

³⁸ Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village; and a woman named Martha received him into her house. ³⁹ And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted with much serving; and she went to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; ⁴² one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her."

–Luke 10:38-42

There's always so much to do at church. Altar Guild, Flower Guild, serving as an acolyte, opera practice, singing in the choir, lectionary reading, Eucharistic ministering, greeting, leading the prayers of the people, volunteering for coffee hour/lemonade on the lawn, teaching Godly Play Sunday School, making dinner for fellow parishioners who are struggling through a hard time, chopping and delivering for the wood ministry, serving on the vestry, Youth Group, pledging, helping in outreach ministries like CARITAS, Teller duties, opera directing and production, etc., etc., etc. There's always so much to do for church.

There's a lot to do at the church, for the church, and with the church. And it's all very good stuff that we do. Indeed, I don't think I say, "Thank You" enough. So, first, let me say, "**THANK YOU**" to everyone involved in the many important things we do here at Fork Church. This church, this community, relies on your generosity and hard work. No "thank you" or note or announcement will ever express the deep gratitude that I and your fellow parishioners have for all that you have done. But please do know that we are profoundly grateful for everything you do and for who you are.

That said, we must remain aware of the danger here. This is the danger of thinking that Church is about all of the stuff we do. Given that we do so much at church and for church, it makes sense that we might feel that Church is all about the stuff that we do. But Church is first and foremost about what God has done for us in Christ Jesus. It is about how God has loved us so much that he sent his only Son to embody his grace for us, to save us from burning ourselves out trying to do all the stuff we feel we're supposed to do to earn his love and a place at his table. Although your hard work is greatly appreciated, you do not need to *do to be* the Church. *One thing is needful*, to hear the word of God's love for you; to know there's nothing you need to do to earn it and nothing you can do to lose it; and to receive it in the sacraments. That is Church.

Nik+

Godly Play for the Summer

We'll be telling stories from the Old & New Testament which have to do with water.

- June 26 – God created water
- July 3 – No class
- July 10 – Noah and the Ark.
- July 17 – Our own baptism.
- July 24 – Moses and the parting of the Red Sea,
- July 31– Jonah and the Whale
- Aug 7 – Jesus' baptism,
- Aug. 14 – Jesus calling the disciples at the Sea of Galilee,
- Aug. 21 – Jesus' resurrection appearance at the Sea of Galilee.
- Aug 28 – No class
- Sept 3 – No class

We'll be making pretzels & communion bread, painting t-shirts, making books, and having a wonderful time.

Lemonade on the Lawn

Thanks to the Droppleman family for this morning's refreshments!

West Hanover Band

MUSIC JAM

In the Parish Hall at 2pm on Saturday, August 6.

Bring your instrument, your voice, or your dancing shoes
and come enjoy some good ol' Country, Bluegrass, & Gospel Music!



Parish Retreat at Shrine Mont

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

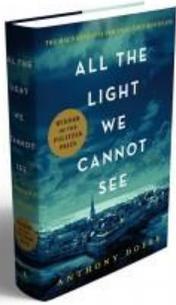
Please contact Fr Nik if you're interested in going.

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:

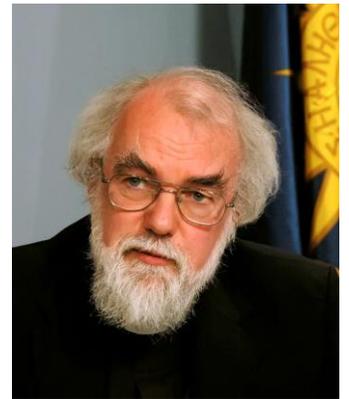


“Tackling questions of survival, endurance and moral obligations during wartime, this book is as precise and artful and ingenious as the puzzle boxes the heroine’s locksmith father builds for her. Impressively, it is also a vastly entertaining feat of storytelling.”

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*

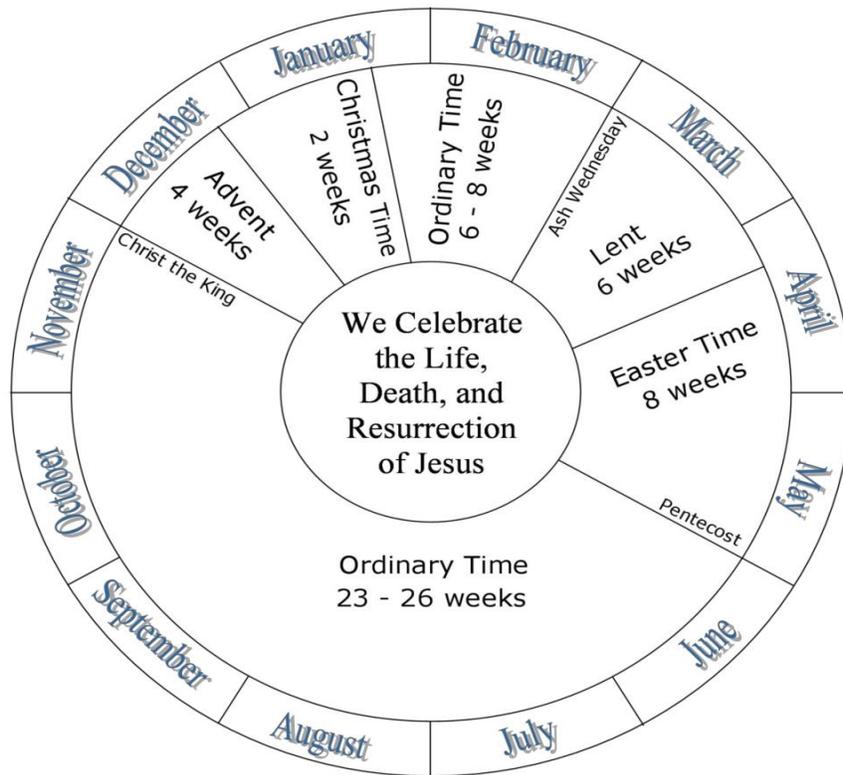
July 21 – *Being Christian*, Chapter 1, “Baptism,” pp 1-19

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

Thursday, July 21 – Meeting with Fr Phil & Fr Ben, 9:30-10:30am

Tuesday, July 26 – Coffee with the Rev'd Dr Ed Bushong, 10:30am-12:30pm

Friday, July 29 – Young Rectors Group, Culpeper, 10am-noon

Looking Ahead

Thursday, Aug 4 – Men's Book Group, 7:30-8:30am

Saturday, Aug 6 – West Hanover Band Music Jam, Parish Hall, 2pm

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.