

From Father Nik

It's hard to believe, but Fall is almost upon us. Public schools will be starting in just over a week. College campuses have already begun welcoming students into the dorms. And despite the unabated summer heat, the autumnal equinox is less than a month away, promising shorter days, cooler evenings, and crisp mornings. If you can't tell, Fall is my favorite season. And I'm more than ready for it. I'm also ready and excited for us as a church community to gear back up after the Sabbath of Summer. In addition to worship, there will be quite a few ways for us to gather in smaller groups to deepen our fellowship and our faith this Fall.

For the Youth, there's the **Youth Group**. The Youth Group will meet two Sunday evenings a month from 5 to 7pm, starting on Sunday, Sept 11. One of those meetings each month will be held together with the Youth Group of Church of Our Savior, Montpelier. For those Youth who are preparing to be Confirmed when the Bishop visits in December, there will be a **Confirmation Class** held over 12 Sunday evenings this Fall, from 7 to 8pm. This class will also begin on Sunday, Sept 11.

For the adults, there are several possible groups to get involved in. **The Men's Book Group** continues meeting at 7:30am, every other Thursday morning at Ashland Coffee & Tea. On Sept 8, we'll begin our Fall book, *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis. **The Women's Book Group** will also meet on Thursday, Sept 8 (at 10am), reconvening after summer break, to discuss *All the Light We Cannot See*. And, of course, the **Adult Sunday School** will begin meeting again on Sunday, Sept 11 at 9am. Our topic for the Fall will be **Medieval Christianity**.

Finally, in addition to these groups and classes, I'll be offering a new opportunity for exploring our faith with meetings every other Thursday evening beginning on Sept 15. These meetings will begin at 6:30pm with snacks or a small something to eat. At 7pm, we'll transition to instruction and discussion, and be done by 8pm. We'll be covering the basic foundation of our faith, but taking our time to go deep. Each "term" will cover one of the following topics: Covenant & the Ten Commandments, The Lord's Prayer & Common Prayer, Creed & Sacraments, Anglican Tradition & the Episcopal Church. Tentatively, I'm calling this **The Way of Discipleship**.



Parish Retreat at Shrine Mont

Together with Church of Our Savior, Montpelier – Sept 16 to 18.

SIGN-UP NOW!

\$150 per person for a double occupancy room.

\$190 per person for a single occupancy room.

(The cost covers two nights & six meals).

Please confirm with Fr Nik no later than Friday, Sept 2.

Lemonade on the Lawn

Volunteers needed!

Adult Sunday School

Will begin meeting again at 9am on Sunday, Sept 11.

The Topic this Fall is *Medieval Christianity*.

Godly Play

will resume on Sunday, Sept 11.

Youth Group

will meet for the first time this Fall at 5pm on Sunday, Sept 11.

Our theme is “Mere Christianity.”

CONFIRMATION CLASS

will meet 12 Sundays this Fall

in preparation for the Bishop’s visit on December 18.

The first meeting is at 7pm (after Youth Group) on Sunday, Sept 11.

The Way of Discipleship

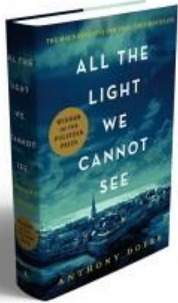
A class for adults will meet on Thursdays at 6:30pm every other week this Fall, beginning on September 15.

SUMMER READING

The Women's Small Group

The Women's Group is reading *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr.

This novel won the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction & Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction. A #1 *New York Times* Bestseller, the *New York Times Book Review* had this to say about it:



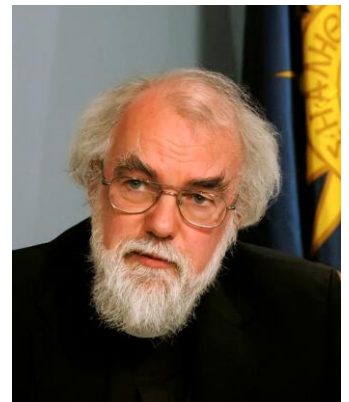
“Tackling questions of survival, endurance and moral obligations during wartime, this book is as precise and artful and ingenious as the puzzle boxes the heroine’s locksmith father builds for her. Impressively, it is also a vastly entertaining feat of storytelling.”

