

THE FISHERMAN

WE ARE A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY OF LOVING, CARING MEMBERS, WHO REACH OUT TO WELCOME OTHERS THROUGH SOCIAL ACTION, MINISTRY, AND INSPIRATIONAL, SACRAMENTAL WORSHIP.

Farewell Letter

Dear Fisher Folks,

It is hard to believe that I have been with you for over one year. And it has been an enjoyable and rewarding time for me.

Together we have accomplished a lot over these past 11 months. St. James the Fisherman is a wonderful place filled with wonderful people. I believe your new rector will be a very blessed person, serving as your shepherd.

My thanks to you for welcoming me and making me feel at home. I will not list names, because I would inevitably overlook someone. I carry each of you in my heart, and will keep you in my prayers.

Continue your good work in outreach, worship, and welcoming newcomers. And please keep me in your prayers as I begin a new journey in my ministry.

*May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord cause his face to shine
on you and be gracious to you. May
the Lord lift his countenance upon
you and give you peace. Amen.*

*Faithfully yours,
Fr. Frank*

Announcing Our New Rector: The Rev. Dr. Farrell D. Graves

Dear Friends,

Following a 16-month process, the Vestry are pleased to announce the selection of our next Rector, The Rev. Dr. Farrell D. Graves.

Who is The Reverend Dr. Farrell D. Graves?

- First and foremost, he is a North Carolina native! Fr. Graves was born and raised in High Point, North Carolina, where his parents still reside. He earned his undergraduate degree, a BA in Religion, at Duke University.
- He is an Episcopal priest, relocating to our parish from All Souls Episcopal Church of Stony Brook, New York.
- Fr. Graves holds a Masters Degree from the University of Virginia and a PhD from the University of California, Irvine. Additional studies include those at UCLA and the University of Tokyo, culminating with his ordained ministry studies at the General Theological Seminary of Manhattan New York. His studies included world religion, philosophy, Japanese intellectual history, and ethics. He believes that the Episcopal Church fosters respect for the individual seeker, and support for the discernment of the movement of the Spirit in our lives.
- Finally, he is a man of many interests including music (favorite genres include mountain and Baroque), working out at the gym, poetry, photography, nature and gardening.

Fr. Graves and his cat, Bostwyck, will be joining our parish family around mid-January; and we look forward to a long and very fruitful time with him as our rector.

Also, please join in giving our deep thanks to: our Search Committee, whose diligent efforts have brought us to this new part of our parish journey; our Vestry for their leadership efforts during this time of parish discernment; and our staff who have so tirelessly shouldered the extra workload necessary to ensure the smooth day to day running of our parish.

And last, but certainly in no way least: let us give thanks for the ministry of our Interim Rector, The Rev. Frank Russ, who has so steadfastly and faithfully served us during this time of transition. Fr. Russ has indeed served as a grounding pastoral agent and worship leader during his time with us; we are truly thankful for his presence and gifts.



A Voice from the Deacon's Bench



Dear Friends in Christ,

This Christmas Eve, I told the children at our 6:00pm Christmas service the story of the friendly beasts. It is a traditional song that came from the twelfth century in France. I had no idea it was that old. I loved this song as a child, and sang it often. It still is one of my favorite Christmas songs, and that is why I presented it to the children as part of the Christmas nativity.

The song speaks for each of the friendly beasts that surround and share the stable with Mary and Joseph on that cold Christmas night. The donkey carried Mary to Bethlehem town, the cow gave his manger for a bed, the sheep gave his wool to keep the baby warm, and the doves cooed him to sleep so he wouldn't cry. Each beast gave a simple real gift of what they had to Emmanuel.

The gift God has given us is his holy son, who later gives to us the greatest gift of all — our salvation, being one of God's children and receiving his love. The best Christmas gift we can give to our Creator, Lord and Savior is opening our hearts and minds to receive his love, while continuing our Christian journey, one step at a time, learning what God's love is all about.

*Blessings,
Deacon Jean*



Father Frank's Farewell Service

Following fourteen months of faithful service, we will bid Father Frank farewell as our Interim Rector on January 6th. This will, therefore, be a *single service weekend*, with the worship service to be held on

Sunday, January 6, 2019
at 10 a.m.

with a reception to follow.

