

From: **St. Francis Episcopal Church** vicar@stfrancisva.org  
Subject: Listening  
Date: September 12, 2018 at 9:27 AM  
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# St Francis





September 12, 2018

## Listening

*And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists,  
the shepherds, and the teachers to equip the saints  
for the work of ministry. Ephesians 4:11+12*

### ***The Five Fold Gifts***

One of the lists of gifts in the New Testament is found in Ephesians Chapter Four. One aspect of this passage sets it off from the others. This is a list of the gifts of Christ. The other lists are gifts of the Holy Spirit. What's the difference? The gifts of the Holy Spirit are many to extend the kingdom of God. The gifts of Christ are meant to equip the saints for the work of ministry. Who are the saints? Every Christian. Who has the gifts of Christ? Every person. Who does the work of equipping the saints for the work of ministry? Every Christian. We equip each other for the work of ministry. Each one has a gift of Christ, a base gift. Operating in it, living into it, is one of the main ways we are equipped for the work of ministry. We learn from each other how to do the work the other is gifted to do. That is the basic means of equipping for ministry.

### ***Putting It To Work***

The snag we hit usually is that there is little or no opportunity for each of the five fold gifts to be exercised in most of our church structures. We are very familiar with pastors and teachers. That, however, will leave out the other three gifts- apostles, prophets, and evangelists. I would like, however, to make the opportunity at St. Francis for mutual equipping. In my role as the vicar of St. Francis I would like to hear from each one from the standpoint of your base gift. I hope to do this on the Sundays we have pot luck after worship. One month I would like to sit with everyone whose base gift is pastor. Another month I would like to sit with everyone whose base gift is prophet. And so on until I have heard from each gift. I would like to do this on a rotating basis for as long as this is a workable method.

### ***Why This Method?***

I have an apostolic gifting so I am always looking to start new things and entertain new ideas. I need to hear from those with pastoral gifting about who feels left out in what we are doing. I need to hear from evangelists about who is not connecting to the church in what we are doing. I need to hear from the teachers about who is not catching what we are doing. I need to hear from the prophets about who is not growing in the truth of what we are doing. I need to hear from the other apostles about what they see needs to get started up. There is much more to this but, hopefully, you get the idea. I cannot presume to be able to equip the church for the ministry Jesus wants us to carry out. We can only do this together. I do not hope to raise up a team that has some high functioning members. I want, in the power of the Spirit of God, to raise up a high functioning team.

I have shared this with our vestry committee and our bishop. Both have encouraged me to take this step and see what God does. My hope is that more of our people will be equipped for the work of ministry.

For those readers who worship at St. Francis- if you have not already would you take this survey at [fivefoldsurvey.com](http://fivefoldsurvey.com) and let me know what your base gift is? I hope in October to start meeting with groups at pot luck.

## **Coming Attractions**

### ***Wednesday, September 2, 2018***

6:30pm Theology on Tap at Keegans. Contact Richard at [richardandhedy@yahoo.com](mailto:richardandhedy@yahoo.com)

7:00pm Caregivers' Support Group at Walkers. Contact Susan at [n1placesusan@gmail.com](mailto:n1placesusan@gmail.com)

***Sunday, September 16, 2018*** Worship at 10:00am

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***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.

***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](mailto:lcp@libbyclarkphotography.com).

### ***Centerville Circle of Prayer***

For K9 Cuts, Sue owner, that business would increase and her family would have provision and direction.

### ***Diocese of Virginia***

For the people of St. Paul's, Ivy; St. Paul's (King George) Owen; Trinity, Washington; St. Gabriel's, Leesburg; and 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 Hereford - (Canterbury, England) [The Rt Revd Richard Frith](#); Hereford - Ludlow - (Canterbury, England) [The Rt Revd Alistair James Magowan](#) that they would continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit

Grace and peace,

John Maher

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