



# ST FRANCIS ANGLICAN CHURCH

1089 WILKINS DRIVE, SANFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

Biblical Truth, Loving Community, Transformation and Joy!



The Reverend Craig Lister, Rector

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# St. Francis Anglican Parish

## Sanford, North Carolina

We are a young parish, less than two years old. We were created following a discernment period during Lent, 2015, in which our rector, Fr. Craig Lister, led the members of St. Thomas Episcopal Church through an examination of the beliefs and practices of The Episcopal Church (TEC). At that point, many of our members decided that we could no longer in good conscience remain under the authority of TEC and made the painful decision to leave dear friends and a parish that held many deeply cherished memories for us all to form a new, Anglican parish. Since that time, God has faithfully led us every step of the way and has blessed us beyond belief. One of our greatest blessings is being under the spiritual authority of a godly bishop, The Right Reverend Steve Breedlove, as a part of the Diocese of Christ Our Hope, a diocese whose values we thankfully and enthusiastically share.

### OUR VALUES

The following are statements of conviction, faith, and commitment that shape and form the people and churches of our diocese, our local and shared mission, and our local and shared ministry:

**GOSPEL** Jesus Christ is risen from the dead and enthroned as King. He is renewing all things. We are thankful to see him working in us and others, transforming institutions, communities, nations, even creation itself. Because of this great Good News, we walk-in hope and expectancy.

**SCRIPTURE** Holy Scripture is God's Word, our authority for faith and practice. However, simplistic answers to the complex problems in our broken world can be a stumbling block to those we seek to serve. Therefore, we read Scripture, theology, history and culture in earnest, praying for robust answers that convey truth with wisdom and mercy.

**HERITAGE** We are deeply rooted in the historic Christian Church, in our Anglican tradition, and in the surprising story of God's work in us through the Anglican Church of Rwanda. These gifts bring us into an ongoing story filled with miracle, mystery, connection, and blessing.

**FORMATION** God's purpose is to form us into people who think, feel, and live differently because we follow Christ. We are dedicated to equipping children, teens, and adults to be holy and free, flourishing in all life's opportunities and challenges. We are especially committed to developing next-generation leaders for the continuing mission of the Church in every aspect of our culture.

**COLLABORATION** We are compelled to share the blessings and gifts we have been given as we join together with other Christians in the work of the Gospel. We are committed to being highly relational and collaborative.

**HOSPITALITY** God has deeply welcomed us, so we welcome others into our lives and homes. Sharing life together is one of God's greatest gifts to His household. Generous, gracious hospitality is also our calling for the sake of those in our community who do not yet share our Christian life and faith.

**COMPASSION** God's love for the poor, the needy, the afflicted, the widow, the orphan, and the stranger is unmistakable. He calls us to be the hands, the feet, and the faces of compassion and service in this world. We encourage and foster local efforts of mercy, justice, and compassion in the community we serve.

**COURAGE** In starting new works, we are willing to take risks for the Kingdom of God. We stretch ourselves to consider the possibilities. We pioneer into new territory, following the lead of Jesus, who is the ultimate Pioneer and Risk-taker for the sake of others.

**GRATITUDE** Faithfulness in a secular age is often wearisome and difficult. In spite of every obstacle and challenge, we thank the Lord for our common vocation as his witnesses and for his countless gifts of grace that carry us in our everyday lives.

As we enter our third year, we are seeking the man of God's choosing to become our associate rector with the goal of becoming our rector when Fr. Craig Lister retires in the next two to three years.

Borrowing heavily from the excellent work The Church of the Apostles in Hope Mills, NC did in clarifying their aspirations regarding attributes of a potential rector, we are seeking a rector who possesses the following characteristics:

A **preacher** who ensures that the word of God is proclaimed to the congregation with faith, clarity and Holy Spirit inspiration, to bring glory to God and to live out the Christian faith daily.

A **spiritual leader** and role model who passionately pursues a devotional life grounded in the Scriptures and prayer and is thus equipped to lead and guide the congregation toward spiritual transformation.

A **discipleship leader** who views the process of discipleship as vital to the health of the congregation and establishes the ministry of discipleship as a foundational activity of the church.

A **pastoral caregiver** who has a shepherd's heart to see that the flock is cared for; including the sick, the shut-in and bereaved.

