

Subject: Empty Handed
From: "St. Francis Episcopal Church" <vicar@stfrancisva.org>
Sent: 12/2/2015 10:40:14 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 right side of the 'S'. The cross has 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



December 2, 2015

Empty Handed

*Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and
greet no one on the road.*

Luke 10:4

Channing Moore Williams, Missionary Bishop

On this date, December 2, in 1901 Channing Moore Williams died here in Richmond, Virginia. We remember his life on this date each year. He was

born in Richmond in 1829. His father served on the vestry and as Director of Sunday School at Monumental Church in Richmond (Monumental Church closed in the 1800's but is the mother church of St. James, St. Paul's, and All Saints which are all very prominent churches in Richmond today). Channing attended that church until he was 18 when he moved to Kentucky to work with his cousin. He was confirmed there by the bishop of Kentucky, went on the Virginia Theological Seminary, answered the call to ordination and then missionary service to China. Upon arriving in Shanghai he found that he needed to learn the local Wu dialect, Mandarin, and the literary Wen-Li language. Within a short time he was able to lead public worship in Chinese. He was soon transferred to Japan where he began work as a missionary to that country. The first person he baptized there was a Kumamoto Samurai. He was soon consecrated bishop of the missionary district of Japan and China. He was instrumental in establishing the Anglican Church in Japan. He returned to Richmond for the last two years of his life. He is buried in his hometown in Hollywood Cemetery.

Empty Handed

I am impressed by the story of Bishop Williams. Since I now live in the Richmond, VA area I find this connection interesting. That fact that his home church was the mother church of three parish churches catches my attention. However, the most impressive part of this story to me is how he started in Shanghai and then again in Japan. He needed to learn new languages and cultures. I have no way to fact check this idea, however, reading between the lines (guessing, to be honest), it seems that Channing Williams showed up in China and Japan empty handed, just as Jesus directed those he sent out in Luke 10 cited above. Bishop Williams had to rely on others to learn the language and culture in his new homes. I cannot imagine that he brought something to them as soon as he stepped off the boat. He had to completely rely on the Chinese and Japanese people he met.

So it is with us. The most fruitful method of outreach is to go emptyhanded, no programs, no meetings, no presentations, nothing. We go to listen. We go to see who the people of our neighborhoods and circles really are. We begin to relate to them so we can know them. In that we begin to see what God is already doing in their lives and join in with the blessing God has begun. As we take this approach our faith and trust in God will grow as we take that approach.

Coming Attractions

Wednesday, December 2, 2015 Color Me Friends at 6:30pm

Sunday, December 5, 2015 Manakin Holiday Market 9am-1pm.
Contact Bobbie Leviness at bobbiedrew@yahoo.com

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

-Pub Theology at Halligan Bar and Grille at 6:30pm. Contact Richard Walker at richardandhedy@yahoo.com

-Caregiver's Support Group at the home of Hedy Walker at 7:00pm.
Contact Hedy at
richardandhedy@yahoo.com

Sunday, December 13, 2015 Worship at 10:00am followed by pot luck

Sunday, December 20, 2015 Worship at 10:00am, liturgical dance with Aspire Dance Academy

Please bring nonperishable food to worship for the Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services Food Pantry. Pet food is welcome (open bags accepted). Please leave your contribution in the box in the vestibule.

Angel Tree gifts are due on Sunday December 6th. Please contact Janice Nelson for more information at [750-1277](tel:750-1277)

Centerville Circle of Prayer

For Enzo's Chop House, Doug Elliot, owner. That the kingdom of God would spread throughout our area and the business environment would support many growing businesses.

Diocese of Virginia

For the clergy and people of Holy Cross, Batesville; Meade Memorial, Alexandria; St. Luke's, Simeon; St. Annes, Scottsville; St. James, Mt. Vernon; Trinity, Charlottesville that they would continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Metropolitan Richmond

For families in Metroplitan Richmond: for single-parent families, adoptive families, foster families, and for households that are communities of friends; for elderly persons living in their own home, in retirement communities, and in nursing homes.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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