

**From:** St. Francis Episcopal Church vicar@stfrancisva.org  
**Subject:** Everyone Gets To Join In  
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**St Francis**



**KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
INCLUDE  
EVERYONE**

May 22, 2019

**Everyone Gets To Join In**

*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities but the same God who empowers them all in everyone.*

*I Corinthians 12:4+5*

### ***One Size Does Not Fit All***

Often in church circles it is assumed that a healthy church has as one of its characteristics a leader who can persuasively and attractively articulate the vision for that church. The idea is that God gives the vision to the leader and the leader gives the vision to the people. While I do not believe that is evil or wrong it does result in a lot of people feeling left out. If, for example, the pastoral leader is a gifted teacher the vision for the church will often center around developing teaching and learning.

Those with other base gifts (apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor) will not have a strong platform from which to exercise the ministry God has given to them. The entire ministry of that church will colonize around the gift, and by extension the vision, of the pastor. A local parish church can do so much more without burning out its members and leaders.

### ***Many Gifts***

What if the vision of the pastoral leader was to make more than enough room for every vision and calling God gives to the members of that church? What if everyone was encouraged and equipped to answer the call of God upon their lives? What if every gift and ministry were considered equal to all the others? What if it was widely understood that the responsibility of the pastoral leader was to see that each member was equipped to carry out their own vision, calling, and ministry? What would that church look like? For one thing it would reach more people in the surrounding community than if it were only focusing on the vision of one person. Do you feel a draw to a church that is organized like that? How would you feel about being in a church that looks for the manifestation of all of the gifts of God?

manifestation of all of the gifts of God:

## Coming Attractions

***Sunday, May 26, 2019*** Worship at 10:00am

***Sunday, June 2, 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](mailto:lcp@libbyclarkphotography.com).

### ***Centerville Circle of Prayer***

Family Chiropractic Center, Dr. Eric Carlsen, DC, owner. that the health of many in our area would continually improve.

### ***The Diocese of Virginia***

Please pray for members of the Armed Forces and their families and remember those who have fallen in the line of duty.

### ***The Anglican Communion***

For the people of the dioceses of Namirembe (Uganda) The Rt Revd Wilberforce Kityo Luwalira Abyei (South Sudan) The Rt Revd Michael Deng K Bol Accra (West Africa) The Rt Revd Daniel Sylvanus Mensah Torto. My they continually walk in the power of

the Holy Spirit.  
Grace and Peace,  
John Maher

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