

From Father Nik

At the heart of last Sunday's sermon was the message that being a member of the Body of Christ, the Church, is not like being a member of a country club or a gym. There is no membership fee for joining the Church; there are no dues. You don't have to prove yourself to earn a spot in the pews or abundant life in Christ. Rather, membership in His Body is a gift of God's grace, and that gift is offered and received through membership in the local, parish church. For us, that gift is offered and received through Fork Church. Therefore, it is offered and received in communion with our fellow parishioners and with over two hundred years of saints who have lived and worshiped in this parish. When we pledge for the coming year, we're not paying membership dues or earning our place here at Fork Church, we are participating in the gracious gift of Church that God gives to the world he has made—and, in particular, to that small corner of the world known as Ashland and Hanover.

Over the past few months, we've been exploring the question, "What is Church?" We've wrestled with this question in sermons, in the Adult Forum, and in these little blurbs I write each week. In one very real and concrete way, the answer has been all around us. For us, in this time and place, the Church is the people we worship with on Sunday mornings, party with at the Cave's Bonfire, study with in our small groups, laugh with at the opera, mourn with at funerals, cook with at the Heavenly Stew Sale, visit with over coffee in the Parish House, and eat with at just about all our events. These good folk are not just our family, friends, and neighbors; they are fellow members of the Body of Christ, fellow sinners being sanctified, fellow saints in the communion of saints that extends through space and time. They are fellow citizens of the City of God.

It's appropriate that our final reflections on the Church have come to rest here at the intersection of the communion of saints and citizenship in the City or Kingdom of God. Over the past few weeks since All Saints' Day, our lectionary readings and prayers have suggested that we've been in a little *Season of the Saints*, culminating this Sunday with the Feast of Christ the King. As the new Church Year begins on the First Sunday of Advent, our focus will move from what the Church is now to the coming Kingdom. Therefore, our question must change to fit our focus. So, during Advent, our question will be, "What are we waiting for?" *Nik+*

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).

THANK YOU . . .

Lou Ann and Terry Cave for hosting your famous Bonfire!

Rick Alderman for providing the “Hookem Horns” chili!

Jack “Pepper Jack” Haar for providing the music!

And everyone who brought a side dish, drinks, or themselves!

Fork Cookbook

The cookbook has been selling briskly. They will make wonderful
Christmas gifts. Buy yours today from any cookbook committee member.

Thanksgiving Day Eucharist

Thursday, November 27 at 10am

Advent Event!

After church on Sunday, Nov 30, you're invited to come to the Parish Hall
for Hot Chocolate, Coffee, Cookies, & Advent Wreath Making.

Please let Boo Smythe (boosmythe@gmail.com) know if you plan to make
a wreath so she'll have the right quantity of supplies.

Suggested Donation – \$10 per Advent Wreath

Heavenly Stew & Bake Sale

Saturday December 6th – 1pm until gone
Stewing starts at 5am – Please come visit or help!

To place an order, Contact Lisa Licata at
stileslicata@gmail.com or 804-227-3268

\$8 a quart, \$1 a bowl

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.

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. **Our next meeting is Sunday, 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: boysthree@embarqmail.com

The Men's Book Group will meet Thursday, Dec. 4 at 7:30am at Ashland Coffee & Tea. They are reading *Resident Aliens: Life in the Christian Colony* by Stanley Hauerwas & Will Willimon.

Christian Formation

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

Nik's Calendar

Wednesday, Nov 19 – Pastoral visits, 9:30am

Thursday, Nov 20 – Men's Book Group - 7:30am, Ashland Coffee & Tea
– RMC Student Eucharist & lunch, 1-2:30pm

Monday, Nov. 24 – Dentist appt. 9am

– Meeting with Fr. Ed Bushong, noon-2pm

– RMC Campus Thanksgiving Service, 7pm

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

Looking Ahead

Tuesday, Nov 25 – Vestry Meeting, 7-9pm

Thursday, Nov 27 – Thanksgiving Eucharist, 10am

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

Saturday, Dec 6 – Heavenly Stew & Bake Sale, 1pm

Sunday, Dec 7 – Youth Group, 5-7pm