

From: St. Francis Episcopal Church vicar@stfrancisva.org
Subject: Every Resolve For Good
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To: Mcats2@aol.com



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“Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.”

John Wesley

December 13, 2017

Every Good Resolve

*we always pray for you,
that our God may make you worthy of his calling
and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of
faith by his power.
1 Thessalonians 1:11*

Doina Good Thinas

At first glance this verse from the readings for this morning seems more appropriate for Lent rather than Advent. The idea does not seem to flow with waiting on God and preparing for the coming of Christ which we focus upon in Advent. None-the-less, there is a foundational aspect of our relationship with Jesus expressed in this verse. That is to do everything by his power. Even the good intentions we have towards others are to be done by his power. The wonderful ideas we have to give back to our communities and to help others are all to be done in his power. That is one of the main things making us distinctively Christian. Everything is always by his power. That is the best way to fulfill John Wesley's advice quoted above.

That's Where Advent Comes In

When we have a good idea that would be of help to someone waiting on God for power in whatever way God chooses to provide it is what it is to follow Jesus. When we read of Jesus in the gospels we see a man working completely in the power of the Holy Spirit. That is how we are to live. As Jesus waited on the power of the Holy Spirit to do what he was sent to do, so we are to wait on the power of the Holy Spirit to do what we are sent to do. That can sound like we will not be very busy. It sounds instead like we will be waiting around for Jesus to give us some power. The reality is when you are following Jesus and waiting on him there will be times in our lives when we are busy beyond our wildest dreams. In those times we will find that we are the most like him. Learning to look to him for the power before we get started will bring us into some of the most fruitful times of our lives.

Coming Attractions

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

Theology on Tap at 6:30pm at Keegan's. Contact Richard at richardandhedy@yahoo.com
Caregivers' Support Group 7:00pm at Walker's. Contact Susan at n1placesusan@gmail.com

Sunday, December 17, 2017 Worship at 10:00am with an offering from the Aspire Dance Academy

Christmas Schedule

Saturday, December 23, 2017 at 4:00pm worship for the fourth week of Advent. No music for this service
Sunday, December 24, 2017 at 6:00pm Candlelight communion service

Learning Opportunities in 2018

We will offer one of these courses in starting on January 8 and running for six weeks. The one with the most votes will be offered:

- 1. Why does God seem violent in the Old Testament and peaceful in the New Testament?*** This would be a consideration of this apparent conflict using Cross Vision: How the Crucifixion of Jesus Makes Sense of Old Testament Violence by Gregory Boyd.
- 2. How To Hear The Voice of God.*** This would be a study of the different ways we know that God communicates with us. The book we would use is My Sheep Have Ears by Cathy Livesey. This book uses many of the discipleship dynamics we have been learning together at St. Francis.
- 3. What are some good ways to study and understand the Bible?*** For this

introduction to Bible study we would use *Blue Parakeet: Rethinking How To Read the Bible* by Scott McKnight. The review on Amazon shows what we can gain from this study:

(McKnight challenges us) to rethink how to read the Bible, not just to puzzle it together into some systematic theology but to see it as a Story that we're summoned to enter and to carry forward in our day.

Which one of these is the most appealing to you? Which one would you join and stick with for six weeks? The one that most people choose is the one I will put together for us. Let me know which one you would like to do. vicr@stfrancisva.org

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

Furr Kingdom, that business would increase, and household pets would be healthy

The Diocese of Virginia

For the people of Piedmont, Madison; Creator, Mechanicsville that they would continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Anglican Communion

For the people of the Diocese of the Windward Islands - (West Indies) The Rt Revd Calvert Friday that they would continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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