

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



February 7, 2018

Interrupted By The Spirit

... we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us ... While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message.

Acts 10:33+44

Peter At Cornelius' House

Today is the commemoration of Cornelius in our liturgical calendar. Cornelius does not get enough attention. He was the first gentile converted to Christ in the early church. After having a visit from an angel he invited Peter to come to his house and preach. When Peter and six of his friends arrived the house was full. They received the Holy Spirit and Cornelius' house became one of the great house churches of the day. It is held in tradition that Cornelius became the Bishop of Caesarea.

What Else Happened That Day?

As Peter was preaching the Spirit of God interrupted him and everyone in Cornelius' household received the Holy Spirit. It was another day of Pentecost!

Wonderful! Here is the challenge for me, however: If I were preaching would I be all right with God interrupting my sermon? Would I be all right with God interrupting anything I was doing? Probably not. How about you? I think it is worth the interruption. I'm sure Peter was preaching a very fine sermon. He did not need to be stopped or corrected. The Spirit of God stepped in and took things higher at that time rather than waiting for the end of the sermon. Here is the question: How can we become more responsive to the presence of God?

Obviously, that comes only from the Spirit of God. What is God telling you about receiving from the Spirit any time at all?

Coming Attractions

Sunday, February 11, 2018 Worship at 10:00am followed by pot luck

Tuesday, February 14, 2018 Vestry Committee at 4:00pm

Wednesday, February 14, 2018 Ash Wednesday Worship at 6:00pm

Sundays during Lent: How to Give Up Your Fears

Please bring nonperishable food to worship to be distributed through the Food Pantry of Goochland Cares

Centerville Circle of Prayer

For Paramount Builders that business would increase and many would benefit from the construction work done by this company.

The Diocese of Virginia

For the people of St. Stephen's, Heathville, St. Paul's, Richmond, St. Gabriel's, Leesburg, and 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 Asaba (Bendel, Nigeria) and The Rt. Rev. Justus Moge kwu that they would continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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