

From: **St. Francis Episcopal Church** vicar@stfrancisva.org
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May 29, 2019

On the Other Side

*For he is our peace, . . . and has broken down in his flesh
the dividing wall of hostility . . .
Ephesians 2:14*

Ministru

Often in ministry there is a need to break through some kind of barrier. Someone may be in great need but not trusting of those who would bring help. A neighborhood may have some people who are ready to begin a life of faith in Jesus but there seems to be no way to connect with them. In these cases, and many others, the temptation for us in the church is to run after them with our own plans and energy. Often when we approach things that way we find that we are not successful and are left burnt out. I once heard it described this way, "If we spend time breaking down doors God did not lead us to break down our ministry becomes rehanging doors." That may be overstating the situation, but you get the idea.

Grace

One of the assumptions that we can make and trust is that God is already at work in the cases where we find barriers. We can assume and trust that God is at work on the other side of the barrier. We then need to know how and where God is at work on the other side of that barrier. How is God working in the heart of the person in need who has no trust in us? How is God at work in the neighborhood where we have no ready means of connecting? How can we join in with God in situations like these? The first thing to remember is that God wants us to join in the work of the kingdom. The second thing to remember is that God is in the business of breaking down barriers (see the verse above). Finally, God provides the ability and opportunity by grace to break the barriers and join in the mission. How is God leading you right now through any barriers in ministry that are before you?

Coming Attractions

Sunday, June 2, 2019 Worship at 10:00am

Sunday, June 9, 2019 Worship at 10:00am followed by pot luck.

West Richmond Ascension Day Service

The Episcopal Preaching Foundation & the Episcopal Churches of the West Richmond Region invite you to

A Service of Holy Eucharist

May 30th at 6:00 p.m. @
All Saints, Richmond





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.

Centerville Circle of Prayer

Manakin-Sabot Cosmetic and Family Dentistry, Sarah Wilmer, DDS, PLLS, owner. that the health of many in our community would continually increase.

The Diocese of Virginia

For the people of St. Luke's, Wellington, Alexandria: Christ Church, Alexandria; St. Gabriel's, Leesburg; All Souls, Atlee that thy would continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Anglican Communion

For the people of the dioceses of Navajoland Area Mission (The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd David Bailey Aipo Rongo (Papua New Guinea) The Rt Revd Nathan Ingen Ajayi Crowther (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Olugbenga Oduntan that they would continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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