

**Subject:** New From St. Francis Episcopal Church  
**From:** "St. Francis Episcopal Church" <[vicar@stfrancisva.org](mailto:vicar@stfrancisva.org)>  
**Sent:** 4/2/2014 10:01:54 AM  
**To:** "Larry" <[lckiddjr@gmail.com](mailto:lckiddjr@gmail.com)>

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

# S<sup>+</sup> Francis



April 2, 2014

## Instruments of Peace

*Unbind him and let him go.  
John 11:44*

### ***Your Parish Church is an Instrument of the Kingdom of God***

The story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead is filled with great power and significance. There are some very prominent New Testament players as well: Mary, Martha, Jesus (of course) the Twelve, and the main beneficiary Lazarus. There are some unnamed people right there also. They see the miracle of Lazarus being raised from the dead, hear everything Jesus says, and actually follow some of the instructions Jesus gives immediately after Lazarus comes out of the grave. At Jesus instruction they take the grave clothes off of Lazarus. That is an essential next step for Lazarus. This group of unnamed people represent a local parish church.

They follow the commands of Jesus so that each of the members can move fully into the new life Jesus has for them. In that way, among others, every church is an instrument of the Kingdom of God. They participated in the mission of God to extend the Kingdom mercy and love throughout the entire world.

### ***Two Things Stand Out***

For this to happen two things seem to stand out for this group that will also stand out for us. First of all, they did what Jesus said to do. Knowing His voice, listening for it, following after Him, growing in our character to be like Him and doing what He is able to do are all the basic practices of the Christian life. For any fellowship of any size to be an instrument of the Kingdom of God it is essential to be able to follow Jesus like this. Secondly, as Lazarus sister, Martha, pointed out, Lazarus had been in the grave for four days and would stink. The people who took off the grave clothes of Lazarus would have been the closest to that smell. Our communities are not exempt from messiness and very unpleasant difficulties. Yet, to follow Jesus and be an instrument of the Kingdom of God we do what the friends of Lazarus did, we unbind each other and release each other into the life God has for us. Such a fellowship would prove to have great influence in the surrounding community.

## **Coming Attractions**

***Sunday, April 5, 2014*** worship at 10:00am

***Wednesday, April 2, 2014*** Caritas at Christ Church, Short Pump  
5:30pm

***Sunday, April 13, 2014*** Palm Sunday worship at 10:00am, pot luck to follow

### ***Holy Week and Easter***

Sunday April 13, 2014 Palm Sunday worship at 10:00am  
Thursday, April 17, 2014 Maundy Thursday worship at 6:00pm  
Friday, April 18, 2014 Good Friday worship at 6:00pm  
Sunday, April 20, 2014 Easter worship at 10:00am

***Thank you!!!!*** to everyone who offered prayers and blessings marking

the one year anniversary of my appointment as Vicar of St. Francis.

### **Hunger Awareness Week in Goochland April 26 – May 3, 2014**

Hunger does not take a vacation, yet food pantries' shelves are fairly empty at this time of the year and even more so in summer months. Seeing the need to feed over 1800 food-insecure Goochland residents, local food pantries are working together to launch a community-wide food drive. "Hunger Hurts. Goochland Gathers" runs Saturday, April 26 through Saturday, May 3, 2014. Nearly 75% of Goochland families in need, including nearly 500 children, often skip meals or eat less because of a lack of food. The goal is to collect 40,000 pounds of food that will help feed Goochland's hungry.

Please bring items to donate with you to worship on Sunday, May 4th. Below is a list of most needed items:

Canned Items	Dry Goods & Cooking Staples	Canned meat: pork,
chicken, beef, tuna	Spaghetti & Pasta	Beans
Vegetables		
Peanut Butter	Rice	Fruits and fruit cocktail
	Flour Soup	Cornbread mix
	Cereal	Biscuit mix

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

For the Aspire Dance Academy, Lauren Gibson, owner/director, that many students would excel in dance and come to learn to dance before The Lord.

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

For the congregations and clergy of St. Paul's, West Point; St. Paul's, Haymarket; Grace, The Plains; Immanuel, King & Queen; and St. John's, West Point.

#### ***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

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

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

*804-784-6116*

[info@stfrancisva.org](mailto:info@stfrancisva.org)  
[www.stfrancisva.org](http://www.stfrancisva.org)

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

---

This email was sent to [ickiddjr@gmail.com](mailto:ickiddjr@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