A **worship service developer and leader** who looks for and responds to the leading of the Holy Spirit in all aspects of the worship service and helps with the spiritual growth of the church.

An **advocate of children's and youth ministries** who exhibits a genuine passion for the youth of the parish and is dedicated to fostering an effective youth program that joins with the parents of our parish in raising young men and women who confidently confirm and live out their faith in Jesus Christ..

As a church, we continue to seek the Holy Spirit's direction for our future and so we look for a rector to lead us in prayer-based decision making in that and all aspects of our life together. We are looking for someone who can help us carry the Gospel to the unchurched in our community. We would like someone who could help us incorporate the best elements of contemporary and traditional music in our worship. We desire to foster deepening relationships within the Body by gathering regularly outside of Sundays for Bible study and fellowship. We seek someone who will continue and strengthen our commitment to being a prayer driven church.

## OUR HISTORY

St. Francis Anglican Parish is a prayer driven congregation striving to uphold the faith, morals, discipline and worship of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Faith.

After years of struggling with questionable spiritual leadership from The Episcopal Church (TEC), Fr. Craig led the congregation at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Sanford, through a period of discernment where we looked at the teachings of TEC in light of biblical teaching. As a result, in June, 2015, a group of parishioners from St. Thomas Episcopal Church met to explore the possibility of establishing an Anglican parish to serve the local community.

Ron Hewett led the enthusiastic gathering of seventy people. We formed exploratory committees and scheduled a follow up meeting for early July, 2015. We rekindled old friendships and warmly welcomed newcomers. The response to the first meeting was truly awesome and St. Francis Anglican Parish quickly became a reality.

The Parish was incorporated June 25th, 2015. We were off and running, prayerfully listening to God every step of the way. Through August, 2015, layman Dr. Marty Pate led us in weekly evening prayer services. Faces glowed with the sheer joy of being “of one mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.” Each of our formation committees offered a name for vestry positions and, after one of the evening services, our vestry was duly elected by acclamation.

At about the same time, we became aware that Fr. Craig Lister was available to lead us, having been asked to step down from his role as rector at St. Thomas earlier than his intended retirement date the end of August. We asked him if he wanted to participate in our worship services when in town. Our first service with Fr. Craig was held at the Lion's Club. Though lacking the beauty of our former church, this first service was filled with such joy. If we needed any reminder that the church was not the building, but the Body of Christ meeting within it, this first service provided that reminder!



Since that time, we have been hosted by the good people of Emmanuel Congregational Christian Church, who rent us their beautiful facilities. They have welcomed us warmly and members of the two congregations often join together in a variety of activities.



During October and November, we were visited by and interviewed the bishops of three Anglican dioceses. After prayerful consideration, the Vestry unanimously voted to recommend to our membership that we affiliate with the Diocese of Christ Our Hope and the Anglican Church of North America. Their recommendation was accepted unanimously at the first annual meeting of the parish on January 31, 2016. Our initial vestry of Lew Andersen, Sue Comstock, Ron Brown, Buddy Keller, Judith Edmonds, Pam Kerley, Linda Pate and Jean Dabbs signed our application to affiliate with the Diocese of Christ Our Hope.

Our first Christmas Eve service was attended by 187 souls and featured an outstanding pageant written and performed by our youth.



Our first Easter service was attended by 115 people.

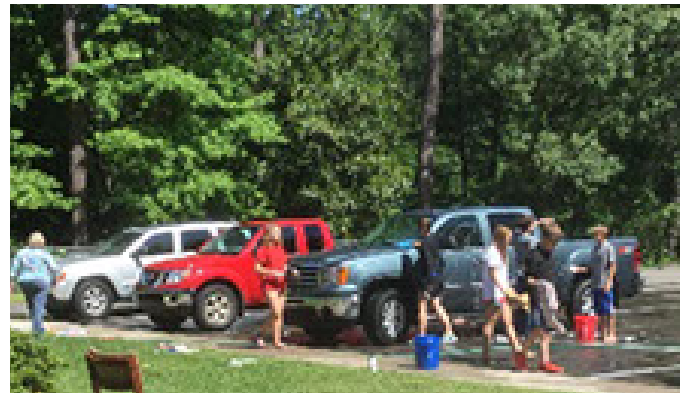




On June 19, 2016, Bishop Breedlove made his first official visit and installed Fr. Craig as rector of the parish.



