

**From:** St. Francis Episcopal Church vicar@stfrancisva.org  
**Subject:** What Do You Have To Contribute?  
**Date:** October 12, 2016 at 7:57 AM  
**To:** Mcats2@aol.com

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The logo for St. Francis Episcopal Church, featuring a red cross with radiating lines, set against a dark blue background. The text "St Francis" is written in a white serif font, with the "S" and "F" being significantly larger than the other letters.

St Francis



October 12, 2016

**What Do You Have To Contribute?**

## WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO CONTRIBUTE?

*And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. And all ate and were filled. What was left over was gathered up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.*

*Luke 9:16+17*

### ***A Familiar Miracle***

Many of us are very familiar with the report of this miracle we come across in the readings appointed for today. We can be so familiar that we can easily miss one of the parts that relates directly to the way we live our lives. It is easy to skim over the story, review the thoughts we may have had about it before, and then move on to something else. There is, however, something in here for us to take up everyday.

### ***Distribution***

It is normal to assume that Jesus blessed the bread and fish and then started distributing the miraculous multiplication himself to the crowd.

That would be in line with the way we think of most leaders, especially pastoral leaders. Luke points out one part of this story that is easy to miss.

The disciples distributed the miraculous multiplication of food to the crowd. Jesus gave them the blessed bread and fish and the 12 began to take it around to everyone. Did it multiply in their hands as they gave it out?

Maybe. I would think probably. The challenge for us is this: We want to help people and provide for people out of our own resources, experience, and plans. Jesus wants us to give to others what we have received from Him. The blessing and provision we received is multiplied as we give it away to others as Jesus directs us to do. Our responsibility is to receive from Him what we give away in His Name. That is challenging. It means leaning on Jesus, trusting Jesus, and waiting on Jesus when I can do it faster myself. In the end, though, I think Jesus' provision will be better than mine.

How is Jesus asking you to receive from Him today? To whom is He asking you to give away what you have received.

## **Coming Attractions**

### ***Wednesday, October 12, 2016***

4:00pm Vestry Committee

6:30pm Theology on Tap at Keegan's. Contact Richard at richaredandhedy@yahoo.com

7:00pm Caregivers' Support Group. At Walker's contact Hedy at

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**Sunday, October 16, 2016** Worship at 10:00am

**Wednesday, October 19, 2016** Learning Community. Contact John at vicar@stfrancisva.org

Sunday, October 23, 2016 Worship at 10:00am

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

**Centerville Circle of Prayer**

For Goodwill, Centerville, that this branch would fulfill its mission

**Diocese of Virginia**

For the people of St. Paul's, Ivy; St. Andrew's, Mount Jackson; Emmanuel, Woodstock; St. Stephen's/Good Shepherd, Rocky Bar; Grace, Port Republic that they would continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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