

St. Francis by the Sea Art Opening and Jazz Concert

By Linda Laughton

On Friday, April 6, St. Francis by the Sea Episcopal Church in Salter Path will host an evening of art and jazz.

At 5:30 p.m., the art gallery will show the work of Anne Cowie and her students. Ms. Cowie resides in Belmont; teaches regionally in the Carolinas; and taught at the International Calligraphy Conference, "A Show of Hands 2016," in Asheville. She is an active member of the Carolina Lettering Arts Society, and her studio work includes drawing, printmaking, handmade books and various projects using hand-decorated papers. Admission to the gallery opening is free.

At 6:30 p.m., in the upstairs sanctuary, singer and pianist Grenoldo Frazier will perform a concert of jazz music. Mr. Frazier, also an actor and composer, is a native of Wilmington. He moved to New York City in 1972 as a pianist for two touring shows—"Journey Into Blackness" and "Harlem Heydey," an anthology of African-American music of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He was featured as Barnaby Tucker on Broadway and the national tour of Pearl Bailey/Billy Daniels' hit "Hello, Dolly!"

The '80s and '90s found Mr. Frazier winning the Off-Broadway Audelco Award (which honors achievement in black theater) as composer of "Deadwood Dick" and musically directing the national tour of "Your Arms Too Short to Box With God"; touring as Phineas T. Barnswallow, a W.C. Fields character in "Sesame Live"; serving as composer and musical director of "Mama I Want to Sing," the longest running gospel musical; composing and musically directing "Moms Mabley" at the Astor Place Theatre in New York; portraying Duke Ellington in the revue "Billy, Lena, and The Duke: A Night of Ellington Music!"; winning dual Audelco Awards as music director for James Weldon Johnson's "God's Trombones"; as an

Off-Broadway actor in "Robert Johnson Trick the Devil"; and touring Europe as a singer/dancer in Andre Heller's "Body and Soul."

For the past 16 years Mr. Frazier has been an artist in residence at North Carolina State University, Harvard Divinity School with Dr. Gavin Moses, and Penn State/Harrisburg—and has performed all over the country in clubs and theaters.

Concert tickets are \$25, and are available in advance at the church office at 920 Salter Path Road in Salter Path or at First Citizens Bank in Atlantic Beach. Tickets may also be purchased at the door the night of the performance. A reception in the downstairs art gallery will follow the concert.

For more information, call 240-2388 or visit stfrancisbythesea.org.



Grenoldo Frazier will perform at St. Francis by the Sea on April 6.

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