

From Father Nik

“The LORD God will give your son the throne of his ancestor David,” the angel promised Mary, “and of his kingdom there will be no end.” How strange these words must have sounded to that poor, peasant girl from Nazareth!—a strangeness that has come down through the centuries to us today. If kings wear crowns of gold and robes of purple and reside in palaces, then how can this homeless baby, wrapped in swaddling clothes & lying in a manger from which beasts of burden feed, be the one of whom angels sing? If kings remain apart from & above their people, ruling with power and commanding armies, then how can this undefended child, entertaining smelly shepherds & sketchy, foreign strangers as he lay in his mother’s loving arms, be the one for whom knees shall bend & to whom lives shall be pledged?

The nativity of this baby in Bethlehem is not an auspicious start for a king. And things only get worse from there. In his nativity, the pattern of his whole life is revealed. This infant will not one day escape the homespun bands of cloth in which he’s bound to take on the gold crown and purple robes of royalty. He will not exchange the manger of his natal sleep for a throne & palace. He will not raise an army to secure a position of power or even safeguard his own life. He will turn none away, nor despise the lowliest, for he will count himself among the least of these. This child, whom the prophets foretold & the angels acclaim king of the world, is not & will never be a king in the ways that the world knows. Rather, he reveals to the world what a true king by being a servant of all.

So, if you wish to know your king, then do not look for him in palaces and mansions. Look for him among those for whom the world has no room. Don’t look for him among the wealthy and powerful like the Caesar Augustus or King Herod but among the poor & disenfranchised like the shepherds in the hill-country around Bethlehem. Don’t look for him at the head of an army but among the wounded, those who mourn, and those who seek peace (Matt 5). If you wish to know him, then you must receive him as he come to us—not in the crown and robes of royalty—but as the least of these, in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. As our great Prophet, he gives us the gift of hope. As our high Priest, he gives us the gift of love. And as our everlasting King, he gives us the gift of faith. Come, let us adore him!

Nik+

Merry Christmas!

Fork Cookbook

Buy yours today from any cookbook committee member.

Look What's Cookin' – 2015 Stewardship

The 2015 Stewardship Letter & Pledge Card have been mailed.

If you have any questions or need a Pledge Card, please contact Scott Smythe (scott@virginiaberryfarm.com).

Outreach Dinner

The next Outreach Dinner will be 5pm, Sunday, Dec 28 at SJtL.

Menu: Beef stew, Green Beans, Biscuits, Salad & Pie

Youth Dinner

The Youth are invited to gather for dinner in the Parish House

On Sunday, Jan 11 at 5pm

Our recently confirmed youth are especially encouraged to attend.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Fork Church Annual Meeting will be Sunday, Jan 25, 2015

Help a Friend Get To Church

Please consider occasionally driving a fellow parishioner to church.

If you are interested in volunteering for this ministry, contact John Rickman – annerickman@embarqmail.com

The Rev'd Bob Partlow

Ruth has created a Caring Bridge Profile for Bob to keep friends and family informed of how his treatment is coming. If you are interested in keeping up with the Partlows and letting them know that they are in your thoughts and prayers, you can go to www.caringbridge.org and search for "Bob Partlow."

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 worship, then join their parents for Communion.

J2A Youth Group meets twice a month for fun, fellowship, food, & formation. **The next meeting is Sunday, January 11 @ 5pm in the parish house.**

Adult Forum meets Sunday mornings at 9am. **On Sunday, Jan 4, we will begin a seven week study of The Reformation.** Come join us for coffee and good conversation.

