

From Father Nik

God is faithful (1 Cor 1:9). This word is worth remembering in Advent, as we did in last Sunday's sermon. In this season, we recall God's faithfulness especially as patience (2 Pet 3:9). However, the depth and breadth of God's patience, though it's for our benefit, can feel like unfaithfulness. It can feel like abandonment. And it is for this reason that God gives the gift of hope by virtue of his promises sent to us on swift wings and given voice in the proclamation of the prophets.

The prophets were given these messages—these words of promise—and, in turn, declared them to God's people, bringing hope in the face of despair. Therefore many who received the gift of hope and fostered it in their hearts expected that the hope might be fulfilled in a prophet. Indeed, prophets were often anointed when given the prophetic role (1 Kings 19:16), and the word 'messiah'—*Christ* (in Greek)—means, "anointed one." But a prophet only conveys the words he has received. The hope that God has given us invites us to expect something more. The very words of the prophets persuade us to set our hopes higher.

In this Advent season, if you are tempted to doubt God's faithfulness because of his silent patience, listen closely to the words of the prophets. Listen closely to the words of scripture. Listen for God's promise whispered amid softly beating wings. There is one who has come and is coming again on whom the angels ascend and descend (John 1:51). There is one who has come and is coming again on whom the words of the prophets depend, for he alone has the words of eternal life (John 6:68). There is one who has come and is coming again, who *is* the Word of God. Set your hopes high, for God is faithful.

Nik+

Festival of Lessons & Carols @ Randolph Macon College

5pm – Sunday, Dec.7 at Duncan Memorial UMC (201 Henry St.)

Nine scripture lessons will be interspersed with congregational singing and special music featuring Duncan Memorial's Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, M'n'M (Music & Mission) Children's Choir, & Youth Choir.

The Vestry Needs You

If you are a confirmed Episcopalian, a member of Fork Church, and feel called to serve on the Vestry, please be in contact with Paul Newell or Fr Nik.

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).

Fork Cookbook

The cookbook makes wonderful Christmas gift!
Buy yours today from any cookbook committee member.

Christmas Memorials

Consider making your donation for Christmas Memorials soon.
Please use the Sunday Bulletin Insert.

Peter Paul Development Center

Christmas Gifts

I wish that all of you could experience the gratitude and joy that our gift to the Peter Paul Development Center generates. Fork Church is among the very few who give to the teenagers. Our financial contribution buys more gifts than if we did the shopping ourselves because the staff at PPDC can get discounts that we cannot.

**Make your check payable to Fork Church,
put PPDC on the memo line, and place your gift in the collection plate
on Sunday, Nov 23, Nov 30, or Dec 7.**

You can also place cash in an envelope with PPDC on the front or mail your check to Fork Church.

Advent-Christmas Pageant

On Sunday, Dec.21 at 10am, the children will perform an Advent pageant.

A Public Service Announcement

In the best interest of the spiritual & mental health of Fork Church, it is necessary for volunteers from the congregation to sign-up to make coffee & provide snacks and refreshments for “coffee hour” after Sunday Eucharist. Failure to volunteer shall subject you to such medieval penalties as being required to do liturgical dancing during a service, play the role of Goliath for the Godly Play kids, or worse.

Such dire consequences can be avoided by contacting Mac Chenault via telephone, 804-730-7175 or email: mchenault@chenaultlawoffices.com.

Christian Education

Godly Play is currently in session. 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 meets twice a month for fun, fellowship, food, & formation. **We are meeting this Sunday evening, December 7th at 5:00 pm at the Parish House.** We'll also make cookies in our new kitchen on the 20th & deliver them after church on the 21st.

Adult Forum meets Sunday mornings at 9am. Through Advent, Don Schubert and Fr Nik are co-leading a study exploring the question: “*What are we waiting for?*” 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. They are currently reading *Immortal Diamond* by Richard Rohr. Please contact Kathy for directions or more info: boysthreee@embarqmail.com

The Men's Book Group will meet Thursday, Dec. 18 at 7:30am at Ashland Coffee & Tea. They are reading *Resident Aliens: Life in the Christian Colony* by Stanley Hauerwas & Will Willimon – (pages 43-53).

Christian Formation

If you are seeking Baptism, Confirmation, Reception, or would like to reaffirm your baptismal covenant, please contact Fr Nik – KNicholasForti@gmail.com

Nik's Calendar

Tuesday, Dec 2 – Clergy Colleague Group, 9am-Noon

Thursday, Dec 4 – Fresh Start @ trinity, Fredericksburg, 9:30am-4pm

Monday, Dec 8 – Meeting w/Fr. Ed Bushong

Tuesday, Dec 16 – Clericus

Looking Ahead

Sunday, Dec 7 – RMC Lessons & Carols, 5pm – Duncan Memorial UMC

Sunday, Dec 7 – Youth Group, 5pm

Thursday, Dec 18 – Men's Book Group, 7:30am – Ashland Coffee & Tea

Saturday, Dec 20 – Youth Group makes cookies, 10am

Sunday, Dec 21 – Youth Group delivers cookies, 11:30am

Sunday, Dec 21 – Godly Play Advent/Christmas Pageant @ 10am Eucharist

Sunday, Dec 21 – Advent Evensong @ St James the Less, Ashland

Wednesday, Dec 24 – Children's Eucharist, 5pm

Midnight Mass, 11pm