

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

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St Francis



April 29, 2015

Personal Revelation From God

*Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, *
and your faithfulness to the
clouds.
Your righteousness is like the strong mountains,*

*your justice like the
great deep; *
you save both man and beast,
O LORD.
Psalm 36:5+6*

Mystical

Many of the heroes of the faith, like Catherine of Sienna who we remember today, had visions, dreams and other mystical experiences. There were also many others who had some kind of delusion or "false vision." The delusions would not be helpful, although the person having these experiences would still be deeply loved by God. The revelations that do come from God would always prove to be very helpful. The questions are:

1. How do you know it is really from God?
2. What do you do about it?

Practical

Catherine of Sienna received many visions and had other mystical experiences. She was able to bring tremendous good to the church and the world after receiving those experiences because of two powerful dynamics she incorporated into her life. One was her commitment to fellowship. She became a Dominican nun where she lived in community with other women. These women shared a very strong connection to Jesus and to each other. In the shared life of this community she would have been able to interpret the content of the mystical experiences she received in a very practical and biblical way. The second dynamic was service in the world. As many Dominican nuns had done she became a nurse. She gave a tremendous amount of energy to the sick and the poor. She also poured herself into working for the unity of the church at a time when there were two popes, one in Rome and one in Avignon. Service to the world in the Name of Jesus as Jesus directs it to be given will provide deeper understanding of the Word of God in every way it is received- through the Bible or mystical experiences

How This Works For Us

There is a tried and true approach to interpreting dreams, visions, and mystical experiences. Revelation is shared with a trusted, safe group of other Christians where it is interpreted together. That interpretation then makes clear the application of the word. If you receive a dream, for example, you would share it with a few trusted Christian friends. Together you would ask God for an interpretation. As that becomes clear you would then ask God together for an application, for the next steps of what to do. This keeps our relationship with God anchored through commitment to fellowship, service to the world, and knowledge of the Bible. That is how you gain confidence you are hearing from God and you know what to do about it.

Do you have friends with whom you could share this kind of revelation? If not, ask God for them and see how you continue to grow in your spiritual life.

Coming Attractions

Sunday, May 3, 2015

- Worship at 10:00am
- Parke MC prayer walk at 3:00pm

Sunday, May 10, 2015 worship at 10:00am (no pot luck)

Wednesday, May 13, 2015 vestry meeting at 4:00pm

Thursday, May 14, 2015 Region XII Ascension Day Service at 7:00pm at Roslyn Conference Center

Sunday, May 17, 2015

- Worship at 10:00am followed by pot luck
- Garden meeting following pot luck
- Parke MC pot luck at 5:00pm

Our Missional Communities (MC)

The Parke meets on Sunday, May 3, 2015 to prayer walk The Parke, Centerville. We will meet at 3:00pm at the home of Richard and Hedy Walker 1661 Centerville Parke Lane, Manakin Sabot 23103. Contact Richard Walker at richardandhedy@yahoo.com

The Garden will meet again on May 17 after the covered dish lunch.

Symphony- Bobbie and Pete LeViness will both be away on Sunday, May 24 (Memorial Day weekend), which is normally the Sunday they would offer a worship service at Symphony Hall. If anyone is interested in leading a worship service that Sunday at Symphony Hall (from about 9:00 to about 9:45am) on May 24, please contact Bobbie as soon as you can at: bobbiedrew@yahoo.com

Region XII Annual Ascension Day Celebration

Thursday, May 14, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

The Bishop's Chapel at Roslyn
8727 River Road Richmond, VA 23229

Celebrant will be The Rev. Ben Campbell from Richmond Hill

Assisting will be The Rev. John Maher from St. Francis' and

The Rev. Brent Melton from All Saints'

Music by the All Saints' Boys Choir

Refreshments served after the service

This is our opportunity to worship with the other churches in Region XII

All Saints'

Christ Church

Grace Church

St. Bartholomew's

St. Francis'

All are welcome to attend

St. John's

St. Martin's

St. Mary's

St. Matthew's

St. Stephen's

Centerville Circle of Prayer

For the Hub Tavern and Grille, that business would increase and many families and groups of friends would grow closer while sharing meals there.

Diocese of Virginia

For the congregations and clergy of St. David's, Ashburn; Christ Church, Charlottesville; Grace Church, Keswick; St. John the Baptist, Ivy.

Metropolitan Richmond

For the Churches and Religious Institutions of Metropolitan Richmond: That the true light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ may awaken and heal every heart in every corner of Richmond, Chesterfield, Hanover, Goochland, Henrico, Powhatan, and all surrounding counties and towns.

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
www.strancisva.org



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