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April 5, 2017

Fools For Christ

*We are fools for Christ's sake,
but you are wise in Christ.
I Corinthians 4:10*

The Foolishness of the Apostle Paul

This past Saturday, April 1, 2017, marked the fourth full year I have been serving as the Vicar of St. Francis. It has been a great four years!

That fact that this anniversary falls on April Fools' Day is not lost on me. So I have taken another look at I Corinthians 4:10. This verse falls in the middle of a section in which Paul is admonishing the Corinthians to stay true to their foundation. They can be excited by the teaching of other apostles. Paul does not put other apostles down.

Rather, he is strongly encouraging the Corinthians to test what they receive to make sure it keeps them on the foundation they were first given. Paul makes the point that giving this advice is what makes him foolish. No matter how interesting another teacher is never give up the foundation, calling, and first love given by God to the church to which you belong.

My Own Foolishness

I think it is a very good idea to follow the example of Paul in being this foolish. It is very tempting for anyone at any level of responsibility in a local church to be drawn to something that worked somewhere else. Sometimes a new idea can be very enticing. No matter how much better that new idea may seem the most important thing is to be faithful to the calling we have received from Jesus. So, for me, that faithfulness means to be as clear as possible about the calling Jesus has for St. Francis in our community and to lead, encourage, and equip so that this local church can build on that foundation.

How am I doing that? There are two things I look for as signs that we are growing on the foundation of Christ:

1. The congregation leaves on Sunday morning with one or two steps of discipleship for their own lives to begin right away.
2. Most ministries, both pastoral ministries and outreach ministries, originate with members of the congregation.

Anything that does not enhance those two dynamics will take us off of the foundation Jesus on which has placed us. Anything that does enhance those two dynamics will further build the house Jesus is building in our community.

As we go on let's pray for each other that we will grow strong and faithful on the foundation upon which we are placed.

Coming Attractions

Wednesday, April 5, 2017 Color Me Friends at 6:30pm. Contact Carol at carolsdream@gmail.com

Sunday, April 9, 2017 Palm Sunday worship at 10:00am followed by pot luck

Thursday, April 13, 2017 Maunday Thursday service 6:15pm

Friday, April 14, 2017 Good Friday service at 6:15pm

Sunday, April 16, 2017 Easter Service at 10:00am

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

Centerville Circle of Prayer

Virginia ABC store 089, that all customers would be free of addiction and alcohol how abuse.

For all outreach ministries throughout the Diocese of Virginia that each would each would see the presence of Christ in those they serve and would walk together with them to a new level of

wholeness.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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