

Subject: New From St. Francis Episcopal Church
From: St. Francis Episcopal Church <vicar@stfrancisva.org>
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To: Larry <lckiddjr@gmail.com>

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December 24, 2013

God With Us

*The virgin shall be with child and will give birth to a son,
and they will call him Immanuel-- which means "God
with us."
Matthew 1:25*

Prepositions

The bible tells us that God is for us and will bring things to us. Both "for" and "to" are important but not primary actions of God. The most important aspect of God's relationship with us is described in His Name, Immanuel, "God with us." No matter what we experience, good or bad, He is with us. He will never leave us. He is with us at this moment and always will be with us. The way we follow Jesus in our lives is formed by the knowledge and experience of having God with us no matter what. Kathy Escobar expresses it very well in her book Down We Go:

I believe wholeheartedly that Christ followers could change the world, their cities and communities if we humbly and actively participate in making the invisible, visible- if we were part of calling out the dignity, beauty, and worth of every human being regardless of race, age, gender, socioeconomics, religion, brokenness, weird-life-circumstances and social status.

How do you do this? By asking Jesus to equip you to be with others the way He is with you.

Merry Christmas

I pray you have a very rich and wonderful Christmas and a very joyful, fruitful new year!!!!

Coming Attractions

Tonight Christmas Eve service at 5:00pm

Sunday, December 29, 2013 worship at 10:00am. Doug Burgoyne will be presiding.

Music Ministry News: Wayne Conners has done wonderful work leading the music ministry since August 1st. His day job is significantly changing leaving him with much less free time. Wayne is stepping down as the leader and remaining as a member of the music ministry starting January 1, 2014. The ministry will change by having two distinct bands instead of one. John Blackhurst will lead one band and Kathy Spacek will lead the other. All of

our musicians will be in one or the other of the bands and new musicians will also join in. The new music ministry begins on January 5, 2014.

Centerville Circle of Prayer:

For Yardworks that all employees would be healthy and strong, and the community would be well served.

Metropolitan Richmond:

For an end to child abuse; for healthy relationships between children and their caregivers; for families going through divorce; and all in the midst of life transitions.

Diocese of Virginia:

For the baptized in their daily life and work, in particular, for all the Regions of the Diocese; their presidents and deans; the members that serve on regional councils

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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