

Subject: Stepping Out
From: "St. Francis Episcopal Church" <vicar@stfrancisva.org>
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S⁺ Francis



October 15, 2014

Stepping Out

*...your faith in God
has gone forth everywhere...*

I Thessalonians 1:8

A Great Sunday

Let me say right off the bat every Sunday at St. Francis is a great Sunday! This past Sunday we had Bishop Ted Gulik visiting with us. He preached a great sermon, presided at communion, confirmed and received some of our fellowship, met with the vestry, and blessed our garden from which we will provide fresh produce to local food banks. He also commissioned three outreach groups:

1. The Garden: a group of people working together to provide fresh produce to the food banks in our area
MJ Weatherford and John Clark conveners
2. Parke Service: a group of people working to serve those The Parke, Centerville who do not have a church home. Richard and Edy Waker, Larry and Susan Kidd conveners
3. The Lynmore Group: A group worshipping with residents of Lynmore Assisted Living, Bobbi and Peter Levinss, conveners.

When we commissioned these groups half of the people who showed up for worship were a part of these groups and stood for the commissioning! What a wonderful time it was!!!

That's How Our Faith Goes Forth

Each of these groups is a community of people with a specific mission focus. That is how our faith spreads everywhere. A local church organized as a network of groups like this will bear more fruit than the whole church pursuing one mission focus.

Wait, There's More!

In addition to these groups we have some ongoing outreach efforts including partnering with Christ Church, Short Pump in Caritas, participating in the Christmas Mother project, providing meals for the volunteer doctors and staff at the Goochland Free Clinic, participating in the Bright Beginnings program with the YMCA, and supporting the Art Therapy Program led by Carol Maher at the Goochland Women's Prison. I hope I did not leave any of our efforts out of the list (I'm pretty sure I did so, please forgive me for that). In one way or another we are joining with others and with the Spirit of God to take the mercies of God to new places. We are following His Spirit to those new places, just like the sheep pictured above.

Coming Attractions

Sunday, October 19, 2014 worship at 10:00am

Would you consider helping out with:

- Business After Hours on October 30 where we host the local businesses for an evening of connecting at St. Francis. Contact Libby Clark at lcp@libbyclarkphotography.com
- Meal for doctors and medical personnel at the Goochland Free Clinic. Contact Larry Kidd lkidd@comcas.net
- Caritas on November 26 where we provide an evening meal for the homeless staying at Christ Church. Contact Jenna Nelson at jnelson561@gmail.com
- Christmas Mother where we help provide Christmas gifts to those unable to afford gifts at this time. Contact Janice Nelson at jlrrn2610@comcast.net

Centerville Circle of Prayer

For Liza Janes Sweet Shoppe, Furniture and Boutique that this business would grow and many people

benefit community connections made in that location, let us pray to the Lord: Hear our prayer.

Metropolitan Richmond

For public, non-profit, and religious social service work and ministries in Metropolitan Richmond: For all who suffer from addiction, dependency or co-dependency of any sort, for twelve-step programs, recovery programs, therapists, and addiction counselors, let us pray to the Lord: Hear our prayer.

Diocese of Virginia

For the congregations and clergy of St. Paul's, Lucketts; St. Andrew's Mt. Jackson; St. Paul's, Ivy; Emmanuel, Woodstock, and St. Matthew's, Sterling, that each would continue to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord: Hear our prayer.

Church Plants

For All Souls, Atlee, Amilee Wilmer, vicar, and St. Gabriel's, Leesburg, Daniel Velea-Rivera, vicar, that each would have the power of the Holy Spirit to pursue the mission of God.

Some Photos from last Sunday



Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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