATERIAL



## The Franciscan

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(937) 748-2592  
[www.saintfran.org](http://www.saintfran.org)

### SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Holy Eucharist, Rite II .....10:30 am  
Sunday School ..... 10:30 am

### WEDNESDAY CLASSES

Bible Study.....10:30 am