On July 10, 2016, Gordy Reese and six youth headed to Camp Booyah in Cedar Grove, NC for a week-long adventure of transforming worship, service, small groups, games, activities and fun. They raised the full camp registration costs through a series of fundraisers and generous donations from our loving, supportive St. Francis parishioners.



Our first year of operations resulted in gross revenues of \$436,443 which included \$149,318 of non-recurring gifts. Average Sunday attendance was 81. God blessed us beyond belief our first year. We gathered at Buddy and Linda Keller's farm to give God thanks and praise for His presence with us and His incredible provision for us.



As we approach the end of our second year, we continue to praise God for the love, grace and blessings He has so richly bestowed on us and to pray that we will faithfully follow His will for us as individuals and as the Body of Christ serving His beloved children in this community.

We strive to live into our **VISION:**

**Biblical Truth**  
**Loving Community**  
**Transformation**  
**Joy!**

# MINISTRIES AND OUTREACH

## PRAYER TEAM

### OUR PRAYER VISION

Above all else, St. Francis' Anglican Parish is a congregation passionately committed to prayer. From the first day of its existence, this fledgling church family intentionally imbedded prayer in its DNA, and our commitment to being prayer-driven is reflected in every aspect of our church life. As followers of Jesus, we know that we can approach God's throne of grace with confidence, at ease in requesting God's help and also trusting that he will surely speak to us, guiding and directing every step if we ask and listen.

The Eucharistic celebration, the great and all-encompassing prayer of the Anglican Church, is central to worship at St. Francis, serving to structure our prayer focus to include adoration, thanksgiving, repentance and petition on a regular basis, keeping us always mindful of the redemptive death of Jesus. We rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to shape all decisions, as the vestry, in partnership with the rector, exercises spiritual leadership and bases its decisions on a process of listening to God. The same reliance on the Holy Spirit's guidance is the hallmark of our planning for all ministries; we seek to pray and listen first, and only then move ahead with decisions. We seek constantly to expand the depth and scope of our prayer through instruction, on-the-job training and practice, and opportunities to receive prayer.

While the astounding blessings that the Lord has poured onto this new congregation reinforce our commitment to operate as a prayer-driven church, we wish never to lose sight of the fact that prayer is the fuel equipping us for mission: making Jesus and his grace and love unmistakably real, drawing more and more people to salvation.

### OUR PRAYER MINISTRIES

As St. Francis was being created, a number of task forces were formed, including the Foundational Prayer Team. Our charge was to envelop every member and every aspect of St. Francis Anglican Parish in Spirit-led prayer. Not relying on our own wisdom, but listening to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we prayed for our parish to be a joyous place where all people are welcome and transformed by biblical truth taught within the context of a loving, Christian community.

Thus far, our activities have included:

- Praying this parish into existence!
- Training and establishing intercessory prayer teams to pray before church services and during vestry meetings.
- Training and providing intercessors to pray after services with individuals who request healing or intercessory prayer.
- Praying for the rector, vestry and leaders of all ministries and encouraging them to recruit personal intercessors to give them critical prayer support.
- Creating a prayer bookmark to lead our church family in daily prayers for the creation of the new parish, and so that, as a parish, we might be fueled by the power of the Holy Spirit to be faithful witnesses to Jesus Christ in Sanford, North Carolina, the United States, and "to the ends of the earth." The bookmark is periodically revised to reflect current needs and refresh our prayer focus.
- Meeting the first and third Mondays of the month at 7:00 for prayer and training. Meetings are open to all who are interested!

Additional prayer ministries include:

- St. Anne's Prayer Guild, whose members meet monthly and pray daily for individuals with ongoing prayer needs.
- Online prayer requests for emergency situations.

