

Subject: Church People
From: "St. Francis Episcopal Church" <vicar@stfrancisva.org>
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St Francis



June 3, 2015

Church People

*And what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice,
to love mercy,
and to walk humbly with your God..*

Micah 6:8

Church People

I hope you admire this photo of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh. It is the cathedral of the Diocese of Armagh in the Church of Ireland. It brings to mind Patrick himself whose life and ministry was carried by a certain picture of church life. That approach to church life bore much fruit in Ireland and beyond. It is a picture of the church which is coming to the fore today. It is an approach to following Jesus in which groups of people live out the gospel together while serving others.

Many of us active in church life today have a slightly different picture of church life compared to Patrick's. We find that we have a very good experience of worship as well as a good experience with fellowship and encouraging relationships. Our picture of church, as it is for a lot of church people, can be expressed in this equation:

priest+building+liturgy=church

That picture leads us to an experience of worship and fellowship. For us the photo of St. Patrick's represents something quite rich and beautiful.

We build sacred spaces to maintain that experience with God and each other. However, we can at times feel pressure to maintain the buildings and schedules we have built to keep our worship and fellowship going. Our picture of church can leave us dry and spent unless we add a counter-balance to our experience. Much of our time is spent between going up to God in worship and in towards others for fellowship. One more side forms a triangle which will be more balanced than a single line with two points.

That third side is outreach. When our life is balanced between worship, fellowship and outreach (up, in, and out) we will be much healthier church people with a higher potential of growth. That equation looks more like this:

faith+community+action=church

Faith comes as we follow Jesus in worshipping the Trinity, community comes as we follow Jesus in encouraging one another, action comes as we follow Jesus into the world to join in what He is already doing. Patrick himself followed this kind of rhythm to reach all of Ireland and beyond with the gospel. It also reflects the words of the prophet Micah quoted above. To walk humbly with God is to give God what He asks of us in worship. To love mercy is to be encouraging and edifying to each other. To do justice is to follow Jesus into the world.

Church Buildings

This Sunday at St. Francis we will mark the fourth anniversary of the dedication of our building. Our prayer is that it will be a time of rededicating our selves to being built by God into that house which worships Jesus, encourages each other in His Name, and follows Him into the world.

Coming Attractions

Saturday, June 6, 2015 work day at the church 9am-3pm. Come and go as you are able.

Sunday, June 7, 2015 worship at 10:00am followed by pot luck

Wednesday, June 10, 2015 vestry meeting at 4pm

Sunday, June 14, 2015 worhsip at 10:00am. Morning Prayer with Bobbie Leviness teaching on contemplative prayer.

Please bring non-perishable food items to worhisp with you to benefit the Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services Food Pantry. Please leaave your donations in the box located in the vestibule.

Our Missional Communities

The Parke will meet for a huddle at 3:00pm, June 7, 2015. Please contact Richard Walker at richardandhedy@yahoo.com

Symphony will meet on Sunday June 28, 2015 at 8:45am at the Symphony Assisted Living facility. Please contact Bobbie Leviness at [400-7895](tel:400-7895)

Centerville Circle of Prayer

For Broadview Mini Storage, Elliot Cooke, manager, for the presence of God in the comunity and a strong business community.

Diocese of Virginia

Congregations and clergy of Christ Church, Alexandria; Emmanuel-Brook Hill, Richmond; Holy Comforter, Vienna; St. Mark's, Richmond; St. Francis', Great Falls

Metropolitan Richmond

We pray for the criminal justice system in Metropolitan Richmond: For all who are incarcerated in jails and prisons, their families, and their loved ones.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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