

Subject: Belonging
From: "St. Francis Episcopal Church" <vicar@stfrancisva.org>
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To: "Larry" <lckiddjr@gmail.com>

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St Francis



April 15, 2015

Belonging

*The glory that you have given me
I have given to them,
that they may be one
even as we are one . . .
John 17:22*

Glory

In the section of the gospel of John selected to be read at Evening Prayer this evening we come across the above passage from the great priestly prayer of Jesus in John 17. Jesus talks about a gift and the results of receiving that gift. The gift He gives us is His glory. It is the glory that is present with the Trinity. It is the glory shared between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit that is now shared with us. It reminds me of something else Jesus said shortly before praying this prayer, "By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples (John 15:8)." The gift of the glory of God results in a new ability to bear fruit, and a new ability to bear fruit together in unity.

How Does This Work?

Our ability to bear fruit, or to extend the kingdom of God, is given to us by God. The closer we are to Him the more we will bear fruit. As Jesus points out, bearing fruit glorifies God. It is one of the main ways we see the glory of God. Staying close to Jesus, doing what He does, and becoming like Him is something we do with others. It is not possible to bear fruit alone.

Sharing our faith, reaching out to encourage and be with others, working for a better community, and much more is done in a way that glorifies God when we do this with others.

Belonging

This raises a challenge for us. It can be very tempting to be involved in everything. The result is that we then belong to nothing. A sense of belonging to a certain group which is working on a certain focus is essential. That is the group with the deepest unity and the best fruit. It goes even deeper when you have the confidence that Jesus gave you that focus and gathered you together with others around that focus. It is a life lived belonging to what Jesus gives you that runs the deepest and gives glory to God.

Coming Attractions

Sunday, April 19, 2015 worship at 10:00am

Wednesday, April 22, 2015 Aspire Dance Academy recital at 7:30pm at St. Francis.

Sunday, April 26, 2015 worship at 10:00am.

Our Missional Communities

The Parke meets on Sunday, April 19, 2015 for pot luck at the home of Richard and Hedy Walker 1661 Centerville Parke Lane, Manakin Sabot 23103. Contact Richard Walker at richardandhedy@yahoo.com

The Garden group, as well as anyone who would like to help, will meet after church [next Sunday \(April 19\)](#) to weed The Garden and the newly landscaped border at the church entrance. Dress appropriately and bring weeding tools if you have them.

Symphony meets on April 26, 2015 at 8:45am at Symphony Manor of

Richmond 12411 Gayton Rd; Richmond 23238. Contact Bobbie Leviness at [400-7895](tel:400-7895)

Please bring non-perishable food items to be contributed to the Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services Food Bank. You may leave your contributions in the box in the vestibule.

Centerville Circle of Prayer

Creative Concepts Hairstyling Studio, Tina Gregory-Rudd, owner, that business wouldinr.

Diocese of Virginia

Congregations and clergy of St. George's, Fredericksburg, St. Paul's, Richmond; St. Thomas', Richmond; Christ Church, Middlesex; St. John's, West Point.

Metropolitan Richmond

For the Spirit of the Resurrection Metropolitan Richmond: For a spirit of justice, righteousness, equality, and mutual benefit.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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