## MEN'S GROUP

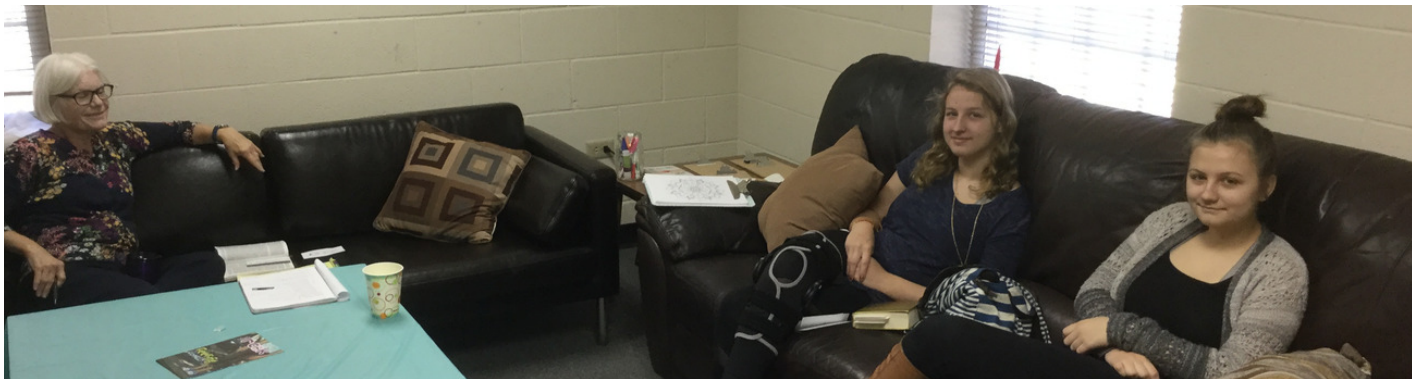
The men of St. Francis gather monthly at the home of Jon and Pam Kerley for dinner and fellowship. Should the need arise for them to do what one widow in our host church described as "menly things" around the church or for any of our parishioners, they often make plans to do so over the course of the evening.

A committee is being formed to expand the men's ministries this year.



## YOUTH MINISTRIES

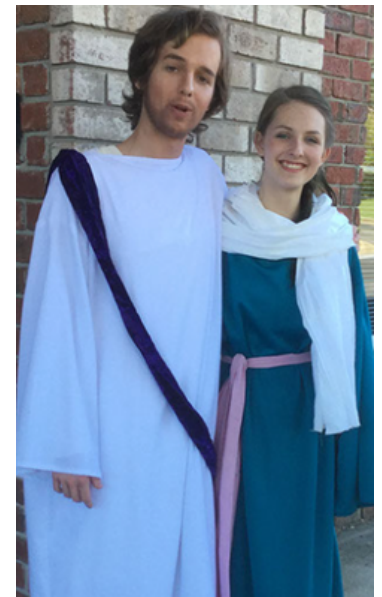
Our youth are being discipled by a dedicated part-time DRE, Pam Kerley, who has given up her salary to be able to serve on the vestry this year; a part-time paid youth coordinator, Sarah Womack; and excellent Sunday School teachers, Stuart Smith, Juli Anne Lawrence and Pam Kerley. Our Sunday School teachers use a David C. Cook curriculum called "Bible in Life, Anglican Edition" with a supplement called "Lighting the Torch."



Sunday evening youth group programs have included hearing an inspiring story of God's healing the daughter of church members who spent 50 days in ICU following a terrible wreck;



attending inspirational musicals featuring youth group members in retellings of familiar stories with a "spiritual twist;"



attending and discussing movies such as "War Room," "God's Not Dead, 2," "Risen," "Father of Lights," "Ninety Minutes in Heaven," "It's Only Cookie Dough," and "The Shack;" washing cars, making and selling "Cookies in a Jar" and sugar scrubs, and fixing Father's Day breakfast for the parish to raise money to pay their way to Camp Booyah and to Christmas shop for nursing home residents. In all their activities, the parish has supported them generously, lovingly and enthusiastically.



# Camp Booyah



## WOMEN'S MINISTRY

The purposes of the women's ministry at St. Francis include fostering relationships and building support among the women of the church; learning, growing and deepening relationships with God; encouraging fun, joy, and laughter; and increasing prayer support for one another.

We have tried to come up with intriguing, unexpected, fresh, creative, out-of-the-box activities that clearly communicate care, gentleness, pampering, grace and hospitality. Some activities have been one time events; others are ongoing. Examples include gathering to discuss a book twice a year, berry picking in season, an Advent interlude to provide women some quiet time with God to focus on the meaning of Advent and set priorities in the midst of the busyness, trips to the NC History Museum and Lady Bedford's Tea Parlor, watching current movies on "Tightwad Tuesday" at the local theater or watching golden oldies in a parishioner's media room, gathering at parishioners' homes for "Food, Fun and Fellowship" or "Love, Laughter and Ladyship" which, on one occasion included taking a sunset pontoon boat ride that ended with a brief trumpet concert and Taps. Of course, whenever we gather, food for the body as well as the soul plays a major role.