As part of his farewell, we are collecting a Love Offering, to be presented to him as a gift at this service. A collection box has been set up in the Gathering Area for your donations. **NOTE:** If you use a check, please make it out to St. James the Fisherman and be sure to write "**Fr. Frank's Farewell Gift**" in the memo section. Since this is a gift donation to an individual, it cannot be reflected on your contribution statements.

Please sign up to bring finger foods such as small sandwiches, side dishes, salads, desserts, etc. for the Reception. A sign up sheet is on the Bulletin table in the Commons.

St. Nicholas Visits St. James



St. Nicholas visited St. James the Fisherman's 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, December 9, 2018. Father Frank looked on as St. Nicholas told the congregation a little about himself. He was born in the third century in Patara. At that time, it was Greek and is now on the southern coast of Turkey. His wealthy parents died in an epidemic when he was young. Obeying Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," he used all of his inheritance to help the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to God and was made Bishop of Myra.

Nicholas was persecuted under the Roman Emperor and imprisoned along with other bishops, priest, and deacons. There was no room in the prisons for the real criminals.

After his release from prison, Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships.

One story has him throwing bags of gold through an open window to three young women providing them with their dowries; otherwise, they could have been sold into slavery. The bags of gold would land in stockings or shoes left by the fireplace. Thus, this led to the custom of children hanging stockings or putting out shoes by the fireplace, waiting for gifts from St. Nicholas.

The Greening of the Church

Parishioners worked diligently on December 16th to prepare the nave for the Christmas season:





Neighbor to Neighbor Outreach Ministry

Volunteers have been very busy working with both the Orthopedic Lending Program and the Coat Closet outreach ministries. I am extremely grateful to all who volunteer, since many of them also support and give their time to other church and community outreach

programs. St. James is blessed to have many outreach ministries that contribute to the welfare and support of those in need in Brunswick County.

Once again, prayers were answered for more wheelchairs that showed up in one week's time. We still are in need of rolling walkers to fill out the inventory of orthopedic equipment. The Coat Closet is in need of x-large and above coats for men and women, and children's coats size five and up. We have given out over 350 coats so far this 2018/19 season.

Thanks once again to those who donate to both ministries and please keep all outreach ministries in your prayers.

Deacon Jean

Upcoming Events

Long Range Calendar:

Jan 1 - Office Closed HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Jan 6 - Fr. Frank's Farewell Service at 10 AM followed by Reception in Bliss Hall

Jan 21 - Martin Luther King Day - Office Closed

ECW

Our December meeting was held on December 5th. We had our annual luncheon at Sea Trail with the Coastal Harmonizers as our entertainment this year. Nineteen ladies were able to attend this year's event. The food was delicious and the entertainment fun and lyrical.

The Craft and Bake Sale was on a separate weekend from the Lobster and Yard Sale, this year on November 17th, and was once again a big success. The day of the sale brought in \$415 for the raffles of the beautiful quilt, the wonderful table built by our church men, and the gift baskets; \$633 for the crafts made or donated by parishioners, and \$339.50 on the bake sale. Thanks to all who made things for the sales and/or worked with us on that Saturday.

Thanks to all who donated items for the Gift Bags for Shut-Ins. Twelve bags were assembled, picked up at the Christmas Luncheon, and delivered by many of our ECW members. They are much appreciated.

Our next meeting will be January 9th starting out at 9:00 AM. Our program this month will be Sheila Jordan with her presentation *Laughter is the Best Medicine*. A "Stone Soup" lunch will be held after the program. Please bring a can of cream soup to throw into the pot.

Have a Wonderful Holiday Season!

Barb Freeman,
2018-2019 ECW President



Craft/Bake/Raffle/Yard Sales Totals

As of December 13, 2018, the net proceeds from the October/November sales are as follows:

Craft Sales	\$711.64
Bake Sales	293.95
Raffle	415.00
Yard Sales	1,676.78
 TOTAL	 \$3,097.37

There are still a few craft items left, so it is not too late to make your purchase.

The ECW wishes to thank everyone who helped in any way to make these events so successful. These monies have already begun to help many outreach ministries, particularly with hurricane relief.

Ruth Ann Campbell
ECW Treasurer



Quiet Day

Lumina Divina, or “*divine light*,” was the theme of a Quiet Day sponsored by the Daughters of the King to begin the season of Advent. There were thirty participants, who appreciated the opportunity to be still, to listen and reflect, and to share on topics suggested by our facilitator, Lisa Bearnes Richey. Lisa is well known in the diocese, and as usual, she did not hide her light under a basket. Her personality inspires us all to be of good cheer and help spread the Good News.

