



Shifting

Shifting Our Focus

This Shift Is Happening . . .

... from average Sunday attendance as our most important metric to the number of people in the community engaging with the Holy Spirit. Its no secret that Sunday attendance in America is declining. It is also the case that many of us who have been able to be weekly attenders find it more and more difficult to attend every week due to other dynamics in our lives (work, out of town family visits, other non-profit activities, etc.). When Jesus came into Jericho and was met by a crowd he focused on one man- Zaccheaus. Although Zaccheaus was despised by the crowd Jesus focused most of his attention on him that day. Zaccheaus wanted to connect with Jesus. He is a model of what it is to engage with the Holy Spirit. While I cannot assess the mood of the crowd my suspicion is that the crowd was there to be inspired. Zaccheaus was there to relate to and even follow Jesus. The temptation we have in our churches is to put our emphasis on the size of the crowd that came to be inspired. The emphasis of Jesus is to

focus on those who want to engage with the Holy Spirit. What if that were the main thing we counted in our churches? I wonder if our attendance would actually grow if we shifted our focus. I know that we would grow in our discipleship. I have seen the growth of members of St. Francis who take steps to engage with and rely on the Holy Spirit to pursue the ministry Jesu has asked them to do. It is life transforming. How will you engage with the Holy Spirit today?

Coming Attractions

Sunday, December 2, 2018 Worship at 10:00am

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

Advent and Christmas Calendar

December 2, 2018 10:00am First Sunday of Advent with Lighting of the Advent Wreath

December 9, 2018 10:00am Second Sunday of Advent with lighting of the Advent Wreath

December 16, 2018 10:00am Third Sunday of Advent Lessons and Carols with Lighting of the Advent Wreath

December 23, 2018 10:00am Fourth Sunday of Advent with Lighting of the Advent Wreath, presentation from the Aspire Dance Academy, followed by Greening of the Church

December 24, 2018 Christmas Eve Communion at 4:00pm

To participate in Angel Tree at St. Francis follow these steps when you come to worship:

TAKE ANGEL FROM TREE

PURCHASE ITEM (If you want to buy more feel free)

WRAP GIFTS USE TAG FROM TREE(the tag has a # for me to keep track of gifts)

HAVE GIFTS BACK TO CHURCH BY DECEMBER 2, 2017 for delivery

ANY QUESTIONS CALL JANICE NELSON 749-3231

Family: Mother (Maria) Father (Victor)

Gael(son) 6 yr old kindergarten size 8-10 likes sweat pants, not jeans shoe

size 2

Perla (daughter) 1 yr old size 18-24 months, educational toys

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

Cauthorne Sports Academy, Chris Cauthorne, Owner/ Director of instruction, that clients would increase in their skill set.

The Diocese of Virginia

The people of San Marcos, Alexandria; St. James, Mt. Vernon; St. Mark's, Alexandria; St. Paul's, Hanover; All Souls, Atlee; St. Gabriel's, Leesburg that they would continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Anglican Communion

For the People of the Diocese of Kebbi - (Kaduna, Nigeria) The Most Revd Edmund Akanya that they would continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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