

From Father Nik

And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee, and a report concerning him went out through all the surrounding country. And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

~Luke 4:14-15

Luke's Gospel is especially concerned with the Holy Spirit and the relationship between the Holy Spirit and Christ. For example, Luke alone mentions that Jesus returned to Galilee from his testing in the wilderness *in the power of the Spirit*. These words echo the many other mentions of the Holy Spirit within just the first three chapters of Luke's Gospel. Specifically, they remind us that *the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus in bodily form, as a dove*, following his baptism (3:21-22), and that Jesus was *full of the Holy Spirit* when *led by the Holy Spirit* into the wilderness to be tempted (4:1). And here at the beginning of his ministry, Luke's Gospel tells us that Jesus' life and work will be characterized by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

Luke doesn't just tell us this is so. In the very next scene, Jesus proclaims the same. In Luke's description, Jesus' ministry primarily takes the form of teaching in the synagogues—that is, the assemblies of the men in the towns, villages, and hamlets of the Galilee. Luke provides an example from Jesus' hometown of Nazareth. There, in the assembly, Jesus recites the words of the prophet, Isaiah: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me” (4:16-18). This scene and the overall focus on the Spirit suggest to many that Jesus' ministry is best understood as prophetic in Luke's Gospel. There is certainly a profoundly prophetic element; however, Jesus recites the prophecy and then comments on it, like a teacher (*rabbi* in Hebrew) or philosopher. More than that, Jesus' commentary is that the prophecy is fulfilled in his person and work, which suggests divine kingship. Jesus, in other words, is the king about whom prophecy portends; therefore, he is the one who can rightly teach the meaning of the prophecy. Because he comes in the power of the Spirit, as a teacher of wisdom, Luke's portrayal of Jesus is as a Prophetic King—or, to borrow Plato's phrase, a Philosopher King.

Finally, the description of the beginning of Jesus' ministry as being *in the power of the Spirit* harken back to the angel Gabriel's annunciation to the Virgin Mary. There she is told that she shall conceive because *the Holy Spirit will come over her and the power of the Most High will overshadow her* (1:35). By the power of the Holy Spirit, a new creation, in the words of St Paul (2 Cor 5:17), was conceived and born. By the power of the Holy Spirit, that new creation is being conceived and brought into the world through Jesus' presence and ministry, his person and work (Rom 8:22-23).

Coffee Hour

Thanks to Eleanor Campbell & Delores Schubert
for this mornings refreshments!

Easter Church Flowers

Order in \$15 increments. Please, indicate your memorials/honors.

Order forms are in narthex of the church.

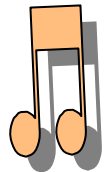
Send checks to Emily Dickson, payable to: Fork Church Flower Guild.

The deadline is 3/19.

Also, please bring garden flowers for the Cross early on Easter morning.

Choir Rehearsal

In preparation for Holy Week and Easter Sunday
The choir will be rehearsing every Wednesday at 7pm



Holy Week & Easter

March 20th – Palm Sunday, 10am Eucharist

Triduum

March 24th – Maundy Thursday, 7pm Agape Meal

March 25th – Good Friday, 7pm Liturgy

March 26th – Holy Saturday, 10am Liturgy

Easter

March 26th – Easter Vigil, 7:45pm Eucharist

March 27th – Easter Sunday, 10am Eucharist

Please keep the following in your prayers

Susan Melton, Linda Fore, Laura Hamill, Henry Vaughn, Cierra Ryan,
Marie Alexander, Susan Russo, Phyllis Bagby, Beryl Choi, Mary Franklin
Fulghum *and* James Palmer, Katherine Cauthorne, Barbara Oates,
Lucy Oliver, Virginia Turner, Carter Flippo *and* Glenn Schleede

Christian Education

Godly Play Children are invited to hear the Word in a fun, learning environment in the Parish House during the first half of our Sunday morning worship; after which, they join their parents in church for Communion.

J2A Youth Group will meet on Sunday, March 13 at 5pm. Please bring \$5 for pizza.

The Adult Sunday School meets Sunday mornings at 9am in the parish hall to study the Gospel according to Luke.