Small Groups

The Women's Book Group meets every other Thursday at Kathy Thomas' house from 10am-noon. Please contact Kathy for directions or more info: boysthree@embarqmail.com

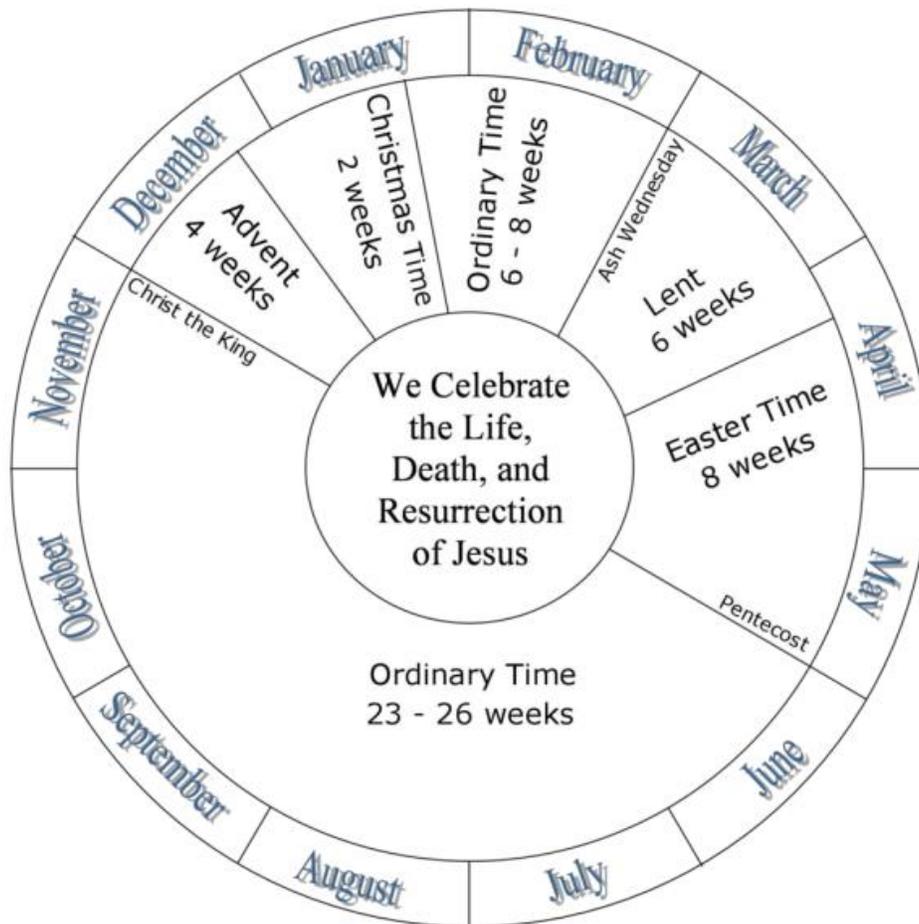
The Men's Book Group will meet Thursday, January 8, 2015 at 7:30am at Ashland Coffee & Tea. They are reading *Resident Aliens: Life in the Christian Colony* by Stanley Hauerwas & Will Willimon – (pages 53-68). Please join us!

Christian Formation

An Adult Christian Formation class will begin meeting during the season of Lent – (beginning in mid-February).

If you are interested in being Baptized, Confirmed, or Received as a member of this church, or if you would like to reaffirm your baptismal covenant, please contact Fr Nik – KNicholasForti@gmail.com

The Liturgical Year



Nik's Calendar

Monday, Dec 29 – Meeting with Fr. Bushong, 10am
Tuesday, Jan 6 – Clergy Colleague Group, 9-11:30am
Thursday, Jan 8 – Fresh Start, Fredericksburg, 9:30am-4pm
Jan 22 - Jan 24 – Diocesan Annual Council, Richmond

Looking Ahead

Wednesday, Dec 24 – Children's Eucharist, 5pm
– Midnight Mass, 11pm
Sunday, Dec 28 – Outreach Dinner at SJtL, 5pm
Tuesday, Jan 6 – The Feast of the Epiphany
Thursday, Jan 8 – Men's Book Group, 7:30-8:30am
Sunday, Jan 11 – Youth Group Dinner, 5-7pm
Thursday, Jan 22 – Men's Book Group, 7:30-8:30am
Sunday, Jan 25 – Annual Meeting