

Subject: What Is God Doing Today?
From: "St. Francis Episcopal Church" <vicar@stfrancisva.org>
Sent: 9/30/2015 7:21:32 AM
To: "Larry" <lckiddjr@gmail.com>

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St Francis



September 30, 2015

The Blessing of the Animals

Then I saw heaven opened,

and behold, a white horse!
Revelation 19:11

Animals In Heaven?

That always struck me as an easy question to answer. If there are no animals in heaven then from where did the white horse Jesus is riding come? There is also an army riding white horses described a few verses later. There has got to be animals in heaven!

What Does That Mean For Today?

There is something about animals that carries the glory of God. From the animals delivered into a new world from Noah's Ark to the magnificent ride of Jesus out of heaven on a white horse there is something about animals that reminds us of the glory of God and prompts us to praise Him, as does all of creation.

The Blessing of the Animals

This weekend we will have two sessions of blessing animals connected with St. Francis Church. The first one will be on Saturday, October 3rd, from 9:00am-1:00pm at MyManakin Market in Manakin Sabot.

We will be blessing animals and owners that morning. The second time is at St. Francis Church at 10:00am on Sunday October 4th, the Feast of St. Francis, our patronal feast. We will have communion out on the front lawn and the blessing of the animals will take part right in the middle of the liturgy. Bring your animals as well as your friends and their animals. All animals of any kind are welcome. Pray that God will use these times to empower us to praise Him more deeply than ever before.

If It Rains?

With a tropical storm/hurricane/super-nor'easter in the forecast for Sunday we will move the service inside, obviously. You may not want to bring your animals in that case.

Coming Attractions

Wednesday, September 30, 2015 6:15pm Family On Mission Learning Community

Saturday, October 3, 2015, 9:00am-1:00pm Blessing of the Animals at MyManakin Market

Sunday, October 4, 2015 10:00am worship with Blessing of the Animals

Please bring nonperishable food to worship to contribute to the Food Pantry of the Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services

Our Missional Communities

The Parke will meet on Sunday, October 18, 2015 at 5:30pm for pot luck, and worship contact Richard Walker at

richardandhedy@yahoo.com

Color Me Friends will have its first meeting on October 5 at 6:00pm at St. Francis. Contact Carol Maher at carolsdream@gmail.com

Symphony will meet at Symphony Assisted Living on October 25 at 9:00am. Contact Bobbie Leviness at bobbiedrew@yahoo.com

A Story From Symphony

How God answered my question

Bobbie Leviness

It was a short question and to the point: "Do you want me to continue in this ministry to bring a church service to Symphony residents?" I was asking God what ministry He wanted me to do. I felt pulled in many directions. I had been involved in the Symphony ministry since 2007. I hadn't seen any visible "fruit" that I could say is a mark of God working in my life in any traditional sense. We don't see an increase in numbers--with the elderly community, that would be a miracle. We aren't being asked to come run Bible studies or meet their families. We won't see them join St. Francis. What exactly am I looking for, I wondered. And yet I knew to wait on God for an answer. We arrived at Symphony and set our simple service. This time there was no receptionist and no one at the nurse's station downstairs to announce church on the 3rd floor. We wondered if anyone would know to come. But as we set up, the aides wheeled a couple of ladies over who are confused as they look at us. But in a few minutes here come some familiar folks who walk and wheel themselves over. We begin with a hymn. By the end of the service we have about a dozen folks. They thank us for bringing church. They are so grateful. We feel so glad to have come. As I am collecting the hymn binders, the man, who has been joining us for just a few recent times, says to me: "I have been waiting for you to come and bring us church since the last time you were here with us." That seems like good encouragement to continue.

A Story From The Garden

MJ Weatherford

The Garden was dug because God insisted that St. Francis gardeners take on the mission of growing fresh vegetables for the Goochland Food Pantry. We set out to follow His directions, never realizing the blessings we would harvest beyond the potatoes we planted. The potatoes themselves were a lesson in faith. The green plant we saw above ground did not give us a clue about what was or was not happening below ground. We were prepared to water the garden, though it was not going to be an easy task. However, we never needed to water; God took care of that. Several weeks before harvest time, Colorado beetles attacked our beautiful potato plants. We fought back with sprays and hand picking, but it looked as if the beetles were winning. When we dug the potatoes still covered with beetle larvae, we could not believe how many there were. Those beetles attacked so late in the growing season that they had no effect on our crop. We harvested 165 pounds of potatoes from the 20-plus hills that we planted: a harvest more generous than we ever expected!

Then, there were the amazing marigolds. Evelyn Staples started them in her basement and planted the tiny, tiny plants in the spring. They grew into vigorous plants full of blooms that decorated the garden until late September when we pulled them up to make way for more kale plants. When we pulled them up some of them had root systems that were at least a foot across and stems that were an inch or more in diameter. These were super marigolds and only God can take credit.

Our only contribution was some soil amendment and water.

In mid-September gardeners planted kale as our fall crop. Those kale plants are already up and we are just waiting to see what God will do with them. Kale is cold hardy so we hope to be harvesting kale until the end of the year and beyond depending on how cold the winter is.

The Garden is a very special place. It does provide food for the food pantry, but it also is a testament to God's generosity.

Bishop Goff will visit St. Francis on October 25th at 2:00pm to celebrate, preach, and receive our new members. Please contact the vicar if you wish to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church

The Boy Scouts in Goochland are collecting food the week of October 4th for the Food Pantry of the Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services. If you would like to help you may pick up a bag from Guage Haas on Sunday and bring it contributions the following Sunday. Most needed items:
peanut butter, canned tuna and chicken, spaghetti sauce (no glass),
canned or dried beans, cereal, whole grain snacks, canned vegetables
low sodium, canned fruit packed in their own juice

Bags will be distributed on 10/4 and picked up on 10/11...

For more information contact:
Chuck Haack [804-516-5425](tel:804-516-5425)

Centerville Circle of Prayer

Yardworks. that the business would increase, the employees are well provided for.

Diocese of Virginia

For the clergy and people of San Jose, Arlington, St. Paul's, Ivy, Westover, Charles City, Cristo Rey, Arlington, St. Peter's New Kent that they would continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Metropolitan Richmond

Ro all in need of social services, all social service departments and caseworkers; for a partnership between the church and other institutions serving the needy.

This newsletter will not be published next week. I will be away at a conference. See you on October 14, 2015.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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