

Subject: Get Ready!

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

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"There's a cure—but it's light-years away."

July 25, 2013

Get Ready!

Give us today our daily bread.
Luke 11:3

Bread

In the life of Jesus bread is a very rich symbol. For example, He was born in Bethlehem which means "house of bread." He calls Himself the Bread of Life (John 6:35). He identifies ministry, especially healing, as bread (Mark 7:27).

Overall, bread is a metaphor pointing to the ministry Jesus extends to us and then through us to the rest of the world. Bread basically signifies the gifts Jesus gives us to grow and extend to those around us. These gifts and ministries are available now. The mercy and power of God are not light years away (see above). It means you count in God's eyes right now, and so does the rest of the world.

The Bakery

This bread is started in heaven, put into our lives, completed in the fire of the Holy Spirit and released into the world. Where your gifting and your deepest motivation meet is where the life and mercy of the kingdom of God are extended to others. One way to picture this and prepare yourself for this kind of lifestyle is to pray "give us tomorrow's bread today," in place of "give us today our daily bread." The Greek allows that translation. That kind of praying will make you for the power of the kingdom coming to you and going through you. To switch metaphors, it is like a train coming right now. you get on board and go with the kingdom power wherever it takes you. That will be the calling on your life right now.

Coming Attractions

Sunday, July 28

10:00am worship. This Sunday we will pray for God's blessing for Craig and Nancy

MacNaughton releasing them into the next season of life and ministry. We will also

ask God's blessing and equipping for Wayne Connors as he takes up the leadership

of the music ministry at St. Francis.

Centerville Circle of Prayer

For the Sunset Grille that all of the employees would have rich personal growth both in work and the rest of their lives.

Metro Richmond at Prayer

For all the governments and governing bodies of Metropolitan Richmond especially all of the Boards of Supervisors and County Administrators.

Bright Beginnings

Eligible school children in Goochland's elementary schools are invited to participate by the Goochland YMCA. Each child receives a backpack with grade appropriate supplies and participates in a shopping trip with volunteers who help them select shoes, two outfits, socks, underwear, and a jacket or sweater.

Monetary donations help provide the funds for the shopping trips. A donation of \$150.00 supports the shopping for one child.

This year, the Goochland Y has received 180 applications which will require over 200 shopping volunteers and \$28,000 in financial contributions

There are three ways to contribute to the YMCA's Bright Beginnings program: fill backpacks, contribute money, help with shopping. Further information will be available this Sunday. The backpacks are due back to church on July 28, the shopping dates are August 1, 5, 6, 7, and 8. We have cards for 16 elementary backpacks, but can acquire more if necessary. Contact MJ Weatherford for more information: [804-221-2138](tel:804-221-2138).

There will be a special collection taken on this last remaining Sunday 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.

Here is a photo



Finally, many thanks to all who organized and worked at the special pot luck last Sunday! It was a wonderful welcome for both me and Carol, as well as a very nice thank you to Craig and Nancy MacNaughton for the work they have done at St. Francis over the past ten years

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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