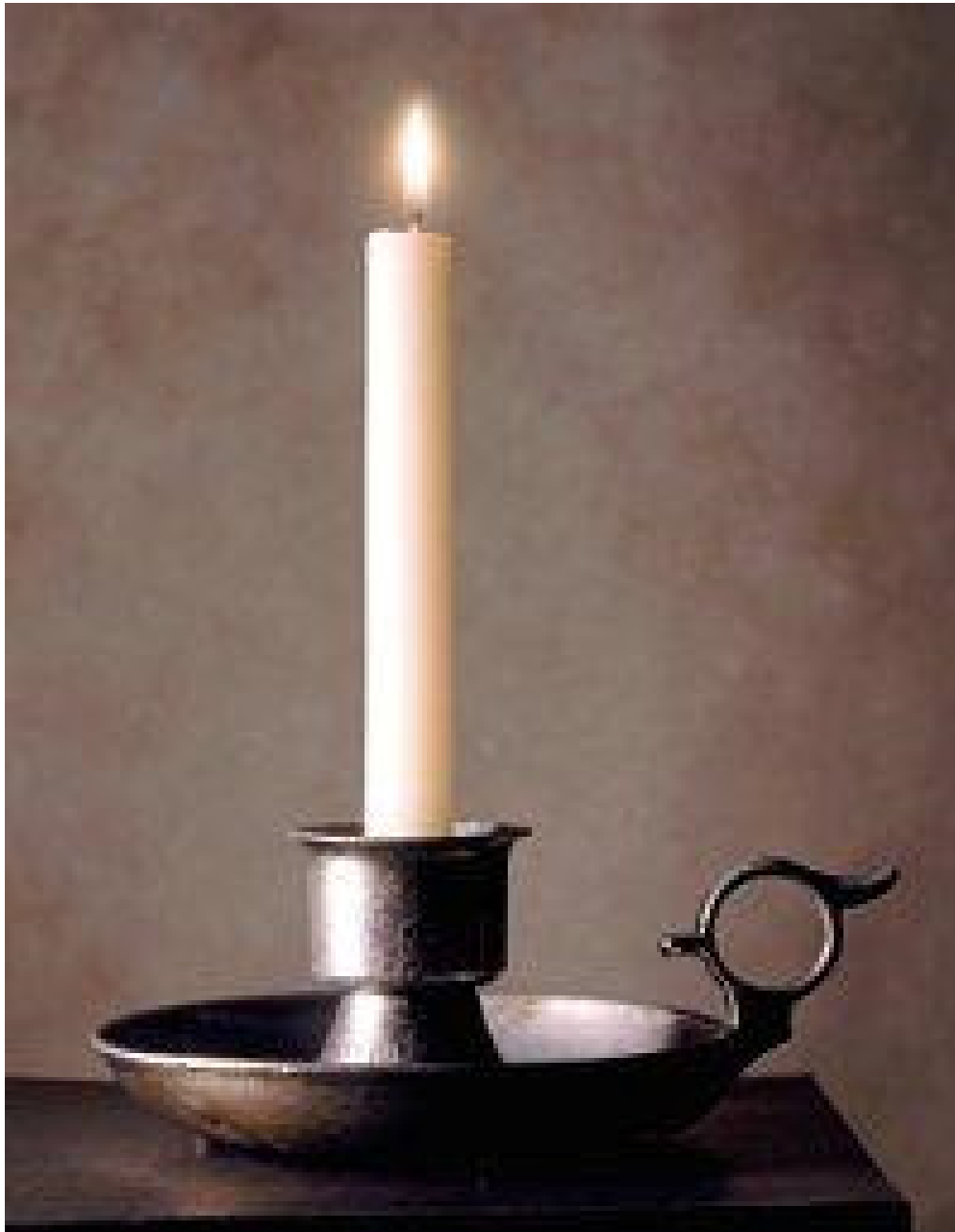


Subject: First Love
From: "St. Francis Episcopal Church" <vicar@stfrancisva.org>
Sent: 12/9/2015 7:10:39 AM
To: "Larry" <lckiddjr@gmail.com>

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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 9, 2015

First Love

I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my namesake, and you have not grown weary. But I have this against you, you have abandoned the love you had at first. Revelation 2:3+4

First Love

In the readings for morning prayer this morning we find this verse in the middle of the letter from Jesus to the church in Ephesus. It is both encouraging and convicting at the same time. The main reason for this has to do with the nature of repentance. In essence, to repent is to return to your first love. It is to turn back from drifting away from your first love. It

is to spend time with Jesus, listen to His voice, and practice what He tells you to do over and over again throughout your life.

Returning

What can you do to return to your first love? Recalling what it was like when you first consciously started to follow Jesus can be very motivating and go a long way. However, it can go deeper than that. Returning to your first love is returning to the practice of building the relationship. What is Jesus telling you right now? What would He want you to do about that?

How can you grow in that practice? All of that is more than doing the right thing. It is returning to your first love.

Coming Attractions

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

- Theology on Tap at 6:30pm
- Caregivers' Support Group 7:00pm

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

Sunday, December 20, 2015 worship at 10:30am liturgical dance with Aspire Dance Academy

Christmas Services:

- December 24, 2015 6:15pm candlelight service
- December 25, 2015 9:00am

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

Centerville Circle of Prayer

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

Diocese of Virginia

For the clergy and people of Santa Maria, Falls Church; St. James the Less, Ashland; St. Paul's Hanover; Calvary, Hanover; Our Savior, Montpelier, that they would continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Metropolitan Richmond

For persons who are lonely or have no family; for persons who are estranged from their families; for persons who are grieving the loss of a loved one; and for all who need to feel the love of God.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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