Mary and Martha Chapter



The day included Morning Prayer, reading the Psalms together, reflections, and sharing. After a light lunch, we gathered in the nave, where Father Robert Hobgood celebrated the Eucharist to end our time together.

The Daughters of the King always welcome the women of the church to join us and learn how to serve our Lord. Ask any of us for more information.

*For His Sake,
Susan Sprouse*





Parish Angel Tree Program

The Daughters of the King, Mary and Martha Chapter, wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to the parishioners who made our Angel Tree a resounding success this year. We were able to serve five families and help make their Christmas a truly blessed one. The picture shows the bounty shared with these parents, children, and seniors in need.

*For His Sake,
Susan Sprouse and Lisa Jennings*



Final Results of 2018 CROP Hunger Walk

At the December 3rd SBIC Meeting, the CROP Hunger Walk Treasurer reported that 77 walkers raised a total of \$12,885.50, 25% of which will be given back to the SBIC Food Pantry by Church World Service.

St. James had 8 walkers (Bubba drove the lag car) and raised a total of \$1,855. Thank you again if you walked or if you sponsored a walker. St. James is helping to end hunger one step at a time.



It was also announced at the SBIC Meeting that Shallotte Presbyterian Church collected the most money and will be receiving the trophy at the January SBIC Meeting. Congrats to them.

*Ruth Ann & Vera Redin
St. James Recruiters*



Vestry Election 2018

St. James the Fisherman Episcopal Church held an election of Vestry during the December 2, 2018, Annual Meeting. Bill Chase, Tom Fernandez, Gary Freeman, and Bill McLennan were candidates for three seats to be vacated. During the Annual Meeting, but prior to the election, Bill Grothe announced he was stepping down from the Vestry, leaving four vacant seats. Parishioners were asked to vote, ranking candidates from one to four. It was announced that the candidate receiving most votes for the fourth ranking would fill the unexpired term of one year. Tally of votes determined that Tom Fernandez would be filling the unexpired Vestry term of one year. Other elected Vestry, Bill Chase, Gary Freeman, and Bill McLennan, will serve a term of three years.

Persons conducting the election were Nancy and Walter Dougherty, Anne Neely, and Mike Ligon. A special thanks is extended to Connie Esposito, for her support in preparing a list of parishioners eligible to vote, and ballots for election.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Dougherty*

Vestry Notes

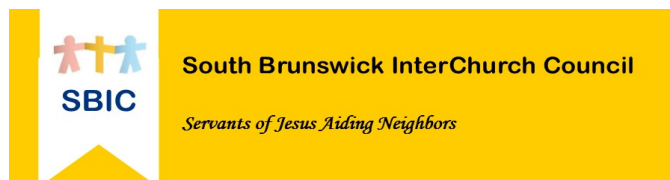
The Vestry met Tuesday, December 11th, in Bliss Hall at 5:30 p.m. with a full agenda. Discussion was held as to the roof repairs. The contract is signed and partial payment sent. Work should begin after the first of the year with the first phase being the sanctuary roof, then progressing to the rest of the buildings. Jim Parsch will oversee the repairs.



We also discussed the welcoming of the new Vestry members. Bob Lynott will be the new Senior Warden. Our new rector, Father Farrell Graves, will arrive in January to lead us forward. I ask that we all take time to provide him all the support he needs. His arrival date is not firmed up yet, but he will be in the area house hunting soon.

As the outgoing Senior Warden, I wish to thank all who provided me guidance and support, especially Father Frank, the Vestry, and our Administrative Assistant, Connie.

*Yours in Christ,
Bill Grothe
Sr. Warden*



Ruth Ann Campbell, the St. James Representative on the South Brunswick Interchurch Council (SBIC), attended the monthly meeting on Monday, December 3, 2018, at Shallotte Presbyterian Church at 9:15 a.m.

Prior to the meeting, we had a guest speaker, Lindsay Maher, from the Brunswick Wellness Coalition (BWC). She spoke about making Brunswick County the healthiest county in NC. We are currently 14th. She treated us to a catered, healthy, delicious breakfast from The Purple Onion while she was talking. The BWC has given the SBIC Food Pantry a new refrigerator in which to keep eggs and vegetables.

