

From: **St. Francis Episcopal Church** vicar@stfrancisva.org  
Subject: House to House  
Date: June 19, 2019 at 8:27 AM  
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June 20, 2019

## House To House

*And every day, in the temple and from house to house,  
they did not cease teaching and preaching that the  
Christ is Jesus.  
Acts 5:42*

### ***House Or Neighborhood?***

The photo above is a neighborhood that could be almost in any region in America. There are countless neighborhoods that look like this one. There are neighborhoods that are different from this one, but are still

neighborhoods none-the-less. The one thing all neighborhoods have in common is that they are a collection of families, household, and other businesses or institutions. When I moved into the neighborhood where I live with my family a few years ago we were welcomed by other neighbors. They all commented on our house and then some other aspects of the neighborhood. What they did not do was invite us to move out of the house we just moved into and move into one of their houses. That would be weird at best. We tend to do that, however, with people who are not yet in a church. We invite them to come to "our house," "our family," our church building to worship God. We view the church as one family instead of a neighborhood of families.

### ***Building Neighborhoods***

One of the practices in the early church was to go from house to house. Each household was a much larger extended family than what we see in our culture today. The early disciples did not try to always get everyone into one family. They found out what would make the gospel real to each household and invited them to embrace that so the whole household would begin to follow Jesus. Essentially, they built a "neighborhood" instead of a "family." How do you see things? Do you want your church to be one big family or a neighborhood of families, households, and institutions? What is God impressing upon you about that right now?

## **Coming Attractions**

***Wednesday, June 20, 2019*** Theology on Tap 6:30pm at Capital Ale House. Contact Richard at [richardandhedy@yahoo.com](mailto:richardandhedy@yahoo.com)

***Sunday, June 23, 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***

Paw's Inn, Debbie Gibson, owner. That business would increase, that animals in our community would be safe and healthy.

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

For the people of St. Paul's, Nomini Grove, Montross; St. Gabriel's, Leesburg; All Souls, Atlee that they would continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

For the people of the Dioceses of Niger Delta North (Nigeria) The Most Revd Ignatius Kattey; Niger Delta West (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Emmanuel Oko-Jaja; The Niger Delta (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Ralph Ebirien; Niger West (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Johnson Ekwe that they may continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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