

**Subject:** New From St. Francis Episcopal Church  
**From:** "St. Francis Episcopal Church" <[vicar@stfrancisva.org](mailto:vicar@stfrancisva.org)>  
**Sent:** 8/19/2014 9:50:45 PM  
**To:** "Larry" <[lckiddjr@gmail.com](mailto:lckiddjr@gmail.com)>

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The logo for St. Francis features a large white 'S' on the left, followed by a red cross with a sunburst pattern behind it, and the word 'Francis' in a white serif font to the right, all set against a dark purple background.

**S Francis**

A black rectangular poster with the text 'KEEP CALM AND STORM THE GATES OF HELL' in a bold, red, sans-serif font, centered on the page.

**KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
STORM THE  
GATES OF HELL**

August 20, 2014

**The Gates of Hell**

*. . . upon this rock I shall build my church,  
and the gates of hell  
will not prevail against it.  
Matthew 16:18*

***What Are The Gates of Hell?***

The gates of hell are any barriers at all to the influence and rule of the blessings of God anywhere at all. The blessings of God are the signs the Kingdom of God is present with us now: healing the sick, feeding the hungry, restoring relationships, provision for the needy, etc., etc. Anything that blocks the reception of those items are gates. Don Everetts and Doug Shaup co-authored a book entitled *I Once Was Lost* which describes five thresholds a person might go through before beginning to follow Jesus. I wonder if they are the gates of hell as we might experience them now.

They are: 1. trusting a christian, 2. becoming curious about the Christian Faith, 3. opening up to change, 4. seeking after God, 5. entering the kingdom. Like me, you probably know people who are moving through these gates, or thresholds, into a lifetime of following Jesus. We can do that with them.

***The Gates of Hell Will Not Prevail***

In other words, these five gates will not keep us away from the lives of our friends as they receive more and more of the great things God has for them.

Our job is to work, pray and give for the spread of this kingdom (see the Book of Common Prayer, page 856). The way you and I live, the way we spend our time and money, the way we forgive, volunteer, pray, and actively build up the dignity of every person we know will push open the gates so that our lives can be a great encouragement to those Jesus is drawing to himself. Who do you know that may be behind one of those gates? How is God asking you to live so that you follow Jesus through those gates?

## **Coming Attractions**

***Wednesday, August 20, 2014*** worship at 6:00pm

***Sunday, August 24, 2014*** worship at 10:00am

***Sunday, August 31, 2014*** worship at 10:00am Doug Burgoine presiding

***New Member Class***

On October 12, 2014 Bishop Ted Gulik will be with us at St. Francis to preside at worship, preach, confirm and receive our new members. A number of our fellowship have already committed to taking the new member class. Some are considering it. A great number of the members of St. Francis have encouraged me to send the new member material "What About The Church: Preparing for a Christian Life in the Fellowship of the Church" to everyone who is connected to St. Francis. I am planning to do that during the first week of September. My prayer is that everyone who receives it will find it helpful, encouraging, and another tool for you to use in following Jesus every day.

### ***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?

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!

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

For Paramount Builders that homes and business facilities served and built by this contractor would provide houses families and facilities for businesses so this community would grow and prosper

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

For the congregation and clergy of St. David's, Aylett that they would continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit

### ***Metropolitan Richmond***

for economic development in the depressed portions of the cit, foir establishment of businesses that will create new employment opportunities.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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