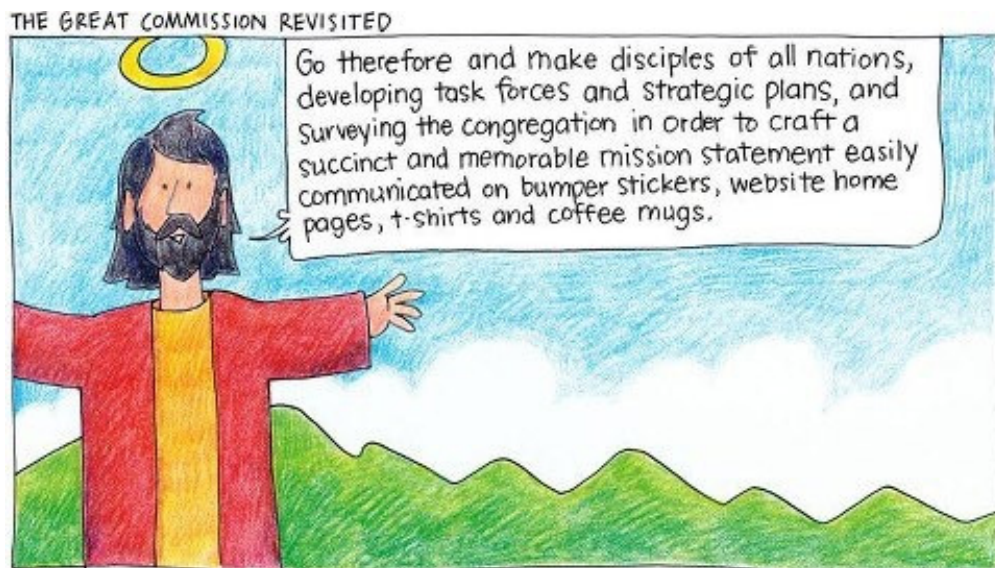


Subject: Too Much Work
From: St. Francis Episcopal Church <vicar@stfrancisva.org>
Date: 7/3/2013 3:59 PM
To: Larry <lckiddjr@gmail.com>

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July 3, 2013

Too Much Work

Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near

Luke 10:11

What is Jesus Asking Of You?

I have to come clean with you. I found the cartoon above both amusing and offensive at the same time. Its amusing because it portrays what we think is good solid church work. It is offensive for the same reason. We will spend a great deal of time on plans, surveys, marketing, and other such things. That is not really a bad thing. However, our real work is to make disciples. It is to follow Jesus. It is to extend the kingdom of God wherever we go. That is what Jesus is asking of us. Sometimes we have no energy left for that kind of disciple-making when we have put all of our energy into planning. It can be difficult to make our planning process a second priority to disciple-making.

How Does Jesus Want Yo To Do That?

In recent years one of the most significant developments in the church is the realization that the mission is God's. God is already at work in some very significant ways in the people around you, even the ones who are not part of a church. That calls for us to join in with what God is doing already. How do we do that? By developing the skills and disciplines to recognize God's presence wherever we are, and by developing the habit of responding to God all the time. Recognizing and responding to God is always empowered by the Holy Spirit. Crafting our plans and carrying them out can seem like too much work. Growing together to be like Jesus and follow Him everywhere is something He gives us His power to do.

Coming Attractions

Sunday, July 7, 2013

10:00am worship

11:30am Book Study on People of the Way: Renewing Episcopal Identity

Centerville Circle of Prayer

Emergency Veterinary Clinic- this clinic would be able to provide excellent critical care for the animals that come in, and to meet the demand for treatment.

Metro Richmond at Prayer

For the governments and governing bodies of Metropolitan Richmond especially the Board of Supervisors of Goochland County and all county employees

There will be a special collection taken on the last three Sundays of July.

The loose collection (that which is not part of your pledge or regular offering) will go to Ministry of Hope as the people of that ministry support Atiah and her young son Asif. Atiah's husband was a pastor in Pakistan who was martyred earlier this year. Our offerings will help support her new sewing business. Richard Walker, a member of St. Francis, is the President of the Board of Directors of Ministry of Hope. We are pleased to support him as Ministry of Hope supports Atiah and Asif. If you wish, you may mail in a contribution to St. Francis Episcopal Church, PO Box 303; Manakin-Sabot, VA 23103. Make the check out to "St. Francis Episcopal Church" and write "Ministry of Hope" in the memo.

More Recommended Summer Reading

Missional Communities: The Rise of the Post-Congregational Church by Reggie McNeil

Fire of Delayed Answers by Bob Sorge

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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