

## From Father Nik

This Sunday evening, we'll be observing a liturgy for All Hallow's Eve. And strange as it may seem, I think Halloween can help us think about our question, *What is Church?* In the sermon from last Sunday, we spoke of the Church as a people set apart for holiness, a holiness found *in Christ*. All Hallow's Eve reminds us that this people set apart are not simply those of us who walk the earth at this time, but also all those who have died in Christ, including the saints and souls who are with us no longer.

The truth is, we live in a death-denying culture. From “anti-aging” exercises and make-up to cosmetic surgery, we go through our days wearing masks and costumes of everlasting youth and beauty. We, as a society, spend far more money on crisis-care medicine than preventative measures to maintain good health, revealing our unspoken and illogical hope to get out of life alive. But in the end, it's more trick than treatment. Halloween, however, stands as an indictment of our death-haunted daily lives. On Halloween, we take off the masks of everlasting youth and beauty and recognize the looming power of death and decay over the world and ourselves.

Of course, we've lived too long without acknowledging death do anything more than wrap the night of Halloween in humor, kitsch, and consumerism. And that's part of the fun, for sure. But Halloween can be so much more. If we re-connect Halloween to the Feast of All Saints (Nov 1) and the Feast of All Souls (Nov 2), then it can be for us, who are *in Christ*, something more than *just* a frighteningly fun time. All Hallow's Eve can be a time to reflect truthfully on the power and pall of death over our world and over ourselves—a truth that the crucifixion of Christ impresses upon us. Just as the Feasts of All Saints (Hallows) and All Souls invites us to reflect truthfully on the power of God over death—a truth the resurrection of Christ impresses upon us. It can be for us a time to turn toward our beloved dead as fellow members of the communion of saints, alive *in Christ*, rather than as the ghosts of our past that we try to keep buried in the catacombs of our memories. Halloween can be a time to remember that Church is bigger than the time of *now* and the space of *here*. Indeed, it's as big as the risen Christ, *in whom we live and move and have our being*.

## **Liturgy for All Hallow's Eve**

We will be observing the Eve of All Hallow's (or All Saints) with a short liturgy of evening prayer on Sunday, Oct 26 at 6pm. This liturgy combines both spiritual worship and Halloween fun. Hot dogs & Chips will be available for those who come early and hungry. Costumes welcome!

## **Volunteers Needed for Outreach Dinner**

Fork Church in partnership with St. James the Less provides food for the Out Reach Dinner. **It is this Sunday.** We need 24 servings of potatoes.

If you can provide a potato dish for 8 or you can help serve please call Tish Iorio ASAP! Also, we need 2-3 servers who can also be the food preparers and servers. They will need to be at SJL at 5pm (dinner is served at 5:30). Thanks so much!  
Tish Iorio: 227-2036 or [letitia39@centurylink.net](mailto:letitia39@centurylink.net)

## **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](mailto:annerickman@gmail.com)  
Kathy 883-5513-[boysthree@embarqmail.com](mailto:boysthree@embarqmail.com)

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**

**THE GREAT CAVE BONFIRE**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup> AT 6:00 P.M**

## **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 at 5 PM on Oct 26 to host the Liturgy of All Hallow's Eve & have some Halloween fun.

**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)

## **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](mailto:mchenault@chenaultlawoffices.com) .

## Dessert and Coffee with Father Nik

The final Dessert & Coffee with Nik will be at 7pm this Monday, October 27 at John & Anne Rickman's house. Please RSVP to the Church Office if you would like to attend.

### **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 every Thursday at 7:30am beginning on Nov 6. 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.

### Nik's Calendar

Monday, Oct 20 – Peter Paul Dev Center's Rise & Shine Breakfast, 7:30am

M-W, Oct 20-22 – Fall Clergy Retreat @ Shrine Mont

Thursday, Oct 23 – RMC Student Eucharist & Lunch, 1-3pm

Saturday, Oct 25 – Committal Liturgy for George Oliver, 2pm

Wednesday, Oct 29 – Full day meeting with the Rev Robert Leopold

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

### Looking Ahead

Sunday, Oct 26 – Halloween Service, 6PM

Sunday, Oct 26 – Outreach Dinner @ St. James the Less

Tuesday, Oct 28 – Vestry Meeting, 7PM

Sunday, Nov 2 – All Saints Day, The Rev Haywood Spangler (supply)

Sunday, Nov 9 – Bishop's visit, Eucharist at 5PM, Reception to follow