

# St. Francis of Assisi Newsletter

Ordinary Time

July, 2017



## Mission:

We are a Christ-centered faith community where all are welcome; loving one another by embracing diversity, fostering spiritual growth, living the gospel in the world, and recognizing the God who lives in all.

## Calendar

### Events

Things are happening in our community. Our church is alive and active. Come, participate and enjoy fellowship with your church community and your greater community.



In the Lectionary Calendar, this is Year A – the year we are reading from Matthew’s gospel.

We meet at 6:00 pm at the church and, following our scripture study, adjourn to a nearby restaurant to share a meal.

Won't you join us?



### Women's Spirituality Group

The entire Faith Community is invited to join this group for sharing our stories of struggle and joy in our faith journeys.

Meetings rotate among members' homes and conclude with a potluck dinner.



### Outreach



### Diaper Jar

There is a continuing need for diapers for the York County Shelter. We have made a commitment to help fulfill this need so thanks for all of your donations thus far.

In June we delivered

**239**

diapers to the shelter.



### BLESSING BAGS

As part of our ongoing outreach to the greater community, we are handing out "blessing bags" (filled with several essentials for an individual on the street) to those who need them.

Please consider becoming a part of this ministry.



### Donate Bottles and Cans

Thank you to all in the community who collect returnable bottles and cans for our CLYNK campaign. The money collected goes to the Wells Fuel Fund for those who need help during our cold winters.

So far this year we have collected

**\$51.00**

### Mass:

**Every Sunday – 9:00 a.m.**

952 Post Road (Route 1)  
Colonial Square  
Wells, ME

### Sunday, July 9

Lay homilist – Mike Conlon

### ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Noon - ?

38 Whippoorwill Ln  
Shapleigh

### Thursday, July 13

Bible study, 6pm

### Saturday, July 15

Parish Council "work" treat  
Kennebunk Savings Bank  
(upstairs conf. room), Wells  
9am - ?

### Sunday, July 16

Parish Council Meeting  
following Mass

### Thursday, July 27

Bible study, 6pm



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## The Psalms of July

### The Language of Covenant Love

The psalms for the month of July are filled with covenant language: God's initiation of unconditional love, blessings, mercy and protection — and the psalmist's response of praise, gratitude, trust, lament and supplication. This is the language of love for those who strive for an intimate and committed relationship with God. Loving-kindness (*hesed*) and fidelity (*'emunah*) are sure signs of God's covenant faithfulness, and come as an enduring and pure self-gift. The psalmist speaks on behalf of the people's efforts to remain faithful despite hardships, temptations and doubt. Remembering God's steadfast love is a hallmark for those striving to remain faithful to their covenant; this encourages them to trust that God's promises are for all times. These psalms call us to consider our own covenant relationship with God that flows from our baptism. If we were to ponder our engagement with God lately, what would we say of our response to God's fidelity in our lives?

#### Praising God from whom all blessings flow!

On July 2, the 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Psalm 89 conveys praise and gratitude for God's covenant with David. David, as king and protector of the people, belongs to God. Through him come God's blessings. God's promises are unshakeable, and his faithfulness is "established forever" (v3). There is cause for rejoicing at such blessedness. Do I stop to consider each day the myriad ways that God blesses me, shows love and cares for me? It could be as simple as having time to enjoy a good cup of coffee as my day begins, or as moving as the first cries of a newborn. Perhaps, there is gratitude and relief that the car repair bill is paid. How truly grateful am I toward God? Loving-kindness and fidelity are sure signs of God's covenant faithfulness. Sharing God's marvelous deeds On July 9, the 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time, covenant language is abundant in Psalm 145. This is a song of praise and blessing to God for his great kindness (*hesed*) and merciful compassion (*hannun*) for all of creation, not only reserved for Israel. God's loving-kindness that runs so deep and wide needs to be proclaimed in all days and times, to all people, especially those who are burdened or discouraged. The faithful are prompted to awe and reverence; they are called to announce to the entire human race the blessings available to those who would love God. How often am I moved to awe and reverence that God desires and initiates a loving relationship with me? Do I long for others to know this loving God? Do I tell them about or invite them to consider such a God? What might hold me back from sharing my faith with others?

#### Participating with God yields abundance

On July 16, the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Psalm 65 speaks of God's direct involvement in preparing the fertile soil of our hearts for the seeds of faith and commitment. The level to which we are open and receptive determines the depth of our faith and abundant life in God. A covenant relationship

bounty, and your paths overflow with a rich harvest" (v13). How open am I to a deeper relationship with God? Am I resistant to God's invitations or am I longing for something more from God?

