

**Subject:** New From St. Francis Episcopal Church  
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# S<sup>+</sup> Francis



July 30, 2014

## Listen

*... let every person be quick to hear ...  
James 2:19*

***Closest to the Source***

It is very likely you know people who seem to be in need. It is very easy to immediately come up with some way to meet that need as quickly as possible. That kind of generosity and compassion are to be encouraged and commended. It can, however, sometimes not actually meet the need. The solution to the matter is most likely found at the source of the situation.

The competent person closest to the situation is the most likely to have the best next step which would be brought through the strengths, assets, or gifts God has already given to that person.

### ***A Listening Habit***

The way to uncover the best solution is to listen. To be of real help to your friend you will want to know things like this:

1. What do you enjoy doing (or are good at)?
2. If there was one thing you would want to change about this situation what would it be?
3. If others were committed to the same thing would you want to start getting together with them?

Listening to these answers lets you in on what your friend loves, dreams about, and would share with others. Encouraging those things would bring a stronger, more sustainable solution to any situation. Check out the gospel for this coming Sunday. Its Matthew 14:13-22, the story of the feeding of the five thousand. Take note of where Jesus got the loaves and fish. How did Jesus find out they were available? You will find that Jesus was listening. He calls and empowers us to do the same.

### **Coming Attractions**

***Sunday, August 3, 2014*** worship at 10:00am

***Wednesday, August 6, 2014*** worship at 6:00pm

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

### ***Financial News***

*Professional Expense Fund.* The vestry has set up a fund through which cost of seminars, books, other costs for ministry development would be paid. Financial gifts given at times of pastoral ministry, such as weddings and funerals, are placed in this fund. You may also give a gift directly to this fund at any time. There are two benefits of this fund: 1. Costs for the development of members or clergy for the work of ministry at St. Francis without taking from the operating budget, 2. the Discretionary Fund, which could under our canons be used for such development, would be solely used for the benefit of those in need in our surrounding community.

*PayPal is now available through our website, [www.stfrancisva.org](http://www.stfrancisva.org). You may send gifts to St. Francis through this link. Gifts may be designated to a particular purpose if desired, or sent freely to St. Francis to be used as the vestry directs. Please prayerfully consider a gift to St. Francis if you have*

been enjoying this newsletter and are not a member of St. Francis. If you are a member, you may consider PayPal as your normal method of giving if you wish. Thank you, and God bless you for your generosity.

### ***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 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 Gunn's Pharmacy, Earl Gunn owner, that many in our community would have better health and well being through the work of this pharmacy.

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

For the congregations and clergy of St. Gabriel's, Ashburn and Kingston

Parish, Matthews.

***Metropolitan Richmond***

For the workplaces and businesses of Metropolitan Richmond: For safe, respectful work environments, healthy work ethics and attitudes, and sufficient salary and benefits for all workers. For owners and managers: for servant leadership, civic responsibility and ethical decision-making.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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