

Subject: Imitation
From: "St. Francis Episcopal Church" <vicar@stfrancisva.org>
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S Francis



January 20, 2016

Imitation Is The Door To Innovation

*... That you may not be sluggish but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.
Hebrews 6:12*

Out of Favor

The writers of the New Testament consistently prompt us to imitate the faith practices of those who have gone further than us in following Jesus. It

is great advice that comes up again in the the Letter to the Hebrews in this morning's selections from Morning Prayer. Even great advice can be hard to communicate when it is out of favor with a lot of people. It seems to me that the idea of imitation is, in fact, out of favor in our society. Innovation is valued much more than imitation. It is my contention, however, and I believe the contention of the writers of the New Testament that imitation is a necessary step towards innovation. If you are a part of a family business that has lasted more than one generation you know this through first hand experience. The children learn the business by imitation. Later will come a time when there must be some innovation in that business so it can continue to serve a changing culture or market. Without imitation the children would not know what to do and would lose hope. Without innovation the contribution the business makes to people's lives would eventually be lost.

Back in Favor

Every leap starts somewhere on solid ground. Every leap of faith starts on the solid ground of followings Jesus with others in community. It is together we learn the practices of the faith. It is with each other we are encouraged to launch out into new ways God is prompting us to walk in the ancient paths of faith. What have you learned from other Christians in your fellowship? How will make that real for those around you who do not yet know Jesus? Seek the encouragement of your closer Christian friends. Take one step at a time to innovate the practices of faith you know right now. Do it for the sake of others.

Coming Attractions

Sunday, January, 24, 2016 Worship at 10:00am. John Wheeler of Global Frontier Missions is our guest preacher.

Sunday, January 31, 2016 Worship at 10:00am

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

Our Missional Communities

Symphony will meet at Symphony Manor on January 24th at 9:00am to lead worship. contact Bobbie Leviness at bobbiedrew@yahoo.com.

Centerville Circle of Prayer

For the James River Capital Corporation that the employees would serve the clients with wisdom and diligence

Diocese of Virginia

For new Christians to be baptized in every parish and congregation of the Diocese of Virginia during 2016.

Metropolitan Richmond

That we would overcome ignorance, indifference, resentment, and bitterness with regard to race in both private and public life.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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