Small Groups

The Women's Book Group will meet next on Thursday, March 17, at 10am to discuss the first part of Chapter 6 (pp 90-115) of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Discipleship* (Reader's Edition – Fortress Press). Please contact Kathy for directions: boysthree@embarqmail.com

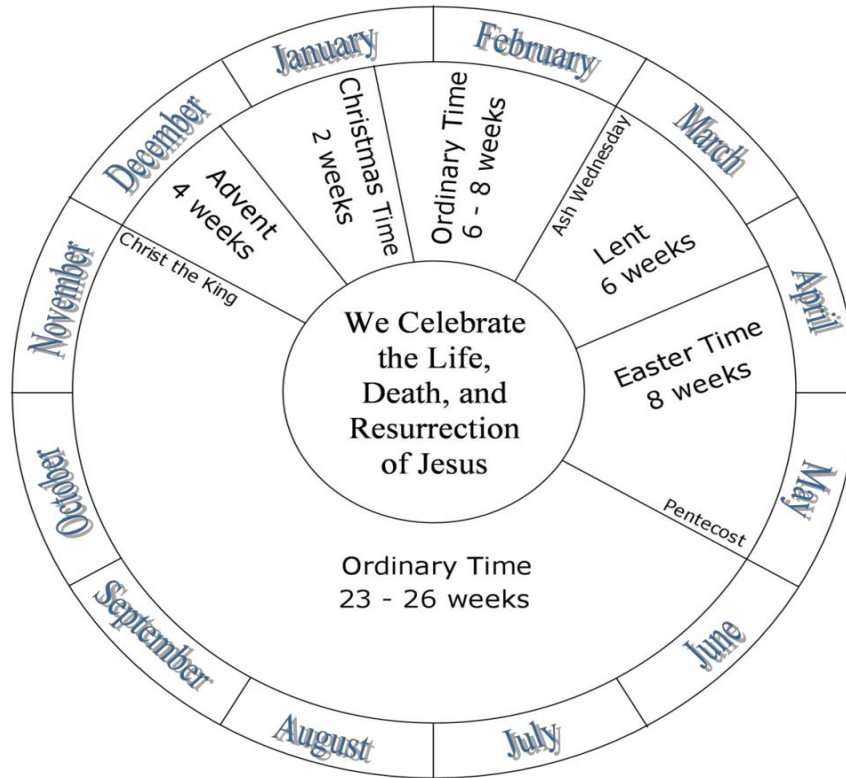
The Men's Book Group will meet Thursday, March 17, at 7:30am at Ashland Coffee & Tea to discuss the first part of Chapter 6 (pp 90-115) of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Discipleship* (Reader's Edition – Fortress Press).

Christian Formation

If you have never been Baptized or Confirmed, and are interested in receiving these sacraments, please contact Fr Nik – KnicholasForti@gmail.com

**These classes are also for those considering
Reaffirming their Baptismal Covenant.**

The Liturgical Year



Nik's Calendar

- Saturday, Mar 5 – Diocesan Annual Council Meeting, 10am-4pm
- Sunday, Mar 6 – Lay Eucharist Minister Training, 11:30am
- Monday, Mar 7 – Coffee with the Rev'd Dr Ed Bushong, 10:30am-12:30pm
– Peter Paul Development Center Chapel, 5:30-6:30pm
- Tuesday, Mar 8 – Fork Opera Planning Meeting
- Wednesday, Mar 9 – RMC Episcopal-Methodist Campus Ministry, 9:30pm

Looking Ahead

- Wednesday, Mar 9 – Choir Rehearsal, 7pm
- Sunday, Mar 13 – Youth Group, 5pm
- Tuesday, Mar 15 – Vestry Meeting, 7pm
- Wednesday, Mar 16 – Choir Rehearsal, 7pm
- Thursday, Mar 17 – Men's Book Group, 7:30-8:30am
– Women's Book Group, 10am-noon
- Sunday, Mar 20 – Palm Sunday Eucharist, 10am

Office hours: Jacquie Alleva, our office administrator, works Tuesday & Wednesday mornings and Thursday afternoons. If you would like to submit an announcement, please do so by noon on Thursday.