Next Meeting: Thursday, Sept 8 at 10am

The Men's Small Group

Beginning in July, the Men's Small Group will be reading *Being Christian* by Rowan Williams, The 104th Archbishop of Canterbury.

“What are the essential elements of the Christian life? I am not thinking in terms of individuals leading wonderful lives, but just in terms of those simple and recognizable things that make you realize that you are part of a Christian community. This little book is designed to help you think about four of the most obvious of these things: baptism, Bible, Eucharist and prayer. . . . In this book we shall be looking at what those activities tell us about the essence of Christian life, and what kind of people we might hope to become in a community where these things are done.”



-from the Introduction

July 7 – Finish Discussing Bonhoeffer’s *Discipleship*

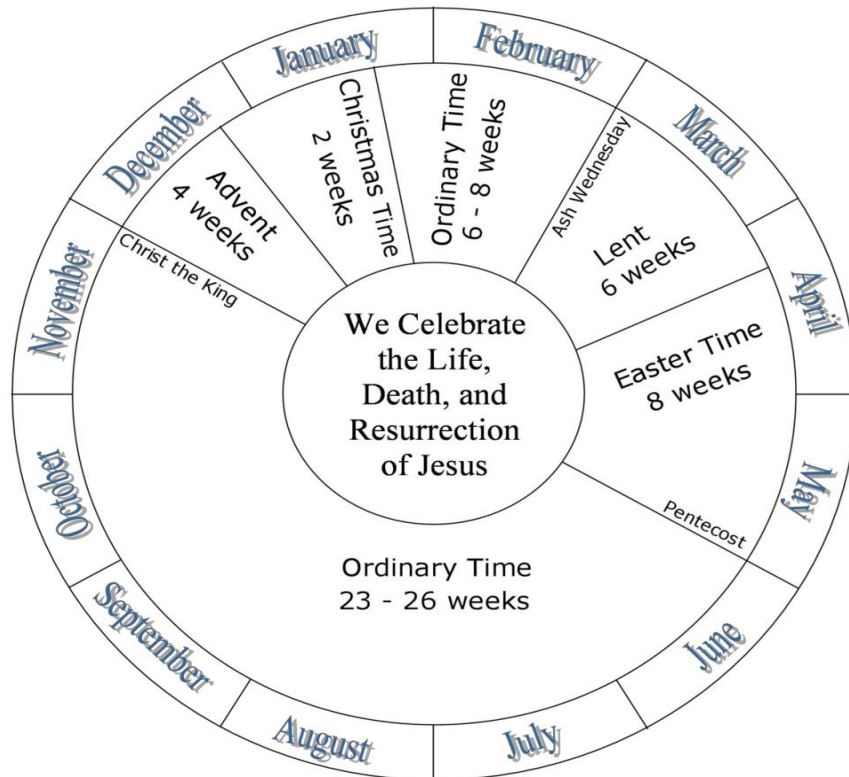
July 21 – *Being Christian*, Chapter 1, “Baptism,” pp 1-19

August 4 – *Being Christian*, Chapter 2, “Bible,” pp 21-40

August 18 – *Being Christian*, Chapter 3 “Eucharist,” pp 41-60

September 1 – *Being Christian*, Chapter 4, “Prayer,” pp 61-82

The Liturgical Year



Nik's Calendar

Monday, Aug 29 – Coffee with the Rev'd Dr Ed Bushong, 10:30am - 12:30pm
Thursday, Sept 8 – RMC Campus Ministries Council, 11:45am
Monday, Sept 12 – RMC Activities Fair

Looking Ahead

Thursday, Sept 1 – Men's Book Group, 7:30-8:30am
Thursday, Sept 8 – Men's Book Group, 7:30am-8:30am
– Woman's Book Group, 10:30am-noon
Sunday, Sept 11 – Adult Sunday School, 9-9:45am
– Youth Group, 5-7pm
– Confirmation Class, 7-8pm
Thursday, Sept 15 – The Way of Discipleship Small Group, 6:30pm
Friday-Sunday, Sept 16-18 – Parish Retreat, Shrine Mont

Office hours: Jacquie Alleva, our office administrator, is in the office on Tuesdays (11am-3pm), Wednesdays (11am-3pm), and Thursdays (1pm-5pm).

If you would like to submit an announcement, please do so by 1pm on Thursday.