

**Subject:** Called Out  
**From:** "St. Francis Episcopal Church" <[vicar@stfrancisva.org](mailto:vicar@stfrancisva.org)>  
**Sent:** 11/4/2015 8:05:22 AM  
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# S<sup>+</sup> Francis



November 4, 2015

## Called Out

*For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.  
Mark 12:44*

### ***Ecclesia***

One of the descriptions of the church from the New Testament is the word "ecclesia" in Greek. It roughly means "called out ones." It refers to the group of citizens called out from the population to make decisions about the municipality. A town council or board of supervisors would be similar today. This idea was applied to the church alluding to the group of people who are called to follow Jesus so that they can extend the kingdom of God throughout the world. This can be a powerful and motivating picture of the church. It can also be confining. The temptation experienced from being called out is to separate from the world. When that happens we find ourselves working, praying, and giving for the growth of the organization (in our case the local parish church we attend). We can miss the larger more significant motive to work, pray, and give for the spread of the kingdom. That is to follow and love Jesus more deeply everyday.

### ***The Widow and the Rich People***

In the story of the widow's mite cited above we can see these two motivations at work. The rich gave out of their abundance. I would think that means they gave out of their commitment to the temple choosing how much they would give to demonstrate that commitment. The widow gave all she had. She gave out of her life. She gave out of her love and commitment to God. The rich people in this story gave out of a sense of being called out of the world into the Temple. The widow gave out of a sense of being called out of the world to love and follow Jesus. The rich were building an organization. The widow was building a relationship.

As the stewardship season fast approaches what will you decide to build through your giving . . . an organization or a relationship?

## **Coming Attractions**

***Sunday, November 8, 2015*** Worship at 10:00am followed by pot luck

***Wednesday, November 11, 2015*** Vestry committee at 4:00pm

***Sunday, November 15, 2015*** Worship at 10:00am

***Please bring non-perishable food*** to worship with you to donate to the Food Pantry of the Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services

### ***Our Missional Communities***

*The Parke* will meet on November 29 at 5:30pm for potluck and worship at the home of Richard and Hedy Walker. Contact Richard at [richardandhedy@yahoo.com](mailto:richardandhedy@yahoo.com)

*The Parke outreach events will be*

-Wednesday, November 4, 2015 at 6:30pm Color Me Friends at St. Francis. Contact Carol Maher at [carolsdream@gmail.com](mailto:carolsdream@gmail.com)

-Wednesday, November 11, 2015 at 6:30pm Pub Theology at the Rumble Seat. Contact Richard Walker at [richardandhedy@yahoo.com](mailto:richardandhedy@yahoo.com)

-Wednesday, November 11, 2015 at 7:00pm Caregivers' Support Group

at the home of Richard and Hedy Walker. Contact Hedy at [richardandhedy@yahoo.com](mailto:richardandhedy@yahoo.com) or Susan Kidd at [sokidd@gmail.com](mailto:sokidd@gmail.com)

***Caritas will be on Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at 5:00pm*** at Christ Church, Glen Allen. Contact Jenna Nelson [334-6285](tel:334-6285)

### ***Centerville Circle of Prayer***

Air Specialists of Virginia, Paul Leslie, General Manager, that business would increase and clients would have environmentally safe facilities

### ***Diocese of Virginia***

For the clergy and people of Calvary, Front Royal; Little Fork, Rixeyville; St. Patrick's, Falls Church; St. Luke's, Remington; Trinity, Washington that they would continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

### ***Metropolitan Richmond***

For all in financial need especially the homeless and hungry, for the provision of safe affordable housing and low cost nutritious food, for the personal safety, dignity, and well-being of those who are unable to work.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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