

## From Fr Nik

In last Sunday's sermon, we explored how Church is a place to be truthful. It is a place to be truthful because Jesus Christ is the Truth made manifest in the life of a person, a person who is present in the midst of us whenever we gather in his name. This means that Church is a place where we learn to speak truthfully in a world dominated by deception. It also means that Church is a place where we learn to hear the truth and receive it as a gift—whether it comforts us or convicts us. However, we shouldn't mistake truth with answers, nor should we assume that because Church is a place to hear and receive the truth, it is also a place where we get prepackaged answers served with assembly-line monotony. Rather, Church is place for questions and questioning.

The Church can be a place for questions and questioning just because it is grounded in and upheld by the Truth. The Church is a place for us to bring our questions because her *one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord*. So, we should never let our questions keep us from Church. We may not find easy answers at Church, but we will find the words to help us articulate our questions truthfully and the resources in scripture, tradition, and community to help us work out the knowledge, wisdom, and guidance that we seek.

The most profound times of questioning in a person's life are times of transition, and one of the most important times of transition is that period of early adulthood when the adolescence of teenage life is still a close shadow. Hence, college is a time to really wrestle with the significant questions of life. It is for this reason that I have spent much of my lay and ordained service to the Church involved in campus ministry. And it is also for this reason that I have also offered to work with St James the Less in their campus ministry at Randolph Macon College.

This is not a ministry I am doing in addition to my ministry here at the Fork Church. Rather, this is a ministry of Fork Church with St James the Less. This is a way for us at Fork Church to partner with St James the Less in reaching out to young Episcopalians in our community who need to know they are supported in their faith and questioning by a Church grounded in truth, motivated by love, and built on the foundation of Jesus Christ.

## Christian Education

**Godly Play** begins this Sunday, Sept 14. 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 first meeting is this Sunday, Sept 14 at 5:00pm at Mt Olympus Farm. Fr. Nik will provide a ride from the Church at 4:45PM. There will be swimming, kayaking, games, and a cookout!

**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

**Baptism** – If you are seeking baptism or would like to reaffirm your baptismal covenant, please contact Fr Nik at [KNicholasForti@gmail.com](mailto:KNicholasForti@gmail.com).

**Confirmation & Reception** – If you are interested in being Confirmed or if you have been Confirmed in another Christian tradition but would like to be officially Received as a member of the Episcopal Church, Fr Nik will be leading a Confirmation Class to begin soon. Please be in contact with Fr Nik ([KNicholasForti@gmail.com](mailto:KNicholasForti@gmail.com)) for more info.

## **COOKBOOK AVAILABLE FOR PRESALES**

The new Fork Church cookbook is in the final stages at the publisher.

We hope to have it here around Oct. 1.

You can reserve your copies now by purchasing a presales ticket from any cookbook committee member. A committee representative will be available each Sunday to take your order. The book is hard bound and beautiful.

It is brimming with wonderful recipes and history, selling for only \$21.95.

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## **Dessert and Coffee Evenings with Nik**

We are having a series of Dessert and Coffee gathers so that Nik and get to meet members of the congregation on a more one on one basis. All of the events will start at 7PM. Below is a list of the dates and who will be hosting.

September 18 - Tony & Melanie Droppleman

September 22 - Jim & Boo Smythe

October 2 - Jennifer & Howard Smith

October 8 - Scott & Lindsey Smythe

October 15 - Michael & Angela Woods

October 27 - John & Anne Rickman

Please select a date and let the office know. We will also be calling to confirm.

## **Nik's Calendar**

Thursday, Sept 11 – RMC Episcopal Campus Ministry Lunch, 1-2pm

Saturday, Sept 13 – Diocesan Annual Giving Workshop, 9:30am-Noon

Monday, Sept 15 – RMC Student Activities Fair, 5-7pm

Tuesday, Sept 16 – Pastoral Visits

Thursday, Sept 18 – RMC Campus Ministries Council Luncheon, Noon-3pm

Wednesday, Sept 24 – Clericus, 1-3pm

Thursday, Sept 25 – RMC Student Eucharist & Lunch, Noon-2pm

## **Looking Ahead**

September 14 - J2A Youth Group @ Mt. Olympus Farm - 5PM

September 23 - Vestry Meeting - 7PM

September 28 - J2A Youth Group – 5PM

October 5<sup>th</sup> – Blessing of the animals – 4PM

J2A Youth Group – 5PM

October 17, 18<sup>th</sup> - Wellness “event” @ St. James the Less

October 26<sup>th</sup> - Halloween Service , – 5PM

Outreach Dinner @ St. James the Less