

**From:** St. Francis Episcopal Church vicar@stfrancisva.org  
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# Francis



December 5, 2018

## Moving Into the Neighborhood

*The Word became flesh and blood  
and moved into the neighborhood*

*and moved into the neighborhood.*

John 1:14, The Message

### ***Following Jesus***

The paraphrase of John 1:14 above may not be familiar to many of us. The version we know better reads something like this, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us." The picture of Jesus moving into our neighborhood and getting to know the others who live there is a very helpful picture. It points to a shift that churches would do well to consider. That shift is from making church relevant to engaging with the community. Notice this does not mean to make the church irrelevant. It points out that we can do very well to engage with the community as a higher priority in our ways and practices. One of the main reasons is that we are following Jesus ways and practices when we do engage with the community.

### ***How Do We Engage The Community?***

One way to engage the community is to find ways to be friends with those who live around the church building. That would mean finding ways to get to know them without any expectations that they visit Sunday morning or become members. Just getting to know them so we can be good friends and neighbors is an excellent beginning. Who knows, God might be at work in some powerful ways in the neighborhood. We don't want to miss that by seeing how they can help our church. In the meantime, we might find that they would be open to an invitation to Christmas Eve or some other special service.

## **Coming Attractions**

***Sunday, December 9, 2018*** Worship at 10:00am followed by pot luck

***Sunday, December 16, 2018*** 10:00am Advent Lessons and Carols

***Sunday September 23, 2018*** Worship at 10:00am followed by Greening of the Church

***Monday, December 24, 2018*** Christmas Eve Service at 4:00pm

***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

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 of Prayer***

For Gerald Richardson, CPA, The clients would make wise decisions.

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

For the people of Santa Maria, Falls Church; St. Timothy's, Herndon; 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 Diocese of Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh - (Armagh, Ireland) [The Rt Revd Ferran Glenfield](#) that they would continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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