

From the Partlow's

Your search committee has been working hard. And things are moving right along. So it now seems appropriate to begin to turn toward thoughts on “How do you get to know the new priest when she/he arrives?”

Remember that your new priest will be confronted with all of you at once! You know each other and you will certainly recognize your new priest. But s/he will be overwhelmed with names and information that first Sunday. One thing we can assure you is that the new priest will have no super human powers of discernment. Getting to know all of you will take time. We have been with Fork Church for 6 months. Some people we know quite well and some we are still not sure of your names.

Our recommendations as you welcome your new priest:

- Be regular in worship
- Wear a name tag
- Introduce yourself several times
- Try to arrange a meal together with your new priest. Any meal, breakfast, lunch or dinner will work. As clergy new to a parish, we have found this is one of the most helpful ways to get to know people.
- Schedule a visit during office hours.
- Another recommendation let your priest get to know the congregation, its traditions, its habits before advocating for any changes – particularly one you desire. Give your new priest time to observe, listen and be with you for a while.

In a word, practice hospitality and welcome. It will be greatly appreciated.

Faithfully

Bob and Ruth

A Special Thanks to all who helped with the yesterday!!

Parish Meeting, Sunday July 13

Please stay for parish meeting following the service today. We will be discussing the timber sale. As elected Stewards of Fork Church's resources and heritage, the Vestry has unanimously voted to conduct a selected cut of the timber the woods to the rear of the church. A generous border will be maintained to protect our neighbors. This will result in a renewable financial resource for the generations that follow us. This action is expected to result in an income of up to \$50,000.00 to the parish. The Vestry proposes not using this income for the current annual budget. They would set it aside in a special fund that would support what they and the new rector conclude would best support their shared vision for the future. It could include such things as outreach, youth ministry including camps, music, or education. What a great way to welcome a new Rector!

Lemonade on the Lawn

We still need volunteers for lemonade and snacks this summer. It is a great way to have summertime fellowship after the Sunday service. You are not limited to lemonade and cookies! We could have ice cream, flavored frozen ice. You might even want to include a gluten free product in your selection. You are only limited by your imagination and what the kids will enjoy please contact Mac Chenault by calling him at or emailing him at mchenault@chenaultlawoffices.com or 804-537-4003.

Are you a member of Fork Church?

Ruth is reviewing our membership records. They are in a bit of disarray. So don't be surprised if you get a call checking on your status. We're trying to get things up to date before the new Rector arrives.

You are a member if your baptism (in any church) is recorded in our Parish Register. To be a member in good standing, your baptism must be recorded in the Parish Register, you attend worship at least three times a year and support the parish financially as you are able.

Confirmation/Reception is a separate designation and is required for serving on the Vestry and being a representative to diocesan council. For young people and adults, confirmation/reception is an opportunity to affirm before the bishop and the parish community the promises made at baptism.

Diocesan Information.

In our time in this Diocese we have found it to be a source of great resources. Visit news@thediocese.net to find out what you are missing. There is a place to sign up if you'd like to keep up to date on opportunities in the Diocese of Virginia.

Looking Ahead

Sunday, July 13 Parish meeting after 10 AM service

Sunday, August 10 Jason Davis at Fork Church
Jason, a 2014 graduate of VCU, will be with us to share his experiences in the Young Priest Initiative of the Diocese of Virginia and the work he will be doing in the coming year at the mission to Seafarers in Hong Kong under the auspices of the Young Adult Service Corps of the Episcopal Church.

This is an opportunity for our young people to meet and talk with someone who has remained active in the church throughout his high school and college years. We hope you will encourage them to be present August 10.