

From: **St. Francis Episcopal Church** vicar@stfrancisva.org
Subject: How Do We Get Started?
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To: mjweatherford16@gmail.com



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September 4, 2019

Where Do I Start?

... the Gentiles- to whom I am sending you ...
Acts 26:17

The Direction of the Flow

Many people will approach church growth by coming up with ways to attract people into their church. We often think that first we form the church then we try to have people attend. There is nothing wrong with this, of course. It comes from a heart that loves the church. It can, and often does leave out a large number of people for whom the culture, structure, or practices of our church do not communicate the gospel. It makes me wonder if it is better to genuinely relate to people and then form a church which will communicate the gospel to them in ways they can hear it and respond.

How Do We Start?

For those of us who go to church it means that we add a desire to do what God is already doing in the lives of those we know who do not attend church. We do not have to give up finding ways to invite others to church with us. We just need to recognize that when those we invite do not want to attend with us, or do not find our church as inspiring as we do, that it is not the end of the story. There is probably some way that God is at work in their lives. Maybe God wants to let you in on that and invite you to join in. Maybe it means that you find ways to start with where they are with God instead of where we are with God. Ask God to lead you into situations where you can see what is going on spiritually with others and be one who encourages them to come closer to God.

Coming Attractions

Sunday, September 8, 2019 Worship at 10:00am followed by pot luck

Sunday, September 15, 2019 Worship at 10:00am

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.

WE WOULD MAKE SURE IT WAS DELIVERED TO THE FOOD PARTY.

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.

New Policies from our Vestry Committee:

Our Vestry Committee adopted two new policies at its August 13th meeting:

Gifts Acceptance Policy

All Gifts (other than weekly, monthly, annual cash, pledges, or pledge payments) to St. Francis, particularly gifts-in-kind, real estate, and other assets, must be approved by the Vestry/Vestry Committee and receive approval by the Rector/Vicar before being accepted.

Community Outreach/Involvement/Support

We want to encourage and support our members to be involved in other community groups as they desire. We want to be supportive of those community groups and our members' involvement as a way of encouraging our witness as a follower of Jesus in the community. We have adopted this policy to encourage each other to seek the benefit of all in our community:

1. Our members may place posters of their events, etc. for up to one month on one of our boards. If more time is needed it can be negotiated.
2. Our members may bring fundraisers for community organizations to the church which will be announced on our boards only (not the newsletter or bulletin).
3. Our members who wish to place posters or bring community fundraisers must seek the approval of the senior warden or, in the absence of the senior warden, the junior warden.
4. We encourage our members to take part in community activities and to endeavor to follow Jesus as his disciple in these activities as well as every aspect of their lives.

Centerville Circle of Prayer

For Pilot Physical Therapy that many people in our community would have increased health and physical mobility

Diocese of Virginia

For the people of Christ Church Winchester; Grace Church, Goochland; St. Peter's, New Kent; St. Gabriel's, Leesburg; All Souls;

Atlee that they would continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Anglican Communion

For the people of the dioceses of Oqobomos (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Titus Babtunde Olayinka Caledonia (Canada) The Revd David TJ Lehmann Calgary (Canada) The Most Revd Gregory Kerr-Wilson Calgary (Canada) The Rt Revd Sidney Glenn Black that they would continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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