

From: St. Francis Episcopal Church vicar@stfrancisva.org
Subject: Improved Hearing
Date: March 1, 2017 at 12:31 PM
To: Mcats2@aol.com



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March 1, 2017

Improved Hearing

*And your Father who sees in secret
will reward you.
Matthew 6: 4, 6, 20*

Its Lent

Another Lent begins today. Our emphasis at St. Francis this year will not be so much chocolate denying, TV fasting, Facebook dropping, etc. We, of course will not discourage such acts of denial. However, our focus is to be in the position to hear what the Spirit of God speaking to us. We put away all other "noise" so we can hear the sound of that

voice. In other words, we are saying we love God more than the things that keep us from God and we want to act on that love.

Why Hearing?

Catching the voice of God is one of the fundamental practices of following Jesus. Match that with doing what Jesus asks you to do and we have the foundational practices of the Christian Faith. One thing I anticipate we will find during Lent this year is the message God gives us rarely encourages our own preferences. He creates in us new capacities by speaking to us. We need the power of Jesus to do the works Jesus asks us to do. That power and capacity come from hearing His voice. It may not come like a lightning bolt pictured above (thanks Carl Nelson for sharing this photo). It may be a tap on the shoulder, or a "sense" that will not go away, or a dream, etc., etc. Hearing is the point.

Here is what we are going to do on Sundays during Lent to improve our hearing:

Lent 2017 Preaching Topics

March 1, 2017 Ash Wednesday "The Promise of Hearing"

Matthew 4: 6, 18, 21

"Your Father will reward you; Where your treasure is there your heart will be also"

March 5, 2017 Wendy McCaig "God Moments"

Afterwards: Meet Wendy

March 12, 2017 Carol "Creativity"

Afterwards: Coloring Meditation with Carol

March 19, 2017 "Journaling" John 4: 29+39, "He told me everything I have ever done."

Afterwards: Journaling Session with John

March 26, 2017 "How Do I Know I Have Actually Heard From God?"

John 9: 40-41. (My Sheep Have Ears, pages 130-133)

Afterwards: Journaling Session with John- Did I hear God when I was journaling?

April 2, 2017 "Seeing" Ezekiel 37:1-14

Afterwards: Examples of Seeing from our fellowship with John

April 9, 2017 "Dreams" Pilate's Wife Matthew 27:19

Afterwards: Dream Interpretation Session with John (after pot luck)

If you are nearby join us on Sunday mornings at 10:00am.

Coming Attractions

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Worship for Ash Wednesday 6:00pm

Color Me Friends 7:00pm

Sunday, March 5, 2017 Worship at 10:00am Wendy McCaig from Embrace Richmond guest preacher

Wednesday, March 8, 2017 Theology on Tap at Keegan's at 6:30pm

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

Centerville Circle of Prayer

Sun Trust Bank, Manakin Branch, Tammy Zimmer manager, that many families and businesses would strengthen their financial situations as they are being served by this bank.

The Diocese of Virginia

For the people of Grace, Standardsville; Emmanuel, Delaphine; Buck Mountain, Earlysville; Grace, The Plains; All Souls, Atlee; St. Gabriel's, Leesburg.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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*St. Francis Episcopal Church
PO Box 303
Manakin Sabot, VA 23103*

804-784-6116

*vicar@stfrancisva.org
www.strancisva.org*



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