

Subject: New From St. Francis

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

Date: 10/16/2013 5:50 PM

To: Larry <lckiddjr@gmail.com>

Is this email not displaying correctly?
[View it in your browser.](#)





October 16, 2013

We Are Guests In Our Communities

*Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you.
Luke 10:9*

Changes

Many people today hold the view that the church is to be the host to the community for worship on Sundays and for other events at other times of the week. Those events would include some kind of Christian education or other community service held in the church building to which people would be invited to participate. Most church groups do a good job at offering this kind of hospitality extending a warm invitation to people in the community. As many of us have come to realize fewer and fewer people in the community accept that invitation. I would like to suggest that one specific change in our thinking and approach may make a profound difference in the way we relate to the community and the way the community relates to us. It will seem like a radical suggestion.

Guests Instead of Hosts

Jesus sends out the seventy, as told in Luke chapter 10, telling them to be as guests in a community instead of hosts to the community. Our growth and evangelism strategy becomes going to meet people, relying on their hospitality, receiving what they have, and watching for the presence of God that is already among them. That really is a very different direction for most of us who are members of a church.

What About Our Building?

Our building is a sacred space set apart for the worship of God. They are also places where people in our community can grow more into who they were created to be. Our buildings are assets which contribute a great deal to the extension of the kingdom of God in our communities as centers of worship, teaching and discipleship. They become places where the other assets God has placed in our communities can find resources to continue to grow. That will work out differently in each community. The idea Jesus is putting before us is the local church and all of its members and resources are more like guests in the community than anything else. Like guests at your home that influence your life, we would influence the community to go more deeply into the kingdom of God.

Coming Attractions

Sunday October 20 10:00am worship; book study to group on *Missional Communities* by Reggie McNeil continues after the coffee hour

Thank you!!! to all who took part in the Blessing of the Animals of October 5th. Here are some photos:



Thank you!!! to all who took part in the wonderful Celebration of a New Ministry on October 13. It was a wonderful event. Look for photos in next week's newsletter:

Centerville Circle of Prayer:

For the Goochland county Chamber of Commerce, and Bonnie Creasy the Executive Director, that every business in Goochland County would prosper and many jobs would be created.

Metro Richmond at Prayer:

For public, nonprofit, and religious social service work and ministries in Metropolitan Richmond: for all who suffer from addiction, dependency, codependency of any sort, for twelve-step programs, recovery programs, therapists, and addiction counselors.

The Diocese of Virginia:

For the ministry of the Congregations and clergy of St. James', Warrenton; St. Andrew's, Mt. Jackson; and Emmanuel, Woodstock

Grace and Peace,

John Maher.

[follow on Twitter](#) | [friend on Facebook](#) | [forward to a friend](#)

*St. Francis Episcopal Church
PO Box 303
Manakin Sabot, VA 23103*

804-784-6116

*vicar@stfrancisva.org
www.strancisva.org*

[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)

This email was sent to lckiddjr@gmail.com

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
St Francis Episcopal Church · 1484 Hockett Rd · Manakin-Sabot, VA 23010 · USA

MailChimp