

The Way of Discipleship

This past Thursday, a new small group began meeting here at Fork Church. Our next meeting will be Sept 29, and we'll meet every other Thursday evening from now until Dec 22. At each meeting, we'll gather at 6:30pm for snacks and fellowship. At 7pm we'll open with prayer followed by instruction and then group discussion, concluding by 8pm. This Fall, The Way of Discipleship Small Group is exploring The Covenant and The Ten Commandments. There's still time to join us!

We're calling this group the Way of Discipleship for two reasons. First, those who have been redeemed by Christ and called to follow him have traditionally been known as his *disciples*. The word "disciple" comes from the Latin for "student." If we're tempted to think of school books, desks, and classrooms, a slightly better translation might be "apprentice." A disciple is one who takes on the discipline of a teacher or master. As Jesus said, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matt 11:29). This implies both a relationship with Christ (Covenant) and assuming his discipline (Commandments).

It's also a Way, in the sense of a journey or a pilgrimage. Jesus' disciples were originally called "The Way" before gaining the name, Christians. This suggests that the Christian faith isn't just an event (like a conversion) or even a set of beliefs but a whole way of life. It's a journey. However, the metaphor of a journey can be misleading if we think only in terms of progress. In a real sense, the Christian faith and life is a return from the far country to which we've wandered, back to our true home, back to the promised land, back to our baptism. When we were baptized, we were immersed in the Spirit of Christ and made members of the body of him who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He is our Way, and our journey is getting back to him by getting back to our baptism. That's why this Way of Discipleship will be focused, each season, on getting back to the basics—the Covenant & Commandments, the Creeds, the Lord's Prayer & Common Prayer, and Church History & the Anglican Tradition.

Coffee Hour

Thanks to the Miles family for this morning's refreshments!
Mazie Florance has next week.

Confirmation Class

Is meeting is at 7pm this Sunday, Sept 18.

Important Upcoming Events

Sunday Afternoon, Oct 2 — St Francis Day Bless of the Animals
Sunday Evening, Oct 30 — All Hallows' Eve Prayer & Party
Tuesday Evening, Nov 1 — Installation of Fr Nik as Rector

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Acolyte Schedule

Sept 18 – Cate Woods & Campbell Woods
Sept 25 – Ethan Stiles & Edi Turner

Readers/Lectors

Sept 18 – Mike Miles & Michael Woods; PoP – Jim Smythe
Sept 25 – Rick Alderman & Lindsey Smythe; PoP – Mazie Florance

Lay Eucharistic Ministers

Sept 18 – Tony Droppleman
Sept 25 – Paul Newell

Christian Education

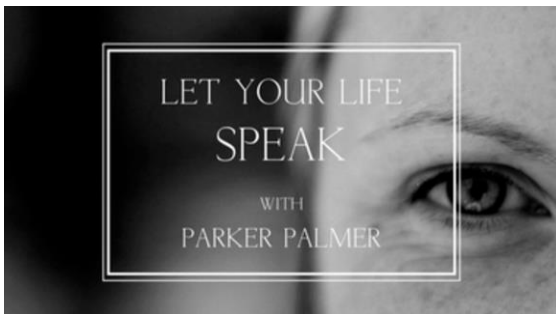
Godly Play – Children are invited to hear the Word in a fun, learning environment in the Parish House during the first half of worship. The autumn curriculum is based on the book, *Jotham's Journey* by Arnold Ytreeide.

The Youth Group will meet **Sunday, October 2, from 6-7:30pm** at the Church of Our Savior, Montpelier.

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



Small Groups

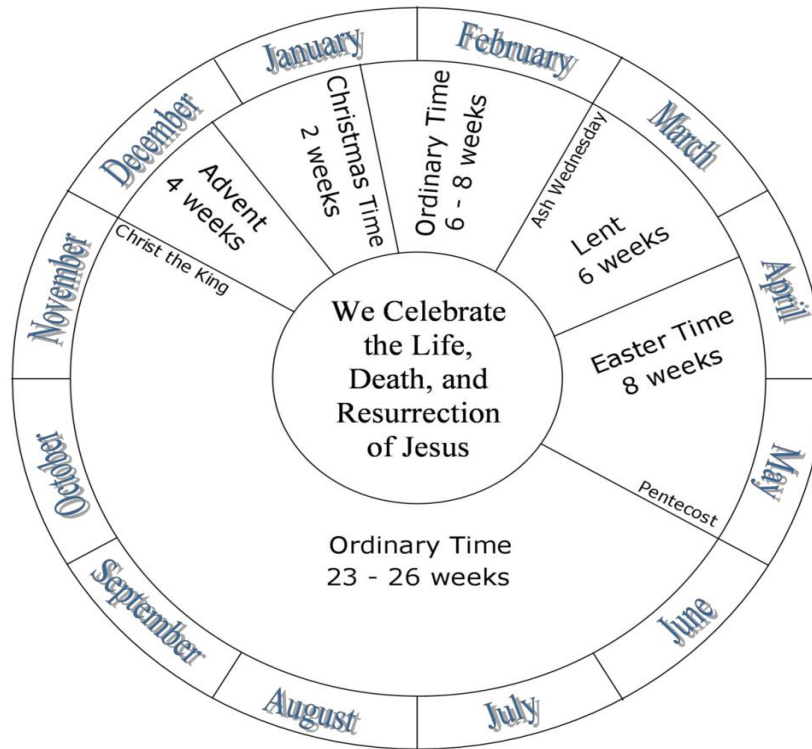


The Women's Book Group will meet at 10am on Thursday, September 22 to discuss Chapters 1 & 2 of their next book, *Let Your Life Speak: Listening to the Voice of Vocation* by Parker Palmer.

The Men's Book Group will meet at 7:30am Thursday, September 22 at Ashland Coffee & Tea to discuss Chapters 3-5 of *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis.



The Liturgical Year



Nik's Calendar

- Monday, Sept 19 – Coffee with the Rev'd Dr Ed Bushong, 10:30am - 12:30pm
– Peter Paul Development Center Chapel, 5-6:15pm
– RMC Campus Ministry, 9pm
- Friday, Sept 23 – Young Rectors Group, 10am
- Monday, Sept 26 – Coffee with the Rev'd Dr Ed Bushong, 10:30am - 12:30pm
– Peter Paul Development Center Chapel, 5-6:15pm
– RMC Campus Ministry, 9pm

Looking Ahead

- Tuesday, Sept 20 – Vestry Meeting, 7pm
- Thursday, Sept 22 – Men's Book Group, 7:30-8:30am
– Woman's Book Group, 10am
- Monday, Sept 26 – Girl Scout Troop 429 Meeting, 6:30-8pm
- Tuesday, Sept 27 – Choir Rehearsal, 7pm
- Thursday, Sept 29 – The Way of Discipleship Small Group, 6:30pm
- Sunday, Oct 2 – Blessing of the Animals, 4pm
– Youth Group, Church of Our Savior, 6-7:30pm