

Subject: Walking With Integrity
From: "St. Francis Episcopal Church" <vicar@stfrancisva.org>
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September 17, 2014

More Covenant

*See what kind of love the Father has given to us,
that we should be called children of God;
and so we are.
I John 3:1*

Covenant Essentials

In the last newsletter we took a look at the idea of "covenant." Mike Breen in his wonderful book *Covenant and Kingdom: The DNA of the Bible* unpacks the three main ingredients of the covenant God has made with us.

They are:

1. *The Fatherhood of God* which is beautifully described in the verse from I John above.
2. *Our Identity* which flows from God creating us and calling us by name as

our Father.

3. *Obedience* which is living in a way that is consistent with our identity.

Obedience

Many people resist the thought of obeying any one. Obeying God does not seem at all in line with a God who is supposed to be loving and forgiving. If obedience is keeping rules or face the consequences then who would want to be obedient? It is a very different story when obedience is living out your identity, being who you really are. Knowing you are a child of God, receiving the love of our Father, means that you have the capacity and power to live your life as a child of God. You have what it takes from God to live the life God created you to live. You have the grace of God to live according to the values God writes on your heart. You also have power from God to turn away from those things that keep you from who you were created to be. What is God asking you to do right now to be obedient in that way?

Coming Attractions

Sunday, September 21, 2014 10:00am worship. In place of the sermon there will be small group discussion around these questions concerning our core values:

1. Which of our core values do you see most prominently in the life of St. Francis? Why?
2. Which of these values resonates with you the most? Why?
3. How might you "practice obedience" by living out ways which are consistent with the value that resonates with you the most?

The core values are posted on our website for you to read.

www.stfrancisva.org

Wednesday September 24, 2014 Dance performance by Aspire Dance Academy, 7:30pm.

Saturday, September 27, 2014 work day at the church building. 9:00am

Sunday, September 28, 2014 worship 10:00am

Wednesday, October 1, 2014 Mid week worship 6:00pm

Centerville Circle of Prayer

Pakmail, David Fitzsimmons owner, that business would increase, and items shipped would arrive safely and intact to their destinations.

Diocese of Virginia

For the congregations and clergy of Emmanuel, Harrisonburg, Emmanuel, Greenwood, and McIlhany Parish, Albermarle.

Metropolitan Richmond

For schools and educational institutions of Metropolitan Richmond: For all

universities, colleges, seminaries, trade, technical, graduate, and professional schools; for students, faculty, and staff of these institutions.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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