

## From Father Nik

Thank you, Fork Church friends, for letting me play hooky last Sunday so I could be at the baptism of my goddaughter, Audrey Elizabeth Shelton. Her parents, Adrienne and the Rev'd Ben Shelton, are among my closest friends, and I was honored that they asked me to be one of Audrey Beth's godparents. It took place at St Stephen's, Culpeper, where Fr Ben is the rector, and Bishop Gulick did the baptism with his usual depth of feeling and exuberance. And there in that place, I felt the sweet assurance that God's grace was present, working in that precious child a new creation as she died to sin and death through the baptismal waters and was raised in Christ as a member of his resurrected body.

We Episcopalians baptize infants because of our unshakeable faith in God's unmerited grace. We believe that God reaches out to us with his love before we have the maturity or even capacity to respond to that love. Though we are born into a fallen world in which sin and death abound, God loves us to new life in his Son, Jesus Christ. And the effectual sign of this love, this grace, is baptism. So, every time we recall our baptism and our baptismal identity (though we might have been baptized when we were too young to remember the event), we return to that grace, that free gift of God's love, at work in us.

When Bishop Goff confirms our young Confirmands this Sunday, they will be doing just that—recalling their baptisms. Since the Reformation, Confirmation has usually been understood and explained as an Adult Affirmation of the Faith by someone who was baptized as an infant. And this is certainly a good way of understanding Confirmation in many cases—like that of our youth who are being confirmed this Sunday. However, there is an older and more fundamental way of understanding Confirmation that we should hold to, as well. This is the view of Confirmation grounded in that understanding of Baptism spoken of above. Confirmation is the sacrament whereby the Church, the Body of Christ, represented by the bishop, *confirms* the sanctifying grace of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Confirmand, which was begun at their Baptism. In other words, the good work, the new creation, that God's love began in the Confirmand at their Baptism is now *confirmed* by the community gathered to embody that love, that grace, in the world. And in that liturgy of Confirmation, we who are gathered to support and bear witness to this justifying and sanctifying grace, recall our own baptisms and are confirmed once again in that love that gives us life everlasting.        *Nik+*

## **Bishop's Visit**

We welcome Bishop Goff and thank her for being with us today. The loose collection will go to the Bishop's discretionary fund. Please join us for the reception being held in honor of our Confirmands immediately following the service.

## **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'**

Be on the lookout for a letter from our Stewardship Chair, Scott Smythe describing all of the wonderful ways we've been cookin' here at Fork Church & inviting you to pledge your support for the coming year.

## **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](mailto:boysthree@embarqmail.com)

**A Men's Book Group** will meet Thursday, Nov 20 at 7:30am at Ashland Coffee & Tea. We are 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](mailto:KNicholasForti@gmail.com)

### **THE GREAT CAVE BONFIRE**

**SATURDAY, NOV 15 @ 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 “Pepper Jack” 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 & her family. Bring a treat to share, what you want to drink, & join in the fun.

Place: 15407 Woodman Hall Rd. Montpelier, VA

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

RSVP: Anne -883-6547- [annerickman@embarqmail.com](mailto:annerickman@embarqmail.com)

Kathy 883-5513-[boysthree@embarqmail.com](mailto: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 – phone: 804-730-7175; email: [mchenault@chenaultlawoffices.com](mailto: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**

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**

Saturday, Nov 8 – Fall Parish Work Day, 8am-Noon

Sunday, Nov 9 – Bishop’s Visit & Confirmations, 5pm

Saturday, Nov 15 – The Great Cave Bonfire, 6pm

Sunday, Nov 16 – Youth Group, 5-7pm

Thursday, Nov 20 – Men’s Book Group, 7:30am

Saturday, Nov 22 – Blood Drive @ Calvary, 9am-1pm

– Heavenly Creations @ St. James the Less, 9am-4pm

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