

From Father Nik

If Church makes present to us our true home, the promised land of God's Kingdom, even as we sojourn through the wilderness of this fallen world, then we—*Christians*—are always, in a sense, Resident Aliens. That was the message of last Sunday's sermon. And that is also one of the central claims of the book that the new Men's Book Group will be reading: *Resident Aliens: Life in the Christian Colony* by Stanley Hauerwas and Will Willimon. This group, which will have its first meeting this Thursday morning, Nov 6 at Ashland Coffee & Tea (7:30am), is just one of the many exciting things that are beginning to happen here at The Fork Church!

The new Men's Book Group joins the already existing Women's Book Group and the Adult Forum as opportunities in the Fork Church community for fellowship centered on study for the purpose of growing in knowledge and love of the faith. And that's only one way that the Holy Spirit is stirring up our little enclave of the communion of saints. But it's important work that God is doing in and through us. If we, as Christians, truly are resident aliens in this fallen world, then these little things we do are vitally important for us . . . and for the world.

Little things like reading the Bible together, gathering for fellowship and prayer (like we did at the Halloween party & All Hallows' Eve Liturgy last Sunday), and meeting together in small groups to study our faith, are ways of building up our community in the language, stories, and traditions that are unique to us as Church. In this way, we are reminded of the vocation of the Church to be Christ's Body, *in which all things are being reconciled* (Col 1:20), and we are encouraged *to keep the faith, to keep running the race and fighting the good fight, pressing on to take hold of that for which Christ took hold of us* (2 Tim 4:7 & Phil 3:12). Moreover, through the Church, the world is able to see that the way things are—the violence, injustice, and deceit that is the normalcy of the world—is neither the way things have to be, nor the goal of God's providential plan for His Creation. And perhaps, from time to time, some might notice that the Lord is working through these largely unnoticed little groups of inconspicuous people—*sinners, even!*—to sanctify the world he has redeemed and justified through Christ's life, death, & resurrection.

The Fork Church is one of these little colonies of the Kingdom of God in the world. By His grace we have the privilege of participating in His work of redeeming and reclaiming a little more territory for His Kingdom. I, for one, have been awed by the good work God is doing here, and I can hardly contain my excitement to see what the Holy Spirit will do with and through us in the days, months, and years to come.

Nik+

Bishop's Visit

Bishop Susan Goff will visit us on Sunday November 9. She will lead us in our Sunday celebration of Holy Eucharist at 5PM. Please bring a dish for the reception being held in honor of our Confirmands immediately following the service.

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: boysthree@embarqmail.com

A Men's Book Group will meet this Thursday, Nov 6 at 7:30am. Our first meeting will be at Ashland Coffee & Tea; however, the location may change after the first meeting. We will be reading *Resident Aliens: Life in the Christian Colony* by Stanley Hauerwas & Will Willimon.

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. The next meeting is Sunday Nov. 16 at 5pm in the parish hall.

Adult Forum meets Sunday mornings at 9am. Through Nov 23, Don Schubert and Fr Nik are co-leading a study exploring the question: "What is Church?" Come join us for coffee and good conversation.

Christian Formation

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

Fall Work Day

Saturday morning, Nov 15. Followed by

THE GREAT CAVE BONFIRE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH AT 6:00 P.M - 12699 Old Ridge Road

- Featuring:
 1. Rick Alderman's almost famous "Hookem Horns" chili with a secret recipe straight from the "Lone Star State."
 2. The music of Jack "PepperJack" Haar who has just returned from performing on the celebrated stages of New York & Europe.
- You will be provided with "Cave" ice, mixers, hot apple cider and marshmallows (for roasting not for throwing)
- What you need to attend this extraordinary event:
 1. Please bring a side, dessert, or appetizer & your favorite beverage
 2. A camp chair to get cozy & rest your feet, and blanket to keep warm.

Attention Women of Fork Church

Melissa Hawks, our talented organist, is having a baby. Let's welcome this event with a baby shower for her and her family. Bring a treat to share and what you want to drink, and join in the fun.

Hostesses: Anne Rickman and Kathy Thomas

Place: 15407 Woodman Hall Rd. Montpelier, VA

Date: Sunday, Nov. 16th 2:00-4:00 p.m.

RSVP: Anne -883-6547- annerickman@gmail.com

Kathy 883-5513-boysthree@embarqmail.com

HEAR YE, HEAR YE

The Vestry has decreed that it is in the best interest of the mental health of Fork Church for the congregation to partake of food and drink after each Sunday's service. To fulfill the forestated decree of the said Vestry it is necessary for volunteers from the congregation to take personal responsibility to abide by the decree. Volunteers accepting the duty of organizing said refreshments shall decide what food and drink are appropriate. Failure to participate without just cause shall subject you to penalties such as being required to sing a solo during an upcoming service. Such dire consequences can be avoided by contacting Mac Chenault via telephone, [804-730-7175](tel:804-730-7175) or email at mchenault@chenaultlawoffices.com.

BLOOD DRIVE

“Giving Thanks is giving Life & Giving Life is Giving Thanks”

Sponsored by the Hanover Episcopal Churches

Saturday November 22, 2014 - 9:00am-1:00pm

Calvary Episcopal Church

13312 Courthouse Road

Sign- up sheet on bulletin board in back of Church

Nik's Calendar

Sunday, Nov 2 - Away for god-daughter's baptism

Tuesday, Nov 4 - Clergy Colleague Group, 9:30-11:30am

Wednesday, Nov 5 - Meet with Bishop Goff, 3-4pm

Thursday, Nov 6 - RMC Student Eucharist & lunch, 1-2:30pm

Saturday, Nov 8 - Supper Club @ the Joys, 7:30pm

Monday, Nov 10 - Meeting with Fr. Ed Bushong, 10-Noon

Thursday, Nov 13 - Fresh Start, 9am-4pm

- Region XI Meeting, 6:30pm

Looking Ahead

Thursday, Nov 6 - Men's Book Group , 7:30-8:30am

Sunday, Nov 9 - **Bishop's visit**, Eucharist @ 5pm, Reception to Follow

Saturday, Nov 15 - Fall Church Work Day

- The Great Cave Bonfire, 6pm

Sunday, Nov 16 - Youth Group, 5-7pm

Thursday Nov 27 - Thanksgiving Eucharist, 10am

Sunday, Nov 30 - Advent Wreath Making, 11:30am