

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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S Francis



March 26, 2014

Here's Mud In Your Eye!

*Go wash in the Pool of Siloam.
John 9:7*

Pastoral Ministry

Many people have an image of pastoral ministry which Jesus simply does not fulfill. We think that being nice to people and not "rocking the church

boat" is something everyone, but especially ordained leaders, should be doing. I am all for being nice and not rocking the church boat, except when it keeps people from growing in discipleship and following Jesus every day. In John Chapter 9 we see Jesus drawing the man born blind deeper and deeper into the faith. His first pastoral act with this man was to spit on the ground, make some mud, rub it over the man's eyes and tell him to go wash in the Pool of Siloam. A church looking for a new pastor would forget about that candidate when this incident came up on the resume. The point for Jesus, as usual, was to bring that person completely into a life of discipleship.

How Far Will Yo Go?

If Jesus came along, spread mud over your eyes and told you to go wash in the Pool of Siloam would you return to church the next week? Or, would your worship, like that of the healed blind man, be even deeper? In other words, would you remain a consumer of your own religious preferences or would you die a little more to self and follow Jesus more closely than you ever have before? Sounds like a good question for Lent. Let me end this short post with a quote from Eugene Petersen about pastoral ministry that I came across in JR Woodward's excellent book *Creating a Missional Culture*, "My job is not to solve people's problems or make them happy, but to help them see the grace of God operating in their lives."

Coming Attractions

Sunday, March 30, 2014 worship at 10:00am (spoiler alert- we are having a cake after the liturgy to mark my being the vicar for one year!)

Sunday, April 6, 2014 worship at 10:00am

Holy Week and Easter:

Palm Sunday, April 13, 2014, worship at 10:00am

Maundy Thursday, April 17, 2014 worship at 6:00pm

Good Friday, April 18, 2014, worship at 6:00pm

Easter Sunday, April 20, worship at 10:00am

Wednesday, April 2, 2014 Caritas at Christ Church, Short Pump at 5:00pm

Centerville Circle of Prayer

For JJ's Seafood and Jason Cuthrell, owner, that many families and friends would have enjoyable meal times together with this seafood.

Diocese of Virginia

Congregations and clergy of Our Savior, Charlottesville; St. George's, Fredericksburg; and Christ Church, Spotsylvania.

Metropolitan Richmond

For the Spirit of Resurrection in Metropolitan Richmond: For a spirit of love, cooperation, peace, community, and commitment to all people in God's Name.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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