

From: St. Francis Episcopal Church vicar@stfrancisva.org
Subject: Buried Treasure
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St Francis



September 7, 2016

Buried Treasure

*Let us go to Judea again.
John 11:7*

Jesus Looking For Treasure

The story of the raising of Lazarus from the dead begins in the readings for the daily office today. The first half of the story is presented today in which we find out that Lazarus is sick, Mary is the one who anointed Jesus' feet with oil at the home of a Pharisee, and Martha, along with Mary and Lazarus, are very close friends of Jesus. When Jesus hears that Lazarus is sick He does not rush to his bedside, as any good pastor would do. He waits two days. That decision masks one of the main things Jesus does. He looks for buried treasure and brings it into the light. When he says to his disciples "Let's go to Judea again" he is saying "it's time to bring the buried treasure there to light." It was the time to bring out the faith and love Mary, Martha, and Lazarus had, especially in their relationship to Jesus. It was time to bring out the great treasure of those gifts, plus the gifts of hospitality and evangelism they had (Why evangelism? Remember the ones at the end of the story who took the grave clothes off of Lazarus? Do you think they stopped following Jesus after that?). Jesus brought out the treasure that was in the lives of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus for all in Bethany to experience and for us to see and follow today.

How Do We Hunt For Buried Treasure Like Jesus Did?

In some very important ways it is more to the point of following Jesus to bring out the treasure and work Jesus is forming in someone else than it is to convince them that our point of view is correct. Jonny Baker and Cathy Ross make that point in the introduction the their wonderful book *Pioneering Spirituality*, "This is a spirituality that looks for treasure in the others' space and place." Jesus asks us to do a few challenging things:

1. To see in others what He sees in others (He will show us).
2. To believe about others what He believes about others (He will give that to us).
3. To relate to others as He would relate to others (He will guide us).
4. To love in others what He loves in others (He will fill us with that ability)

The point and focus is always Jesus. Whatever Jesus is thinking, praying, believing, seeing, etc. is what we want to do as well. Those are the basic

steps of Christian discipleship.

Next Steps

One place to start is here: What does Jesus think of your next door neighbor? Ask Him. Listen to Him. See what He says. Once you have that ask Him what He would have you do about what He has shown you.

Coming Attractions

Wednesday September 7, 2016 Color Me Friends 6:30pm at St. Francis. Contact Carol at carolsdream@gmail.com

Sunday, September 11, 2016 Worship at 10:0am. Bishop Johnston presiding, preaching, and confirming and receiving our new members. Also, Commissioning of the Interim Director of Music. Followed by Pot Luck.

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Vestry Committee 4:00pm

Theology on Tap 6:30pm at Keegan's contact Richard at richardandhedy@yahoo.com

Caregivers' Support Group 7:00pm contact Hedy at hedy@equity-concepts.com

October 6, 2016 St. Francis will have a booth at the Goochland Chamber of Commerce EXPO [Thursday October 6 from 5 – 8pm](#). We would like to sell baked goods made by our members. They should be packaged and priced, but don't have to have the ingredients listed. We also need volunteers to sell the baked good and just be in the booth. Please contact Libby Clark with questions or to volunteer. This is a great opportunity for St. Francis to connect with our community.

Please bring nonperishable food to worship to be distributed to the Food Pantry of Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services

Centerville Circle of Prayer

Food Lion, Centerville, that business would increase and many families in our area would be served.

Diocese of Virginia

For the people of St. Paul's Nomini Grove, Montross, Cople Parish, Hague, St. Paul's-on-the-Hill, Winchester, Christ Church, Winchester, St. Francis, Goochland, Grace, Goochland.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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