

**Subject:** New From St. Francis Episcopal Church  
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# St Francis



July 2, 2014

## Life Together

*... in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit  
Matthew 28:19*

### ***In the Name***

How do you think of God? Do you think that one God sends one person (maybe you) to do something. That is very intimidating, even if you are ordained! It is also not an accurate picture of God. God is a community, better known as the Trinity. It is that Community which empowers and sends us into the world. As Mike and Sally Breen point out in their book, Family On Mission, "At Jesus' baptism, the Trinity is revealed, and his identity is confirmed: he is sent from a family to represent a family. Specifically the family of the Trinity, the household of heaven.

### ***Following Jesus***

If Jesus is sent from a family to represent a family, and we follow Jesus, wouldn't it be the case that we too live out our Christian lives in a community, as a family on mission? If he is from the household of heaven, and we follow him, wouldn't we then also do what he did? That would be to do what God asks of us with others instead of alone. Those others would be the same ones who have been asked by God to do the same thing God has asked us to do. To follow Jesus is to gather together as households on the same mission.

### ***One More Thought***

Many people think their ordained leaders do the work of ministry the best when they work alone. Many churches will look for ordained leaders who will single-handedly increase attendance, the budget, and the programs offerings. It is important to keep this in mind: Jesus did not do it alone, and neither can anyone else, ordained or not. Everyone needs to be in a household of faith on a mission.

## Coming Attractions

***Sunday, July 6, 2014*** worship at 10:00am

***Wednesday, July 9, 2014*** vestry 6:00pm

***Sunday, July 13, 2014*** worship at 10:00am followed by pot luck.

***Wednesday, July 16, 2014*** worship at 6:00pm

### ***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***

Precious One Family Day Home, Simone Mealy, owner, that the business would grow, parents with children would be able to work, and the children would be blessed

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

For the Cathedral of the Transfiguration and all those participating in camps at Shrine Mont

### ***Metropolitan Richmond***

For the governments and governing bodies of Metropolitan Richmond: For the Mayor and City Council of Richmond, the City Manager, and all city employees.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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