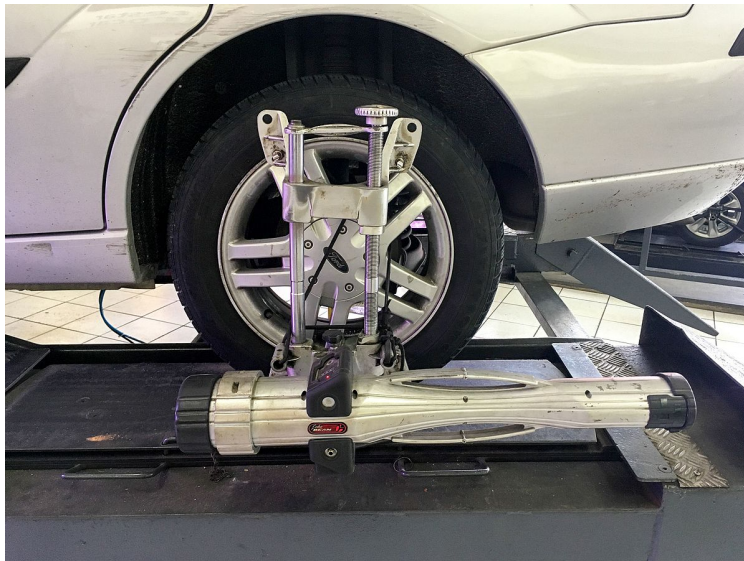


From: **St. Francis Episcopal Church** vicar@stfrancisva.org
Subject: Alignment
Date: August 21, 2019 at 8:24 AM
To: mjweatherford16@gmail.com



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August 21, 2019

Alignment

*Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ?
Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in
the Spirit? Are our hearts tender and compassionate?*

*Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly
with each other, loving one another, and working
together with one mind and purpose.
Philippians 2;1+2*

Whose Got The Vision?

The short answer is this: You do! Many church people, both pastors and members, think one of the primary jobs of the pastor is to have a vision for the direction of the church and "cast the vision" in such a way that everyone gets on board with the vision. If that is the case then the calling and purpose God has for your life is in second place at best! Often it becomes lost in the efforts to fulfill the vision the pastor is bringing to the church.

You Have The Vision

Obviously, I have a problem with the pastor casting a vision for the church that everyone buys into and works to fulfill. The approach I think is more faithful to the gospel is to equip everyone for the calling and purpose God has for them. It is to invite everyone into discipleship. It is to encourage everyone to be following Jesus. In that approach we are aligned with the work of becoming more like Jesus and joining in with what Jesus is doing already in the community. The gifts of each person become very important in that approach. When everyone is working together to be faithful in following Jesus the ministry increases and the church grows and matures.

What Are you Looking For?

Do you want a pastoral leader who will tell you what to do, what the church should do, and how everything should go? Or, do you want a pastoral leader who will equip you to follow Jesus wherever He leads? This prayer written by Richard of Chichester (later used in Godspell) might be one you could pray :

Day by day, dear Lord,
of thee three things I pray:
to see thee more clearly,
love thee more dearly,
follow thee more nearly,
day by day.

Coming Attractions

Sunday, August 25, 2019 Worship at 10:00am

Sunday, September 1, 2019 Worship at 10:00am

The first Sunday of each month, after church, Karen & Chris Webber will be collecting donated food from the Food Lion in Centerville and taking it to the food pantry. This would be an ideal time for anyone in the church to bring in their own donations!! The food pantry is in dire need of cereal, canned soups, and canned vegetables (not generally things donated by grocery stores). If this is something you would like to contribute to, just bring it to church and we would make sure it was delivered to the food pantry.

Please help us in the fun sharing our favorite recipes, in the form of a St. Francis cookbook. Please bring your recipes to the pot luck each month, and give to Libby or Karen. You can also email to lcp@libbyclarkphotography.com.

New Policies from our Vestry Committee:

Our Vestry Committee adopted two new policies at its August 13th meeting:

Gifts Acceptance Policy

All Gifts (other than weekly, monthly, annual cash, pledges, or pledge payments) to St. Francis, particularly gifts-in-kind, real estate, and other assets, must be approved by the Vestry/Vestry Committee and receive approval by the Rector/Vicar before being accepted.

Community Outreach/Involvement/Support

We want to encourage and support our members to be involved in other community groups as they desire. We want to be supportive of those community groups and our members' involvement as a way of encouraging our witness as a follower of Jesus in the community. We have adopted this policy to encourage each other to seek the benefit of all in our community:

1. Our members may place posters of their events, etc. for up to one month on one of our boards. If more time is needed it can be negotiated.
2. Our members may bring fundraisers for community organizations to the church which will be announced on our boards only (not the

to the church which will be announced on our boards only (not the newsletter or bulletin).

3. Our members who wish to place posters or bring community fundraisers must seek the approval of the senior warden or, in the absence of the senior warden, the junior warden.

4. We encourage our members to take part in community activities and to endeavor to follow Jesus as his disciple in these activities as well as every aspect of their lives.

Centerville Circle of Prayer

For A'mici De Enzo's Italian Restaurant that business would increase and many relationships would be built up over meals at this restaurant.

The Diocese of Virginia

For all Acolytes and Eucharistic Ministers, and members of Altar Guilds and Flower Guilds that they would continually walk in the power of your Holy Spirit

The Anglican Communion

For the people of the dioceses of Okrika (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Tubokosemie Atere Bungoma (Kenya) The Revd George Mechumo that they would continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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