

From Father Nik

This election cycle, which has seemed particularly factious and grueling for our nation, is finally over. We're also coming up on the conclusion of the Church's liturgical year and, therefore, the end of our sermon series on the Gospel according to Luke. I hope that has not been as arduous as the election cycle. However, even as we set Luke's gospel aside for other books of the Bible, we know that it will return in a few years, just as surely as we will be entering a new election cycle in the same amount of time. Because our country, as a democracy, makes such a big deal out of voting, it's tempting to think that now that the voting is over, we can put away politics for another few years. But just as Luke's gospel does not exhaust the scriptural witness, so voting does not exhaust a citizen's political responsibility.

The theologian and Christian ethicist, Stanley Hauerwas reminds us that "voting is not an end in itself." He goes on to explain that voting "is a means to force conversation between people, that otherwise would not happen, for the discovery of goods you have in common, through conflict." In a democracy, voting does not end the conversation, it begins the conversation. Voting is a way of being in conflict short of violence, and that conflict is the basis for the conversation that is only just beginning about our common goods. Whoever we voted for, however we feel about this election, we should resist the temptation to put politics away until the next election cycle. Now is the time for the real political work of civil & respectful, even if conflictual, conversation for sake of discovering our common goods & how best to achieve them.

That said, it's also important for us to remember that—whether we are happy, unhappy, or have mixed feelings about the results of the election—as Christians, our faith and hope are not ultimately in a political party or America or democracy. As Christians, our hope and faith are in a king and a kingdom. It seems fitting to me that our Election Day always falls between the Feast of All Saints, in which we remember many who were martyred because they placed their allegiance to Christ over their allegiance to the ruling powers of their day, and Christ the King Sunday, which always falls just before Thanksgiving. It's during this time that the gospel readings turn our attention toward the Kingdom of God and the earliest Christian proclamation, *Jesus is Lord*. "After all," Hauerwas reminds us, "we did not elect Jesus. He elected us."

November Schedule

Lay Eucharistic Ministers

11/20 – Rob Stiles

11/24 – Jeannette Harrison

11/27 – Tony Droppleman

Acolyte Schedule

11/20 – Edi Turner

11/24 – TBD

11/27 – Cate Woods, Campbell Woods

Lectors

11/20 – Mike Miles, Amy Newell, Jim Smythe

11/24 – Mazie Florance, Howard Anderson, Howard Anderson

11/27 – Holland Droppleman, Jim Smythe, Mazie Florance

Greeter Schedule

11/20 – Jeannette Harrison

11/24 – Howard Anderson

11/27 – Mike Miles

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Stewardship

Thank you for giving of your time, talent, and treasure!
Please return your Pledge Cards at your earliest convenience.

Reception for Emily & Paul

On Sunday, Nov 20, there will be a reception for Emily Dickson & Paul Jalbert in the parish hall to celebrate their wedding.

If you can provide a dish please contact Boo Smythe or Ann Neri:

Boo - 804-357-3319; Ann - 540-455-3076

Advent Wreaths

On Sunday, Nov 27, in the parish hall, we'll be making Advent wreaths. Supplies will need to be ordered. If you're interested in making a wreath, please let Boo know ASAP.

The cost will be \$10 -\$12.00

The Fork Church Meal Train

Thanks to those who've already joined. We're hoping for more passengers. We still have empty seats. The meal train is being organized to provide meals for those in need in our congregation. It's easy to help. All we need is your email address, and you'll be sent a link where you can pick an available date on the calendar to sign up. To sign up or to notify of someone in need please send Debbie Murphy an email at: murphydeb@embarqmail.com or sign up on the sheet in the narthex.

Christain Education

Godly Play – Children are invited to hear the Word in a fun, learning environment in the Parish House during the first half of worship. The autumn curriculum is based on the book, *Jotham's Journey* by Arnold Ytreeide.

The Youth Group will meet in the parish hall, today, Sunday, November 20, from 5-7:00pm.

The Sunday School meets every Sunday morning at 9am in the Parish Hall. This autumn we're exploring **Medieval Christianity**.



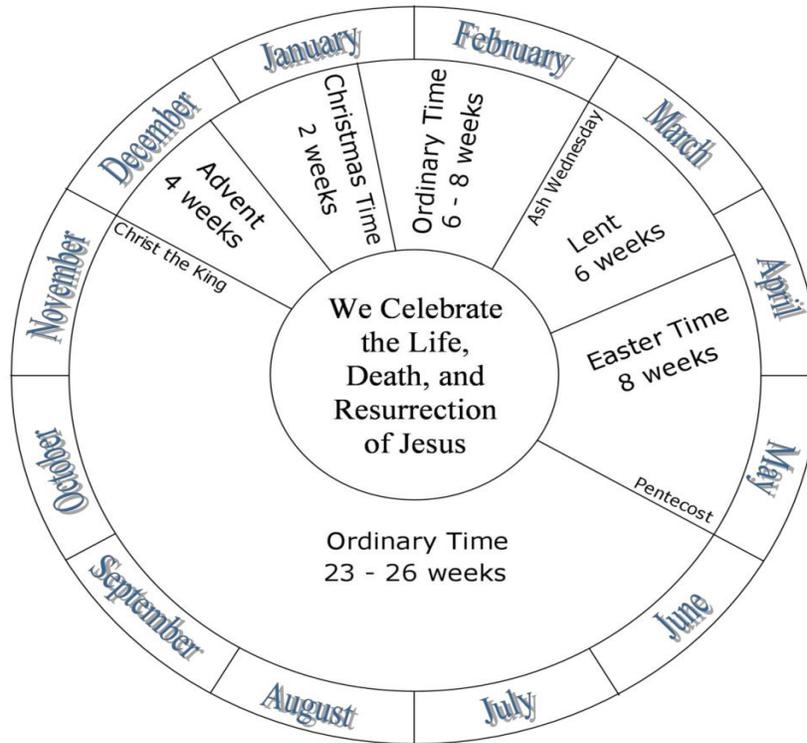
Small Groups

The Women's Book Group will meet at 10am on Thursday, November 17 to discuss Book 2 of their book, *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis.

The Men's Book Group will meet at 7:30am Thursday, November 17, at Ashland Coffee & Tea to discuss Book 4, Chapters 1-3 of *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis.



The Liturgical Year



Nik's Calendar

- Monday, Nov 14 – Coffee with the Rev'd Dr Ed Bushong, 10:30am - 12:30pm
– RMC Campus Ministry, 8pm
- Tuesday, Nov 15 – On-line meeting with Fr Phil and Fr Ben, 9:30-11am
- Thursday, Nov 17 – RMC Campus Ministry, 12pm
- Monday, Nov 21 – Coffee with the Rev'd Dr Ed Bushong, 10:30am - 12:30pm
– RMC Campus Ministry, 8pm

Looking Ahead

- Sunday, Nov 13 – Confirmation Class, 7pm
- Monday, Nov 14 – GS Troop 429, 6:30-8pm
- Thursday, Nov 17 – Men's Book Group, 7:30-8:30am
– Woman's Book Group, 10am-noon
- Thursday, Nov 17 – Way of Discipleship, Small Group, 6:30-8pm
- Sunday, Nov 20 – Confirmation Class, 7pm
- Tuesday, Nov 22 – Choir Rehearsal, 7pm
- Thursday, Nov 24 – Thanksgiving Day Eucharist, 10am
- Monday, Nov 28 – GS Troop 429, 6:30-8pm