

From: **St. Francis Episcopal Church** vicar@stfrancisva.org
Subject: All Together Now
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To: mjweatherford16@gmail.com



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May 15, 2019

All Together Now

I will know that you stand together with the same purpose

*I will know that you stand together with the same purpose
and that you work together like a team to help others believe
the Good News.
Philippians 1:27*

Something Has Changed

A major part of my seminary training and study included this idea: the leader of the congregation is to cast the vision so that the members can join in and support it. I believed that and worked for it for many years. I no longer believe this is the best way to lead a local parish church. If I were to lead St. Francis by casting the vision regularly so that others would buy into it I would miss a great deal of what God is doing in the lives of the members and the surrounding community. I now believe that God gives various visions throughout the fellowship. It is my responsibility to see that the members of the fellowship are equipped to follow the vision God has given to them. I believe that will have a much wider influence for the cause of Christ in the surrounding community.

How Does This Work?

The photo of the orchestra above gives us a good picture of how this works. Each member of the orchestra has a particular "vision." One plays the cello, one the violin, one the tympani, one the viola, one the harp and so on. They all come together with a conductor to produce some very powerful music. The conductor is making sure everyone is able to add their part. The musicians have followed their vision to become masters at their instrument. That is similar to how a local church works. If each of us were to become masters of the gifts and talents God has given us, and pursue the visions he is putting in our hearts there would be some very powerful, merciful ministry going on around our community. My job then becomes making sure everyone can pursue their gifts and visions. It means I learn how to structure our life together so that teams can work together to help others believe the good news.

What is your main gift? Check out [fivefold survey.com](http://fivefoldsurvey.com) if you haven't already.

What is the vision God has put in your heart? Do others share that vision? Spend some time in prayer asking the Spirit of God to reveal more of that to you.

Coming Attractions

Sunday, May 19, 2019 Worship at 10:00am followed by pot luck

Wednesday, May 15, 2019 Theology on Tap at 6:30pm at Capitol Ale House. Contact Richard at richardandhedy@yahoo.com

Sunday, May 26, 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.

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.

Centerville Circle of Prayer

Paramount Builders that business would increase and many would benefit from the construction work done by this company.

The Diocese of Virginia

For the people of St. Stephen's, Richmond; St. James, Leesburg; Trinity, Manassas; 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 Myitkyina (Myanmar) The Rt Revd John Zau Li Myitkyina (Myanmar) The Rt Revd Vacant Zonkwa (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Jacob Kwashi Zululand (Southern Africa) Vacant that they may continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Grace and Peace,

John

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