

Subject: Faith For The Future
From: "St. Francis Episcopal Church" <vicar@stfrancisva.org>
Sent: 5/6/2015 9:10:58 AM
To: "Larry" <lckiddjr@gmail.com>

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The logo for St. Francis features a large white 'S' on the left. A red cross is positioned behind the 'S', with a sunburst pattern of small red dots radiating from its center. To the right of the 'S' and cross, the word 'Francis' is written in a large, white, serif font. The entire logo is set against a dark blue background.

St Francis



May 6, 2015

Faith For The Future

*He said to them, "Where is your faith?"
Luke 8:25*

Punishment or Resistance?

It can be easy to feel as if you have done something awful if you make some spiritual progress and then things go wrong. You may start to think that you made an very bad mistake in the eyes of God and are being punished.

There is, however, a different way looking at difficulties and trials. When you make spiritual progress you are in a position to see what the future may hold. You are at a high point and from there can see the next high point. Difficulties and trials are found in the valley between the two high points. Hard times are not punishment from God for doing something imperfectly in the past. They are resistance to the fulfillment of the

promise of the future that is yet to come. That is what Jesus meant by His question, "Where is your faith?" we see in the reading from Morning Prayer today. The apostles were on thier way with Jesus to set a man free. the storm was not punishment for some past mistake they had made, of which there were plenty. The storm was resistance to the future promise of God that was about to be realized in the life of the man beset by demons in the graveyard in the "country of the Gerasenes."

Overcoming Resistance

When you make some spiritual progress of any kind you will find yourself encouraged and motivated to keep going. Difficulties are not the signal to stop growing spiritually. They are the sign that your next stage of growth is nearer. The actual act of overcoming resistance prepares you for the promises you have yet see fulfilled in your life, just like the wings of a butterfly develop by forcing its way out of a cocoon. How do you overcome resistance? Build your faith. It is the substance of things you have yet to see. How do you build your faith? Listen for the promptings of God in prayer, Bible reading, and fellowship, and then go and do what God asks you to do. That is the basic Christian life. That kind of life continually overcomes resistance.

Coming Attractions

Sunday, May 10, 2015 worship at 10:00am. Mothers' Day- no pot luck this morning

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

Sunday, May 17, 2015 worship at 10:00am followed by pot luck

Our Missional Communities

The Parke meets on May 17 at 5:00pm for pot luck at the home of Richard and Hedy Walker 1661 Centerville Parke Lane, Manakin Sabot. Contact Richard Walker at richardandhedy@yahoo.com

The Garden will meet 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 worship at Symphony Hall, If anyone is interested in leading a worship service that Sunday at Symphony Hall (from about 9:00am-9:45am) on May 24 please contace Bobbie as soon as you can at: bobbiedrew@yahoo.com

Centerville Circle of Prayer

For the Sunset Grill, that business would increase, employees would lead healthy lives, and many families and groups of friends would grow closer together as they gather in that restaraunt.

The Diocese of Virginia

Congregations and clergy of St. Mary's, Goochland, Christ Church, Glen Allen, St John's, McLean.

Metropolitan Richmond

For the Churches and religious institutions of Metropolitan Richmond: For all pastors, ministers, missionaries, and servants of Christ.

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.stfrancisva.org



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