

**From:** St. Francis Episcopal Church vicar@stfrancisva.org  
**Subject:** Doubt and Prayer  
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**August 31, 2016**

## **Doubt and Prayer**

*They said to her,  
"You are out of your mind."  
Acts 12:15*

### ***Praying While Doubting***

The story of Peter's arrest, incarceration, and release from prison is recounted in the readings for Morning Prayer this week. After he was miraculously released from prison by an angel he goes to the house of John Mark where the church is gathered to pray for his release. He knocks on the door since it is locked. The servant, Rhoda, goes to the door, sees him, neglects to let him in and tells the others. The others are the church leaders, apostles, those who know Jesus in the flesh, and other leaders. They tell Rhoda she is crazy and try to go back to praying for Peter's release. G. Campbell Morgan in his commentary on Acts points out that they were praying while they were doubting that the prayer would be answered. Campbell says that really encouraged him. It encourages me, too. The great leaders of the earliest church doubted while praying. The same thing happened at the appearance of Jesus when He gave the great commission (Matthew 28:17). And, as you have probably already

noticed, Peter was released. Their prayer, offered along with doubt, was answered.

### ***What Does That Mean?***

Bottom line--- the grace and provision of God does not depend on the level of my certainty. God's answers to my prayers, no matter how well I pray them, come from His love for me. That is true for the prayers of anyone. You and I are loved by God! God will never let us go. Nothing will ever separate us from the love of God, not even my doubts, incompetent prayers, or other forms of lack in my own life.

### ***What To Do Now?***

Keep praying!

## **Coming Attractions**

***Sunday, September 4, 2016.*** Worship at 10:00am

***Wednesday, September 7, 2016*** Color Me Friends at 6:30pm.  
Contact Carol at [carolsdream@gmail.com](mailto:carolsdream@gmail.com)

***Sunday, September 11, 2016*** Worship with visit of Bishop Shannon Johnston at 10:00am. Pot Luck to follow

***Please bring nonperishable food to worship*** to be distributed through the Food Pantry of the Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services.

Centerville Circle of Prayer

The Virginia ABC store, Adrianna Elizabeth Carpenter, manager, that all customers would be free of addiction and abuse of alcohol.

Diocese of Virginia

For all baptized people in their daily life and work

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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