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



January 22, 2014

## **360 Listening**

*All things should be done decently and in order*  
*I Corinthians 14:40*

### ***All Of It***

I have heard the verse above quoted from time to time over the years.

Usually it was used to show you could do whatever you wanted in church without regard to the rest of the community. It has also been used often by leaders to bring "unruly members" back into line. I think, however, there is another approach to this idea of all things being done decently and in order.

It has a lot more to do with the nature of the community God has created than with the organizational model we might be using at the time.

### ***Listening To All Of It***

Decency and order has less to do with restriction and more to do with release. Decency has to do with the flow of life in its fullness. It is about discipline that causes growth. It is about working together in a way that new things come about. Order has to do with the natural beauty every single person, action, and idea has. When all things are done together each with its inherent beauty and rich flow of life there will be a presence of the grace, mercy, life and power of God. That presence is our source of growth. We encounter it by listening closely. When we listen to the community around us where we live or work, to the fellowship we are part of, to the God we worship, and the bible we read we will be receiving more than we can hold.

We will also have a greater idea of where God is leading us. Fresh Expressions (see [www.freshexpressionsus.org](http://www.freshexpressionsus.org)) calls this 360 listening. It is

where new ministries, projects, missions and groups come from.

What do you hear from your neighborhood, fellowship, family, God, the bible, . . . ?

## Coming Attractions

***Sunday, January 26, 2014*** worship at 10:00am

***Sunday, February 2, 2014*** worship at 10:00am (Doug Burgoine presiding)

***Sunday, February 9, 2014*** worship at 10:00am followed by Annual Parish Meeting, followed by pot luck

### ***Centerville Circle of Prayer***

For Pakmail and David Fitzsimmons, owner. That many people would be served in our area through this business.

### ***Metropolitan Richmond***

To overcome ignorance, indifference, resentment, and bitterness with regard to race in both private and public life.

### ***Diocese of Virginia***

Congregations and clergy of Holy Cross, Batesville and Trinity, Charlottesville.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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