

Subject: What Is God Doing Today?
From: "St. Francis Episcopal Church" <vicar@stfrancisva.org>
Sent: 10/21/2015 6:03:31 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 superimposed over the 'S', with a sunburst pattern of small red dots radiating from the top of the cross. 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



October 21, 2015

You Send Me

*As you sent me into the world,
so I have sent them into the world.
John 17:18*

This Coming Sunday at St. Francis

When we gather for worship on Sunday at St. Francis on October 25th our Bishop Suffragan, The Rt. Rev. Susan Goff, will be with us to preside, preach, and confirm and receive our new members. It will be a wonderful time and all of us are looking forward to it very much.

Things will go differently than usual that day. We will meet at 2:00pm instead of 10:00am. We will present about a dozen people who will either be confirmed, received, or renew their baptismal vows.

After a brief reception the bishop will meet with our vestry. The schedule will have more than usual. I anticipate the impact to be more than usual as well.

The Impact

The verse cited above is one of the choices for the gospel reading at the ordination and consecration of a bishop in the Episcopal Church. This reading, as well as others, talk about the church being sent. The bishop's visit brings that part of following Jesus into sharp focus.

Most people think of a church as that group of people from whom you receive encouragement and help when you need it. That is true, but there is more. It is also the group with whom you worship God, and it is the group from whom you are sent into the world with the love of Jesus. All three are essential. When you go out from the gathering of the church in worship you may want others to know about the great experience you have with that group. You are not sent alone by God to do your best all by yourself. Just as Jesus was sent by a community, the Trinity, so we are sent by our community, our church. In most cases we go to share the love of Jesus with others as a group. The bishop's visit reminds us that we are not in this alone. We are in it together with our friends at church, and with the millions of other Christians worldwide.

We also can rely on the power of God. The bishop's visit reminds us of that as well. The bishop wears a mitre, as pictured above. The two pointed sections at the top represent the tongues of fire that appeared over the heads of the church members on that first Pentecost. The two bands in the back represent anointing flowing from the Spirit of God to the whole of the Body of Christ. We are definitely empowered with the rest of the church to carry out the wonderful work God gives us to do.

Coming Attractions

Sunday, October 25, 2015 Worship and Bishop's visit 2:00pm

Sunday, November 1, 2015 All Saint's Sunday, worship at 10:00am

Please bring non-perishable food to worship to be given to the Food Pantry of the Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services

Our Missional Communities

The Parke will meet for worship and pot luck on November 29, 2015 at 5:30pm. Contact Richard Walker at richardandhedy@yahoo.com

Symphony will meet on October 25th at 9:00am at Symphony Assited Living. Contact Bobbie Leviness at bobbiedrew@yohoo.com

Centerville Circle of Prayer

For Yardworks that business would increase and employees would be well provided for.

The Diocese of Virginia

For the clergy and people of Grace Church, Goochland; St. Peter's, Oak Grove; Farmham; St. John's Warsaw; St. James', Montross that they would continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Metropolitan Richmond

For emergency shelters, clinics, and feeding programs; for recreation programs, youth programs, juvenile counseling, and young people's shelters.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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