Street Address: 2885 Lee Ave  
Mailing Address: PO Box 2217  
Sanford, North Carolina 27331-2217  
919.774.8485

## Christians United Outreach Center of Lee County

<http://www.cuoclc.org/>

Headed up by Sue Comstock, Sue focuses on opportunities for us to respond to our local community. Several in our congregation are volunteers at the facilities.



Mailing Address: PO Box 2862  
Sanford, North Carolina 27331  
919.718.1540

## Family Promise of Lee County

[www.familypromiseofleecounty.org](http://www.familypromiseofleecounty.org)

St. Francis, in partnership with our brothers and sisters at First Presbyterian Church on Hawkins (<http://fpcsanford.org/>) participates in this important community mission. Sue Comstock helps coordinate to feeding and providing overnight minoring of our parishioners.



# TRAIL LIFE USA™

Adventure › Character › Leadership

Trail Life USA Troop NC - 2717

[www.trailifeusa.com](http://www.trailifeusa.com)

### CHRIST-CENTERED

Trail Life USA (TLUSA) is a Christian Outdoor adventure program that emphasizes and teaches biblical moral values and requires all adult members to agree with, sign, and abide by the Trail Life USA Trinitarian Statement of Faith and the Statement of Values. The program is unapologetically Christian. However, the program is designed and intended to be presented without being "churchy" or "religious," focusing on outdoor adventure, character, and leadership development. The analogy for this principle has been referred to as "carrot cake." The carrots in the cake are not in big and obvious chunks, but are still present throughout the entire cake, as are the assumptions of a Christian worldview throughout the entire program. At the same time, the TLUSA program is not intended to replace or compete with other youth groups, Bible studies, or church programs, but rather to complement them and give youth an opportunity to exemplify and demonstrate Christian values in their relationships with others.

## SANFORD AND LEE COUNTY

Sanford is located near the geographic center of beautiful North Carolina. We have a friendly, small town feel and yet are within easy driving distance via great roads of Raleigh (average 41 minutes), Chapel Hill (46), Durham (45), Ft. Bragg (43), Southern Pines (31), Pinehurst (38), and NC mountains and beaches (2 1/2 -3 1/2 hours).

The population of the county is approximately 60,000. Roughly half live in Sanford. Our median household income is \$43,610; average is \$57,763. Our population is 65.4% white, 19.2% black and 21.2% Hispanic.

### WHO WE ARE

What we hear from visitors--many of whom become a part of our church family--is that, perhaps our most striking characteristic as a parish is our joy, derived from our love for and devotion to God and one another. We welcome newcomers with open arms and come together in loving support to share the joys, carry the sorrows and meet the needs of our members.

We are primarily an older congregation, which is both our greatest challenge and our greatest asset. We passionately want to share the Good News with next generations, but know we need help in reaching younger families. Most of our members' children, grandchildren and even great-grandchildren live out of town. At the same time, many of the young families in our community do not have parents, grandparents, or great-grandparents in the area. At a time when there is such a hunger for connection, for family, we believe we have a lot to offer younger families by becoming mentors and loving, "adopted" extended family.

Due to the circumstances of our creation, the earliest members of this church came to it with a very high level of commitment. Many of the most active, dedicated members of our former parish formed the heart of this one, resulting in a parish with tremendous energy, solid financial support and incredible involvement by all members--whether pitching in for a parish clean up day. . .



participating in our Sunday morning adult Bible study. . .



donating canned goods for our youth group's food scavenger hunt to provide the makings of a Thanksgiving meal for the hungry in our community. . .



or having served our country as members of the Armed Services. . .



On the Sunday closest to Veteran's Day we recognize and thank all those in our parish who have served in the military. Being as close as we are to Ft. Bragg, we are honored to count a number of military families as part of our parish family. Each Sunday, we pray by name for our members of the military that God will protect them as they protect us

We pray for you as you seek God's next step for your life. We ask your prayers for us as we seek God's next step for our parish. If we are each the answer to the other's prayers, we give God thanks, praise and glory and look forward with great expectation to "all such good works" as God has prepared for us to walk in together. God's blessing be upon you.