

Subject: New From St. Francis Episcopal Church
From: "St. Francis Episcopal Church" <vicar@stfrancisva.org>
Sent: 6/25/2014 12:53:21 PM
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St Francis



June 25, 2014

Receivables

*Whoever receives you in my name receives me, and
whoever receives me receives him who sent me.
Matthew 10:40*

The Goal

Our goal is to spread the kingdom of God wherever we go (see the Book of Common Prayer, page 856). The best way of accomplishing that task is through a group of people committed to living the way Jesus lived. That is

different from a group who knows what Jesus did, or a group who knows what Jesus said. A group living as Jesus lived would be committed to spreading the Kingdom of God together and building each other up to spread the kingdom of God when the group is not together. Success has two components: 1. spreading the kingdom of God in new areas, and 2. equipping each other to fruitfully spread the kingdom of God in their own lives.

How Does This Work?

For a group to succeed at this it must have an outward focus. Each member of the group would be committed to engaging with and serving an outside group together. For example, a group might be employees of a certain type of business or profession, or athletes in a particular sport, or volunteers in one kind of service or another. A group within the church serves a group outside of the church. That is how the gospel is spread from "house to house" as it was in the Acts of the Apostles. When the outside group begins receiving the group from within the church it has begun to receive Jesus. As that is going on the group within the church supports each other in prayer and encouragement so that the whole group can live out life together in the way Jesus did.

Who is Jesus calling you to serve. Is there a team you can join serving the same group?

Coming Attractions

Sunday, June 29, 2014 worship at 10:00am

Experimental Wednesdays

1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 6:00pm, at St. Francis Episcopal Church
June 4-September 3

The Seven Signs in the Gospel of John

Read each story once/day for a week before the Wednesday it is scheduled

Read with these questions in mind:

What does this story say to you about people?

What does this story say to you about Jesus?

What does this story have to say about you

Who needs to hear this story?

July 2	The Invalid of Bethesda	John 5:1-8
July 16	The Feeding of the 5,000	John 6:5-14
August 6	Jesus Walks on the Water	John 6:16-35
August 20	Jesus Heals a Man Morn Blind	John 9:1-41
September 3	The Resurrection of Lazarus	John 11:17-46

Who needs to hear about this gathering? Bring them along!

Advance Notice for the New Member Class

On October 12, 2014 Bishop Gullick will be with us to preside, preach, and confirm and receive our new members. Those of you who are new to St. Francis are invited to pray about becoming a formal member at that time. It means taking my very engaging new member class. There are four topics which you study at home:

1. What is the Church?
2. What is the Episcopal Church?
3. What is St. Francis Episcopal Church?
4. What does Jesus want me to do about His Church?

Late in September all who have taken this course will come together for one very rich and encouraging session. Let me know if you are interested. I will be distributing the material for the four sessions to interested people in August. BTW-if you have been a long time member you are still invited to take part in this!! Let me know.

Centerville Circle of Prayer

For Yu's Restaurant that business would increase and family and friends would come closer together as they go to the restaurant for shared meals.

Diocese of Virginia

For the congregations and clergy of Christ Church, Middlesex, St. Mark's, Richmond, St. Peter's, Arlington, Emmanuel, Richmond

Metropolitan Richmond

For the criminal justice system in Metropolitan Richmond: For the volunteers who minister in ails and prisons.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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