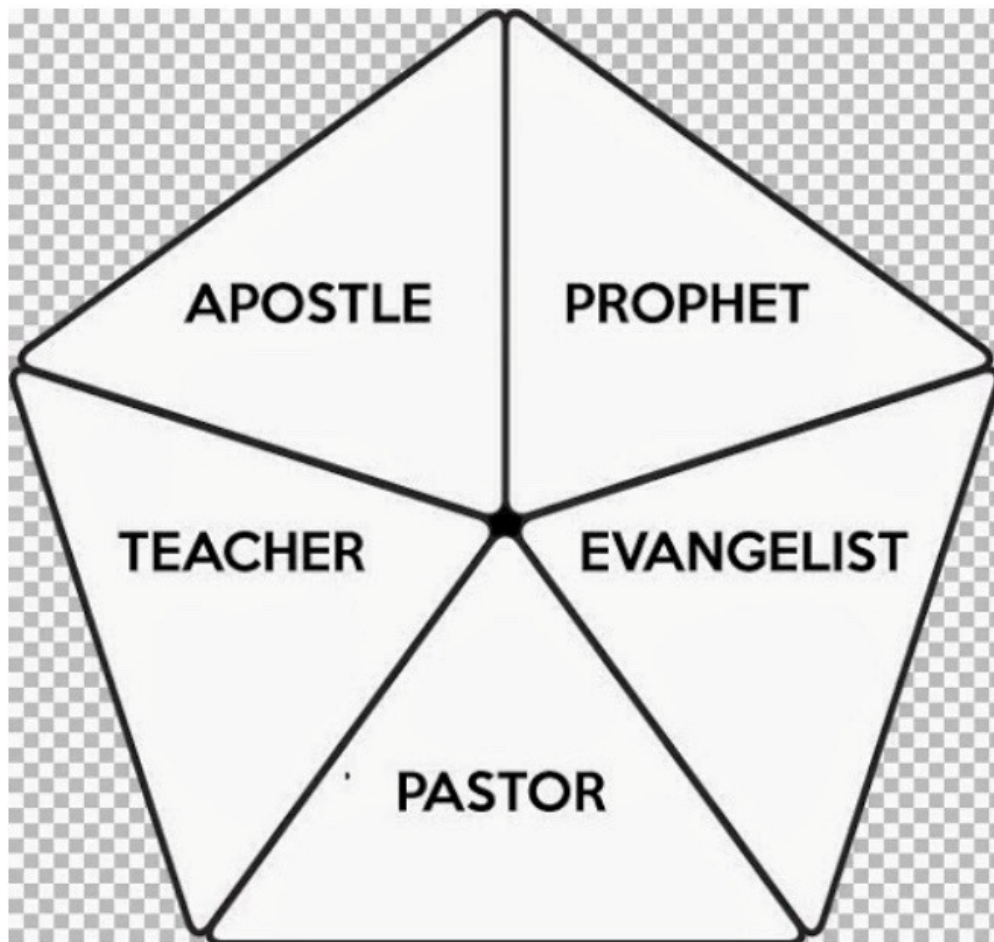


Subject: Encouraging Building Up
From: "St. Francis Episcopal Church" <vicar@stfrancisva.org>
Sent: 11/12/2014 6:29:36 AM
To: "Larry" <lckiddjr@gmail.com>

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S⁺ Francis



November 12, 2014

The Practice of Encouragement

Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing. I Thessalonians 5:11

Receiving

Last week and this coming week at St. Francis we are looking at ways to encourage each other. One way we have seen is to realize that the gifts of Christ, apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher, are given to everyone. Each one has one. Each of these gifts is a portion of the ministry Jesus carries out. He carries out the same ministry today through His people. When each member of a fellowship recognizes and operates in this base gift of Christ then each member receives two basic things:

1. A fuller picture of Jesus. If you only receive ministry from one person (the priest who is the pastoral leader, for example) you will not have a very full picture of Jesus because that person will have only one of the base gifts distributed by Jesus. When everyone is encouraged and trained to be operating in their base gifting then a fuller picture of Jesus is portrayed in the fellowship.
2. Equipping for ministry. When all five of the base gifts are encouraged and operating then the whole fellowship is equipped for the whole ministry in a variety of ways.

Encouraging and Building Up

This coming week we are going to meet in small groups in place of the sermon time. We will meet in groups according to our base gift: Apostles in one group, Prophets in one group, etc. We will share the answers to these questions:

1. When in your life did you feel most alive in the church?
That is when God was empowering your purpose in life.
2. What is the most life-giving aspect of this church for you?
That is where God is currently empowering your purpose in life.
3. Where do those two things overlap?
That is where God is empowering your part in the purpose of St. Francis.
4. What does that future look like?
That is your announcement of hope.

You will find that you answer these questions in one way or another that echoes the attributes of your base gift. As that goes on we will be encouraging and building one another up in the groups. At the very least you will know you are not alone in what has been motivating you all your life in almost every situation.

If you need to take a gifts assessment we recommend two possibilities:

1. From Mike Breen's work with 3dmovements
<http://mikebreen.wordpress.com/2011/05/30/free-online-fivefold-ministry-test/>
2. From JR Woodward's website
<http://jrwoodward.net/equippers/>
do the exercise he outlines in the post and/or use the assessment by clicking the
"Equipper's Assessment" link on the left side of the page.

Let me know if you have any questions vicar@stfrancisva.org

Coming Attractions

November 16, 2014 worship at 10:00am

November 23, 2014 worship at 10:00am

Caritas will be on November 26, 2014. We will bring dinner to Christ Church for this ministry to the homeless. Contact Jenna Nelson to participate jnelson561@gmail.com

Christmas Mother will help provide Christmas presents to families this Christmas. Contact Janice Nelson to participate cnelson2610@comcast.net

Centerville Circle of Prayer

For the Sunset Grill that the employees would be in good health, that the business would grow, and that many people would deepen their relationships as they eat together there.

Metropolitan Richmond

We pray for persons in financial need in Metropolitan Richmond: For healthy marriages; for constructive, safe, and caring households for the bringing up and nurturing of children and caring for the elderly.

Diocese of Virginia

For the congregations and clergy of Christ Church, Millwood; St. Luke's, Remington; St. Mark's, Alexandria; San Marcos, Alexandria; Little Fork, Rixeyville; Trinity, Upperville

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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