

**Subject:** Quality Workmanship  
**From:** "St. Francis Episcopal Church" <[vicar@stfrancisva.org](mailto:vicar@stfrancisva.org)>  
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**To:** "Larry" <[lckiddjr@gmail.com](mailto:lckiddjr@gmail.com)>

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# St Francis



January 14, 2015

## God's Poem

*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ  
Jesus for good works, which God prepared  
beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

*Ephesians 2:10*

### ***God's Poem***

This verse struck me again in Morning Prayer this morning. It is familiar to many of us. Each time I read I am challenged to look at living a Christian life through a different set of lenses than the ones I tend to unconsciously (comfortably?) use the most. It is easy to read this verse and think I have a specific purpose and path for my life that God has already written for me. If I would find out what that is and faithfully do it then I would live a better life. After all, I am His workmanship with a specific set of works to do and a role to play, like a piece of furniture in a house. A table should not be used as a chair, right? This is where I wonder if I need to change my lenses because:

1. My life is not static, like a piece of furniture in a house, but is growing and changing all the time. Different people relate to me in different ways. Different situations bring out different gifts from me. All of my relationships are fluid. I respond to someone, that person responds to me, I respond again, and so forth. Each time would be different. Each person would be different.
2. The word translated "workmanship" may also be translated "poem." Our lives are more like poems written by God. In different times and places, not to mention stages of our lives, we find different responses coming our way, or going out from us. Much like a poem will raise different responses in different people at different times.

### ***Who We Are***

We are living, growing, developing, changing people because God created us that way. We always have more potential, more possibilities, more experiences and more relationships opening up to us. As we grow in this way we receive more of God than we have ever known and are becoming more like Jesus than we ever have. To keep up with the literary analogy, we are living letters as the Apostle Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 3:3, "And you show that you are a letter from Christ . . .".

***Poetry in Motion***

Try this: Think of a person you know who is different from you in some way, ethnically, economically, spiritually, creatively, etc. Ask God to show you what He is "writing" through that person's life. What kind of "poem" is that person? What do you see of God through that person? Thank God for that person. Then ask God to direct you in the next steps in a relationship with that person.

**Coming Attractions**

***Wednesday, January 14, 2015*** vestry meeting at 6:00pm

***Sunday, January 18, 2015*** worship at 10:00am

***Advanced Notice- February 18, 2015 Ash Wednesday*** worship at 6:15pm

***Food Collection*** for the Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services Food Pantry every Sunday. Please bring non-perishable food to donate. Place your donation in the box provided in the vestibule.

***Centerville Circle of Prayer***

For Paramount Builders Goochland Branch Office that this business would serve many customers well providing safe construction for families and businesses.

***Diocese of Virginia***

Congregations and clergy of Resurrection, Alexandria; Vauter's, Loretto; St. Asaph's, Bowling Green; St. Anne's, Reston

## ***Metropolitan Richmond***

To proclaim in word and deed the Beloved Community; to experience the victory of Jesus' resurrection over all personal and institutional results of racism and racial inequality in this metropolitan city.

**Grace and Peace,**

**John Maher**

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*St. Francis Episcopal Church  
PO Box 303  
Manakin Sabot, VA 23103*

*804-784-6116*

[vicar@stfrancisva.org](mailto:vicar@stfrancisva.org)  
[www.strancisva.org](http://www.strancisva.org)



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St Francis Episcopal Church · 1484 Hockett Rd · Manakin-Sabot, VA 23010 · USA

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