Status on Past 2018 and Upcoming 2019 fundraising events:

1. CROP Hunger Walk (November 4). Paul Carmen, Treasurer of the CROP Hunger Walk, reported that 77 walkers raised a total of \$12,885.50. The SBIC will receive 25% of those funds back from CWS. Shallotte Presbyterian Church will receive the trophy at the January SBIC meeting. It should be noted that CWS also donated to Brunswick County a great deal of items for hurricane relief; i.e., clean up buckets, hygiene kits, school kits, and blankets.
2. Thanksgiving Meals on Wheels (November 22). Ruth Ann Campbell-Grothe, Coordinator, reported that a total of 196 meals were prepared for delivery by Meals on Wheels. A special thanks goes out to St. James for the green beans and to Stephanie Lynott, Terri Collins, Nancy Hobgood, and Lynda Ligon for cooking turkeys for the event. The few leftovers were taken to the Grissettown Volunteer Fire Department.
3. Christmas Dinner Boxes for the SBIC Food Pantry (December 15). If you wish to donate \$20.00 to help pay for a dinner, please send a check to SBIC Treasurer, P. O. Box 1461, Shallotte, NC 28459, with Christmas Box in the memo line. The boxes will be distributed on December 15th at the SBIC Food Pantry. The food has already been ordered for the boxes, so feel free to donate after Christmas to help defray some of the costs. Just remember to put Christmas Box in the memo line.
4. Run for Food (January 19). Mary showed samples of last year's medals and shirts. Expenses will be lower because of the left over medals, shirts, and trophies. Registration is down about half from last year.
5. Spring Concert (April 7). Beach Assembly of God will host the concert in the spring of 2019.
6. Quilt Raffle (April 7). The Brunswick Quilters Guild has once again donated a quilt to the SBIC for raffle. The quilt is 80" x 96" (queen size) and all cotton. Tickets are on sale for \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00. Tom Freeman reported that he had sold 36 tickets thus far. All proceeds go to the SBIC Food Pantry and Emergency Assistance. The winner will be announced at the April 7th Concert. Please contact Ruth Ann, your St. James SBIC Representative, at 910-575-1247 or at nolnannie@atmc.net if you would like to purchase tickets.

Mary Pritchard reported that the SBIC Food Pantry has served 2,887 children, 5,417 adults, and 4,020 seniors for a total of 12,324 January-November 2018. The SBIC Food Pantry is looking for someone to pick up bread from Panera Bread in North Myrtle Beach every Friday night at 9:00 p.m. and eggs from Walmart. Walmart will bring the eggs out to your vehicle. Please contact Mary Pritchard if you are interested at 910-579-4684 or at maprita@aol.com.

There was no report from Emergency Assistance. There was a short discussion about Greg Mittelstadt's frequent absence and lack of communication. Tom Horan will contact Greg about his intentions.

Mitch Hewett, Technology Chairperson, has resigned. He will be happy to help someone, however. Gloria Wimmer, Membership Chairperson, is still working on getting a new representative from Calvary Baptist Church. She is also trying to get an official representative from St. Brendan's Catholic Church. She also met two people at today's breakfast from Shallotte First Baptist who might be interested in becoming their representatives on the SBIC.

Denise Reiner, Publicity, is working on publicity for the Run For Food. The next SBIC General Meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 7, 2019, at Shallotte Presbyterian Church at 8:45 a.m. All are welcome.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ruth Ann or Bill Grothe, your St. James Representatives, at 910-575-1247 or at nolnannie@atmc.net. Until next month...

Lower Cape Fear Deanery News

Nancy Dougherty and Deacon Michael Ligon attended the December 6 meeting, which was held at St. Paul's church in Wilmington. The meeting was chaired by Lisa Richey of Grace Episcopal (Whiteville) and the Rev. Dena Whalen of St. Paul's (Wilmington). Our **Diocesan Convention** will be held February 7-9, 2019 at the Hotel Ballast in Wilmington.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED. Duties include being drivers, helping with the information table or welcome table, and providing directions for breakout sessions at the Hotel. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Nancy Dougherty. The **PRE-CONVENTION MEETING** for our delegates and other interested persons will be at the Church of the Servant, 4925 Oriole Drive, in Wilmington on January 17, at 6 PM.