#### Turning to God in vulnerability

On July 23, the 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Psalm 86 is a plea to God to be heard. The psalmist praises God in hope, remembering God's mercy in the past. This is an appeal to God to be accountable to his promises, and not abandon a faithful one in need. "Turn toward me and have pity on me; give strength to your servant" (v16). How often do I bring my deepest fears and concerns to God? Is it difficult for me to be vulnerable, to trust that God is concerned about the details of my life? What happens when I surrender or let go of something that prevents me from depending on God? What might it be like for God when I do this?

#### Investing in love

On July 30, the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time, the psalmist expresses reverence for the law, and honors the guidance God provides in living this covenant of love. "My part is to keep your words ... the revelation of your words sheds light, giving understanding" (Psalm 119:57, 130). We need the guidance of God's words, the Spirit of wisdom, to discern the most loving choices for relationship with God and others. This gives us our sense of belonging, our identity and our security. God's word and guidance are precious treasures beyond what worldly treasures can provide. Left to our own whims we would become self-absorbed, self-serving. Do I trust God's desires and guidance in all areas of my life? How might God be inviting me to a deeper level of detachment from worldly influences to make room for deeper loving?

*Marian Love is a spiritual director and retreat leader with a background in Ignatian spirituality. She obtained her master of pastoral studies and a graduate certificate in spiritual direction from Aquinas Institute of Theology, where she was subsequently a faculty member for 12 years. Marian is married with adult children and five grandchildren.*

*In Celebration, July, 2017*

### ANNUAL ANNIVERSARY PARTY

This year St. Francis is celebrating 14 years as a Faith Community on **July 9<sup>th</sup>** and will be rejoicing, once again, with a **lobster cook-out** at Silver Lake in Shapleigh following Mass.



Parishioners and friends are invited to bring a **side dish** along with their bathing suits, towels, and water toys.

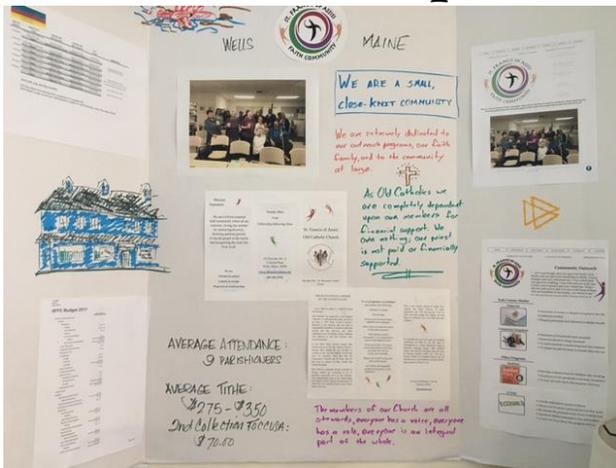


**RSVP by July 6**



Spotlight!

## Boot Camp



From June 22-24, Maryann S., Libby W., and Mike C. attended a workshop on Cape Cod presented by the Episcopal Church Foundation called “Boot Camp.” Pictured above is the “story board,” or illustration, of the St. Francis Faith Community they presented to the group.

This is quite an honor for our community as we were one of only a handful faith communities from across the country selected for this FREE intensive workshop which focused on vision building, leadership, and financial management.

The full extent of their experience and learning will be shared at our Parish Council “worktreat” to be held on July 15.

**Please keep the Parish Council in your prayers on that day.**



Meditation/Prayer

The purpose of daily meditation/prayer is the cultivation of a sense of the sacred. Sacred energy renews us. Prayer enables us to transform the world, because it transforms us! Let’s commit ourselves to daily meditation/prayer...

### ALL PEOPLE COME

All people spread across the Earth  
sing to our God with awesome mirth;  
serve in the Light with hand and voice;  
come now with us, learn to rejoice.

O sense the Mind behind the World;  
see the great Maker’s flag unfurled.  
we are the flock God wants to feed;  
but others also are in need.

Let’s enter then the Sphere of Grace,  
and learn to serve God all our days,  
in deeds and words, in works and ways;  
through trials learn to dance in praise

~Gordon Piesse, Aotearoa, New Zealand  
in Gifts in Open Hands

By Maren Tirabassi and Kathy Wonson Eddy



**The Most Reverend Dr. Rosemary Ananis, Pastor**

## Parish Council

President: Mike Conlon  
 Vice-Moderator: Debbie Gaudreau  
 Treasurer: Elizabeth Woodbury  
 Secretary: Carol Olmstead  
 Members-at-large: Janet O’Day  
 Pat Emery  
 Maryann Stacy

### Monthly Financial Report: June

<b>Income</b>	\$1767.00
<b>Expenses</b>	\$1415.64
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$ 351.36</b>

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