

**Subject:** New From St. Francis  
**From:** St. Francis Episcopal Church <vicar@stfrancisva.org>  
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November 6, 2013

## **Each Local Church Is A Gift To Its Community**

*But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.*

*Jeremiah 29:10*

### ***What About Those Businesses?***

One of the things I have been doing since taking up work and ministry through St. Francis is to call on the business owners in our immediate community. Usually I am well received. Some have become friends. Others are going further by showing interest in the gospel and becoming part of St. Francis. Others do not receive me well or cannot spend the time to say more than "hello." Every week we pray for a different business through this newsletter and at our Sunday morning service. Most of the time we pray specifically for the requests of the business owner. It is a great thing to do. We call this the Centerville Circle of Prayer because these businesses are located in a crossroads very close to our church building called Centerville.

### ***Why Do This?***

There are several reasons:

1. Part of following Jesus is to seek the welfare of the community in which we live and worship. As our community prospers under the blessing of God so do we. I admire those business owners who have asked us to pray for the presence of God to spread throughout this community. Some have asked that all of their employees would have good lives and strong families. All of this is an important part of the welfare of our community.
2. Part of following Jesus is to see where God is opening doors for us in the community. To seek the blessing and welfare of the community is to be in the position to see where God is already at work. Those places and relationships would be the open doors for us to "work, pray and give for the spread of His kingdom" as the Book of Common Prayer puts it.
3. We also see more and more what the strengths, gifts and assets are in the community so we can join in with our neighbors to strengthen everything about our neighborhood and surrounding community.

As you travel around the community you might try praying for the businesses you pass by everyday. As you drive to worship you might pray for the businesses nearby and the people who live nearby. Who knows, God might show you something about them you had never seen before. Something could come of that.

### **Coming Attractions**

*Sunday, November 10, 2013* worship at 10:00am followed by pot luck

*Friday, November 8, 2013* Kindred Spirits at 7:30pm

*Wednesday, November 27, 2013* Caritas at Christ Church, Short Pump  
5:30pm

***Centerville Circle of Prayer***

For Gunn's Pharmacy and Earl Gunn, pharmacist, to keep up with technological advances so as to serve its clientele in the best possible way.

***Metropolitan Richmond***

For persons in financial need in Metropolitan Richmond: For the homeless and the hungry, for the provision of safe, affordable housing and low cost nutritious food, for the personal safety, dignity, and well being of those who are unable to work.

***Diocese of Virginia***

For the congregations and clergy of Little Fork, Rixeyville; St. Luke's, Remington; Fork Church, Doswell; St. Martin's, Doswell; Incarnation, Mineral; St. James', Louisa; and Christ Church, Middlesex.

Grace and Peace,  
John Maher.

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