The **PREPAREDNESS AND RELIEF DISASTER COMMITTEE**, a new diocesan committee, is requesting one representative from each deanery. Lower Cape Fear needs to elect someone. Please contact Nancy Dougherty if this is something you feel called to do. During our Deanery meeting, we learned that there are currently 1,100 homeless children in New Hanover County, and that Pender County has approximately the same number. Although the hurricane and flooding as a result of the hurricane has gone, the needs in our Diocese continue.



Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Dec 2 Larry Eldridge
 Dec 3 Bob & Barbara Beadling
 Dec 4 Richard & Marilyn Seidler, Bonnie Dolph
 Dec 6 Stephanie Lynott, Russ Mavis, Suzy Bryant
 Dec 9 Al Haley, JoAnn Jenkins
 Dec 10 Bill Chase
 Dec 11 Ilene Palmer, Ernie & Rowena Sewell
 Dec 14 Paul Worley
 Dec 16 Nancy Dougherty
 Dec 17 Patricia Nunnenkamp, John Walsh
 Dec 18 Ed & Sue Sandidge
 Dec 23 Gayle Robertson
 Dec 24 Stephen & Gayle Robertson
 Dec 26 Sheila McLennan
 Dec 27 Chris Walters
 Dec 28 Paul Boileau, Debs Fosbury
 Dec 30 Bill Somers, David Fosbury
 Dec 31 Bruce Zawacki

St. James the Fisherman Episcopal Church
 P. O. Box 68, 4941 Main Street
 Shallotte, NC 28459
 910-754-9313

stjames@stjamesthefisherman.net

The Rt. Rev. Robert Skirving - Bishop
 Rev. Frank Russ, Interim Rector
 The Rev. Jean Miller, Deacon
 The Rev. Michael Ligon, Deacon
 Rev. Dr. Richard Warner, Jr., Rector Emeritus
 Paul Bertelsen, Verger

Worship Services

Sunday:

Holy Eucharist: 8:00 a.m.
 Choral Eucharist: 10:00 a.m.

Saturday:

Holy Eucharist: 5:30 p.m.

Vestry

Bill Grothe	Senior Warden
Jim Parsch	Junior Warden
Jack McElroy	Treasurer
Jackie Wright	Clerk of the Vestry
Pat Neff	Nancy Dougherty
Sam Farag	Bob Lynott
Dawn Kellerman	Joyce Winnie
Anne Neely	

Directory of Ministries

WORSHIP - Vestry Liaison - J. Winnie

Coordinators -
 Acolytes - P. Bertelsen
 Altar Guild - Individual Team Leaders
 Daughters of the King - K. Roberts
 Eucharistic Ministers - R. Fernandez
 Eucharistic Visitors - Deacon J. Miller
 Music - M. Smicklas
 Newcomers/Greeters - K. Crane
 Nursery - V. Redin
 Ushers - B. Chase

PROGRAMS - Vestry Liaison - D. Kellerman

Christian Education - Father Frank Russ
 ECW - B. Freeman
 Coffee Hour - Weekly Hosts

Foyer Groups: R. Fernandez
 Quarterly Parish Dinners - Dawn
 Kellerman, B. & G. Freeman
 Special Projects - P. Bertelsen
 Holy Stitches - D. Kellerman
 Bridge Group - B. Bartell

OUTREACH - Vestry Liaison - Anne Neely

Angel Tree - Daughters of the King
 BFA Food Pantry - Second Helpings Volunteers
 Communities In Schools - Daughters of the King
 ERD - *Volunteer Needed*
 Inter-church Council - B. & R. Grothe
 Lobster Sale - B. Chase, J. Washington, J. Kellerman
 Neighbor to Neighbor - Deacon J. Miller
 Second Helpings - J. Bryant

UTO/CPC - ECW Coordinators

ADMINISTRATION - Vestry Liaisons - S. Farag, P. Neff

Endowments - Ernie Sewell
 Stewardship - B. & S. McLennan

COMMUNICATIONS/DEANERY - Vestry Liaison - N. Dougherty

BUILDING & GROUNDS - B. Lynott, J. Parsch

Fisherman Newsletter - L. Jennings

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:2

ST. JAMES
 THE FISHERMAN
 EPISCOPAL CHURCH

P. O. Box 68
 Shallotte, NC 28459