

**Subject:** Do You Fear Fear?

**From:** St. Francis Episcopal Church <vicar@stfrancisva.org>

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May 16, 2013



## **Do You Fear Fear?**

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.  
Not as the world gives do I give to you.  
Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.  
John 14:27*

### ***What Do You Think of This?***

"Let's build church around mission instead of around the inherited model of programs." My friend, Adrian McCartney, director of Boring Wells in Belfast, Northern Ireland says this kind of thing frequently (check out his website [www.adrianmccartney.com](http://www.adrianmccartney.com)). He loves building a church like this. So do I. One of the obstacles that is often met with this kind of approach is it scares church people to death. Most of us do not know a church that operates like this, or anyone who might belong to that kind of church. So what is often called the seven last words of the church often come to mind, "we've never done it this way before." I completely understand.

### ***One Small Step***

A good first step down the path of new church structures might be to invite someone to church you have never invited before. Immediately, such a thought will raise up fears and anxieties. Here is the catch. No matter what is causing you the fear and anxiety, a new church ministry structure or an invitation to a friend, that fear and anxiety is the place where God is going to meet you. That is where God is preparing to give you peace. God's love will cast out that fear so that you can go ahead to do what you are being prompted by the Spirit of God to do. Take God up on casting out your fear and see what happens.

### **Coming Attractions**

*May 19, 2013 Pentecost Sunday- worship at 10:00am*

*Ministry of Hope* is a ministry for which Richard Walker serves as president of the Board of Directors. He shared with us recently about one of the pastors in Pakistan connected with this ministry, Asif, who was killed in an attack on the church building. Please keep Asif's wife, young son, and church family in your prayers. You can learn more about Ministry of Hope as well as how to help Asif's family financially at [ministryofhope.info](http://ministryofhope.info).

*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. We have now gone over \$1200! Thank you for your generosity!!!

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](http://www.relayforlife.org/goochlandva).

*A special time of prayer has traditionally been between Ascension Day and Pentecost Sunday.* Roman Catholics refer to this as a novena. I invite you to pray each day between now and Pentecost for:

May 10: The church in our area to have the grace to be one in the Spirit of God

May 11: Every business near our homes (by name as you remember) to be blessed with great success and increased ability to serve its clientele

May 12: The Federal, State and County courts to diligently pursue justice

May 13: Congress, the Legislature, County Supervisors, and all local legislative bodies to wisely pass laws for the peace and prosperity of our nation, commonwealth and communities

May 14: Our president, governor, all county and local executive officials and all agencies including our military, law enforcement and public safety, post office, transportation, and others have great wisdom in carrying out their responsibilities.

May 15: Our neighborhoods and communities would be places of mutual affirmation and personal and family growth where lifelong friendships are

made.

May 16: Our schools would educate students to fulfill the dreams and callings God has placed on each one, our teachers would be supported in ways they can teach very well for the benefit of each student, and the administration of each district would make wise and fruitful decisions.

May 17: Our local fellowships would worship deeply, seek each other's success, and serve others in the community in the name of Jesus.

May 18: The Spirit of God would fill our worship tomorrow with great power and love, sending us into the world to join in with what God is already doing and to extend God's grace wherever we go.

***Visit our website [www.stfrancisva.org](http://www.stfrancisva.org)***

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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