

Subject: What Is God Doing Today?
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April 17, 2013

Doing What Jesus Asks Does Not Require Seminary

*Simon, Son of John, do you love me?
John 21:15,16+17*

What Does It Take?

This is my first newsletter since beginning at St. Francis. I thought I would start out with a few thoughts about how someone qualifies to do what Jesus asks us to do. I hope you enjoy this message:

There have been many times when someone will ask me a very good theological and/or biblical question at the door of church immediately after our worship service is over. I do feel honored that people trust me to answer those questions. Often I do an adequate job at giving an answer. Little do they know, however, that after the service I am usually spent and in need of some alone time. I may not catch the question or actually give an answer that gets to the deeper root of the question. Underneath all of this is that many people will approach me with great respect for my position assuming that I am the expert in ministry. The case is, however, that theological training is not the best training for ministry.

All You Need Is Love

Of course, that is simplistic, but it is catchy. It helps me to remember that the most important and absolutely necessary qualification for ministry is love for Jesus. Three times Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me?". This helped Peter overcome any lingering guilt for denying Jesus three times. Peter answered each time saying he did love Jesus. Only then each time did Jesus tell him, "Feed my sheep." While a small percentage of Christians are seminary trained there are many, many Christians who love Jesus deeply. Our pews are hosts to millions all over the world who love Jesus with all of their hearts. Are you one of them? Your love for Jesus is the best qualification for ministry possible. Join in with Him wherever you see Him at work.

Coming Attractions

April 21, 2013 Worship at 10:00am

Sundays at St. Francis at 10:00am April 7-May 12

WHO IS THIS?

*Taking A Close Look At Jesus
Sermons for Easter Season at St. Francis.*

April 7 John 20:21-31 Jesus is the Whole Point

April 14 John 21:1-19 Jesus Opens Up Our Lives

April 21 John 10: 22-30 Jesus Speaks Deep Within Your Spirit and Your Soul

April 28 John 13:31-35 We Can Do What He Did

May 5 John 5:1-9 Jesus Breaks the Law to Heal the Sick

May 12 John 17:20-26 Jesus Chooses To Show Who He Is To The World Through Us

Is there someone you know you would like to have take a closer look at Jesus? Invite them to come with you.

May 5, 2013 St. Francis Sponsoring Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing Haiti Mission Trip

The Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing (BSMCON) is planning a mission trip to Haiti on May 8-15, 2013. Their mission team is composed of 6 nursing students from their school, 3 faculty, and one alumni. They are offering the people of Haiti a chance to receive health care for their families that we may often take for granted. The Bon Secours team will serve thousands of individuals and families in one week's time!! Their team will care for a variety of individuals, including those who need a simple wellness check up to people who have life-altering diseases. Right now, they are looking for monetary donations to be put toward the medical mission trip expenses including housing, translators, travel fees, meals, and community donations (to be given to organizations in the community for food and clothing). They are very excited about this opportunity to serve the people of Haiti and make a small difference in their world.

One of our members at St. Francis, Jenna Nelson, is a nursing student with BSMCON and will be on this trip! St. Francis has agreed to support this humanitarian effort. You may make a donation by sending a check made out to "BSMCON--Mission Fund" with Jenna's name on the bottom memo line for reference. They appreciate all donations and prayers as they prepare for this medical mission trip!

June 7 & 8, 2013 St. Francis to Participate in the Goochland Relay for Life

Goochland Elementary School Track
3150 River Road West
Goochland, VA 23063

Each year Goochland County sponsors a Relay for Life event to help fight cancer. For the very first time, St. Francis will participate in this event to be held on the Goochland Elementary School track on June 7-8. Besides giving everyone an opportunity to fight cancer and help save more lives with donations, it gives St. Francis an opportunity to serve the community.

St. Francis' goal is \$1000. For every \$100 raised by May 13, the team receives a tee-shirt. Luminary candles are also available for \$10 to remember those afflicted by cancer.

Registration forms are in the vestibule of the church, or you may register online at www.relayforlife.org/goochlandva.

Check our website www.stfrancisva.org

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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