Subject: The Measure

From: "St. Francis Episcopal Church" < <u>vicar@stfrancisva.org</u>>

Sent: 5/11/2016 5:40:56 AM **To:** lckiddjr@gmail.com

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May 11, 2016

The Measure

Each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Ephesians 4:7

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The Gifts

Ephesians 4:1-16 came up in the readings for Morning Prayer this morning. Paul gives a picture of the church which is meant to apply to the church universally. It includes a list of five gifts: apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher. Many people believe these five gifts are distributed to only a few individuals in the church. Since Paul is writing Ephesians to the whole of Asia Minor he was writing about something that applies to the whole church and not just one situation in one local church (such as with the Corinthians). This list of gifts shows that each Christian receives one of these gifts from Christ. Each Christian is an apostle, a prophet, and evangelist, a pastor, or a teacher and as such is a gift to the church as they exercise the ministry of that gifting.

The Measure

Some stand out in the gifting of Christ they have received. Some seem to have less of an influence but still operate in the gifting they have received. Christ gives a measure of one of the aspects of His ministry (apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, or teacher) to each one. Some have a greater measure than others of a particular gift, but each one has one. It is the five gifts working together which equips all the members of the church for the work of ministry.

Something Different

That is a very different picture of the church than most have. The ministry is actually carried out by the whole church together. We equip each other by embracing and exercising the gift of Christ we have received. The role of the clergy in that picture is to create an encouraging environment in which everyone's gift and minstry can be fully exercised.

Do you have an idea as to what gift you have received from Christ? Do you have a sense of the measure of that gift?

Coming Attractions

Wednesday, November 11, 2016

Vestry Committee 4:00pm

Theology on Tap 6:30pm contact Richard Walker

richardandhedy@yahoo.com

Caregivers' Support Group 7:00pm contact Susan Kidd sokidd@comcast.com

Sunday, May 15, 2016 Worship at 10:00am followed by pot luck

Sunday, May 22, 2016 Worship at 10:00am followed

Sunday, May 29, 2016

Worship at Symphony Manor at 9:00am Contact Bobbie Levines bobbiedrew@yahoo.com

Worship at St; Francis 10:00am

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

Centerville Circle of Prayer

For Dollar General that business would increase, the community would be well served, and the employees would continue to grow.

Diocese of Virginia

For the people of St. James', Richmond; St. Stephen's, Richmond; St. Paul's, Richmond; Grace, Kilmarnock that they would continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Goochland County

For all prisoners, employees of the Department of Corrections, and families of those incarcerated that the grace of God would be poured out on all.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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