

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



November 26, 201

Giving Thanks

*... A wondering Aramean was my father ...
Deuteronomy 26:5*

Thanksgiving Traditions

Thanksgiving can be a lot of fun for many of us (like Mr. Potato Head in the Thanksgiving Day parade). It can be exhausting for some of us if everyone

is coming to your house and you are preparing the meal. It can be sad for some of us if you have a difficult family life, or if someone you love is no longer here, especially if this is the first holiday without them. You may find the history of Thanksgiving Day in the US to be based on questionable facts. It can be difficult for some of us to be thankful.

A Different Approach

The verse cited above is from one of the readings from Morning Prayer on Thanksgiving Day. Israel was to bring the first fruits of the harvest to the priest and offer them as a thank offering. There were to be a series of responses to God that they all said together. The first response was, "A wandering Aramean was my father." That seems like a strange thanksgiving declaration. But it points to something within each one of us. We have a history, a thread of identity, even gifting, that none of our hard times can eradicate. The Irish have a tradition of naming sons with the first names of their father and grandfather. John O'Donohue explains it this way, "If a person is called Sean O'Malley and his father was Tom and his grandfather was Paraich, Sean O'Malley could be known as Sean Tom Paraich (Eternal Echoes p. 28). There is a thread of identity through the generations making you who you are today. There is a thread of gifting throughout your life that makes you what you are today. There is nothing strong enough to take that away from you. This Thanksgiving are you able to see what that is? Can you thank God for it no matter what else has happened in your life?"

Coming Attractions

November 26, 2014 Caritas at Christ Church at 5:00pm

November 30, 2014 worship at 10:00am

Centerville Circle of Prayer

For Tuckahoe Physical Therapy that the clients would experience healing and the business would grow.

Diocese of Virginia

For all baptized persons in their daily life and work.

Metropolitan Richmond

For persons in financial need in Metropolitan Richmond: For the inclusion of all, regardless of race, age, or jurisdiction of residence in the economic health of Metropolitan Richmond; for effective, affordable, regional public transportation.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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