

## Meet Your Neighbors – *The Tabers*

By Marge Green

### *A Rare Find in Pine Knoll Shores*

I think many people feel that Pine Knoll Shores is a retirement community. Yet we see that the school buses have regular routes through our town and they always seem to be full when they leave. I had the good fortune to meet a family with children still too young for regular school. They have a preschooler plus a toddler. I am speaking about Allison and Bob Taber who have two little boys. They live at 142 Loblolly Drive in Mildred Kerr's old house.

Allison and Bob are native North Carolinians. They moved to Pine Knoll Shores from Wrightsville Beach, where they have strong family ties.

They wanted to be close to the beach so that their children could really experience the ocean and all the other water venues Carteret County has to offer. However, housing prices anywhere near the beach are beyond the reach of families with small children in the Wrightsville Beach area. After much searching around, they found the house on Loblolly Drive and felt with Bob's

experiences, they could slowly imprint their personality and life style on it.

Allison is from High Point and attended T. Wingate Andrews High School. After graduation, she attended St. Mary's for two years. Those of you who have roots in that area will remember that St. Mary's has, since Allison's time, converted to just a high school. She transferred to North Carolina State in Raleigh where she studied her first love, textile design. She put her textile training to good use by working as a clothing buyer for twelve years for an up scale group of stores, Island Passage of Wilmington. They had stores in Wilmington and Bald Head Island. This of course required many trips to New York and other clothing wholesale sites. Bob and Allison wanted to have a family and have Allison be a stay at home mom. As time will permit, she will try to pursue her hobby as a beach/ family photographer on a limited basis.

Bob is a native of Wrightsville Beach. He has seven brothers and sisters, many of whom are still in that area. He graduated from North Carolina State Wilmington with a degree in hydrogeology. Bob worked for the State of

North Carolina for 11 years. During that time, he had some projects in the Beaufort area. He began to feel that this area might offer his family some of the opportunities they desired. However, it is a very difficult decision to make when your extended family and all your friends will be left behind. It is doubly hard when you consider the job market in this area. There are not too many calls for hydrogeologists. However, his father had given each of his boys some basic homebuilding and home repairing experience as they were growing up. Bob is now venturing out using that experience.

He has also become a licensed home inspector opening his own company, North Carolina Home Inspectors. They can be utilized by either the home buyer or the home seller.

The couple's two young sons, Slate and August, are three years apart and share the same birthday. It is not too often that you hear of such a coincidence. August will soon be four while Slate will be one on his birthday. They are regulars at the Library's

Thursday morning sessions for preschoolers. It is a little hard to find playmates for the boys. There are a few little girls around that help keep August busy within his own age group. Slate is in a neighborhood baby play group that is real neat and allows for a little free time for the moms to run some errands without the help of their toddler.

I asked Allison how she would rate her new environment. She noted she really liked the family's closeness to the beach and its activities. She also likes being a hand's on mom which scarcely leaves her time to take on a part-time work schedule. While they are blessed with excellent neighbors, they still miss all their friends and family in Wrightsville Beach. They drive down there whenever possible but as time progresses those visits might not be as often as they are now.

As I reflect on this story, I see myself many years ago when we were grappling with some of the same problems, charting our future and working toward our goals. Bob and Allison are doing that now in a very fine manner and we all wish for their happy successful future here.



## Ancient Mariners to Start Rolling Again, Seek Members

The Ancient Mariners Bowling League, now in its second quarter century of play, will get rolling again for the 2005-06 season on Monday, Sept. 26.

Teams are now being put together and organizers expect to field 12 to 14 teams of three players each, depending on the number of bowlers who sign up to play on a regular basis.

The league is open to all PKS residents, past and present, as well as family members and friends. Teams are composed of men and women players of all skill levels. Rosters are put together so that each team reflects an overall skill level as equal as possible to all other teams. The aim is to have a bowling experience that is fun as well as competitive for both low and high handicappers.

So, if you're a good bowler or a not so good bowler, come on out and play. You will find any number of people who bowl just as you do and lots of company to celebrate or commiserate with, as the case may be.

If you're interested in joining the league, call either Judy Garry, league secretary, at 247-2865, or Dot Manion at 247-2944. Both emphasize that the league is seeking not only regular bowlers but substitutes who can fill in now and again when available. The need for subs is always great.

Bowling sessions start at 1 p.m. Mondays at Carteret Lanes on Route 70 in Morehead City. They usually last from two to two-and-a-half hours. The new season will run for 24 weeks from Sept. 26 to Mar. 27 of next year. There will be no bowling on Monday, Dec. 26, and Monday, Jan. 2.

The holiday break divides the season in half, with a winning team chosen in each half. The two winning teams are then pitted against each other in a championship roll-off scheduled for Tuesday, Mar. 28 of next year.

On opening day, Sept. 26, an organizational meeting will be held at 12:30 p.m., a half hour before bowling begins. The league's new slate of officers will be organized at that time.

## Episcopal Church to Hold Patronal Festival Oct. 8

St. Francis by the Sea Episcopal Church, Indian Beach, will hold its Patronal Festival on Saturday, October 8. The church is located between mile posts 10 and 10.5 on Highway 58, Bogue Banks.

The Festival will feature an outdoor celebration of the Holy Eucharist, with the Blessing of Animals, a lobster sale and dinner, and musical performances. If you have a family pet and would like to have it blessed, join in the outdoor celebration by bringing your leashed or contained animal to the Eucharist, which begins at 10:00 a.m. The lobsters will be available from noon until 3:00 p.m. Lobster dinners will be served inside the church. Performances by the St. Francis Choir and the Morehead Brass Consortium can be enjoyed during that time period.

Live or cooked lobsters, or lobster dinners, must be ordered in advance. Tickets are available through members of the parish or by calling the parish office at 240-2388. The deadline for lobster orders is October 5.

St. Francis of Assisi had a relationship with animals and nature that inspired awe in the thirteenth century. He called all creatures brother and sister, and in a most extraordinary manner he discerned the hidden things of nature with his sensitive heart.

Donald Spoto writes in his book *Reluctant Saint*: "Any overly literal reading of the episode of the preaching to the birds risks trivializing the importance Francis had for those without power, influence, prestige or political strength—precisely the people symbolized by the birds, and the group that most welcomed his message. And is it not far more compelling to know that besides loving all creatures, he communicated with the marginalized and the downtrodden and delivered a message that they took to heart? Finally, it is interesting to note that there are no artistic representations of Francis preaching to people—simply because, as everyone understood, the birds stood in for all of poor, dependent humanity."

The festival activities are open to everyone. It is not necessary to bring an animal friend. Contact the St. Francis by the Sea church office (240-2388) for information regarding lobster and dinner tickets.



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