

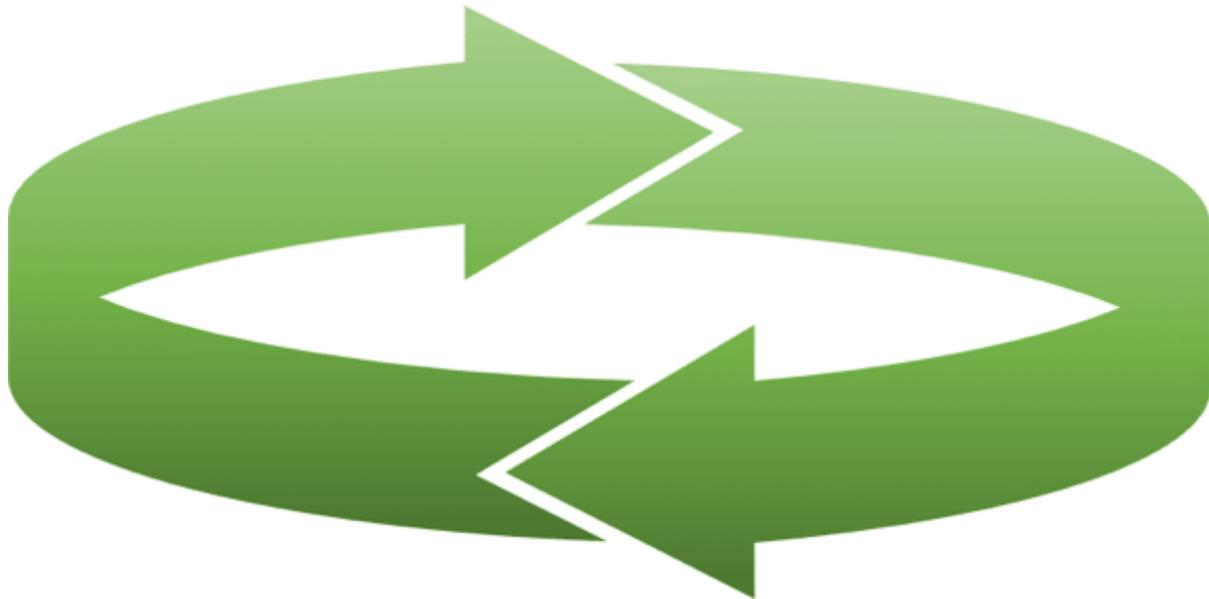
**From:** St. Francis Episcopal Church vicar@stfrancisva.org  
**Subject:** Return To Sender  
**Date:** May 1, 2019 at 8:34 AM  
**To:** mjweatherford16@gmail.com



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St Francis



May 1, 2019

## **Return To Sender**

For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel,  
“In returning and rest you shall be saved;  
in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.”

But you were unwilling . . .  
Isaiah 30:15

***Rhythms***

The Easter season is one in which I take great comfort. The intensity of Lent is over. The promise of new life is echoing through everything. I would love to stay in that comfort and hope in the resurrection of Jesus. However, Jesus prompts me to something different all too often. Rest is only one part of the rhythm of new life in Jesus. There is also the sending. He will send me to places and people that are ready in one way or another to go a little further with Jesus. Whether they need something from me for their benefit, or if they have something for me that will encourage me, I am joining in with what Jesus is already doing in that relationship. It is another way the promise of his resurrection is powerfully at work. It means there are times when Jesus is calling me closer to him so that I might rest and there are times when he is sending me out when I might walk with him in the work he is doing. I know he will not overwork me in the rhythms he has for me. When I follow him I can always count on working from rest instead of resting from work.

***Rhythms In The Church***

If I look at the church through the lens of sending and then returning it will change my thoughts about what a local parish church should be like. The church is not a destination. It is a sending center. That center is a place from which we are sent to join in the work Jesus is doing in the world. It is also a place of return and rest where we are equipped and encouraged to go out again. I once heard Reggie McNeil describe the church this way: I

The church is like an airport. You never go to an airport to stay there. The planes we catch never go to the airport to stay there. Everyone is there to prepare to go somewhere else.

That is a very healthy and helpful picture of the church. When we are there to be prepared and equipped to go where Jesus sends us, even if it is for a small matter in our own neighborhood, then we have a much richer experience of our local parish church. Here is the challenge- Do we expect the church to comfort us only, or to also equip us to say "yes" to Jesus whenever he leads us to join him in doing something?

**Coming Attractions**

***Sunday, May 5, 2019*** Worship and Baptism at 10:00am. Everyone is invited to the home of Chuck and Sue Haack after worship for refreshments to celebrate the baptism of their granddaughter, Eleanor. The address is

2546 Manakin Rd., Manakin Sabot 23103.

**Sunday, May 12, 2019** Worship at 10:00am. Pot luck is rescheduled for May 19 in honor of Mother's Day

***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 of Prayer***

For Satterwhites' Restaurant that business would increase, employees would be healthy, and many people would buldi good relationships at this restaurant.

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

For the people of Christ Church, Charlottesville; t. Thomas, McClean; St. Mry's Whitechapple, Lively; Trinity, Lancaster; St. Gabriel's, Leesburg; Al Souls, Atlee that they may contumely walk in the power of the Holy Spirit

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

For the people of the dioceses of Mpwapwa (Tanzania) The Rt Revd Jacob Erasto Chimeledya Yambio (South Sudan) The Most Revd Samuel Peni Yangon (Myanmar) The Most Revd Stephen Than Myint Oo (Primate) Yangon (Myanmar) The Rt Revd Samuel Htang Oak that they would continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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