

From the Partlows

We want to thank all of you who helped make Holy Week and Easter at Fork Church such a beautiful and memorable time. Thank you for your gifts of time, talent, and treasure that so enhanced worship during this most special season of the church year.

Next Sunday we will have a wonderful opportunity to celebrate with four of our youth as they participate in the Rite 13 ceremony. We encourage all of you to be present for this important event in the life of these young people. Please read the following explanation of Rite 13 below. *Ruth and Bob*

Rite 13

RITE 13 is a special ceremony that is a part of the curriculum Journey to Adulthood, that Fork Church is using for its youth program. Next Sunday during the 10 AM service we will all have the opportunity to be a part of this service.

The idea for Rite 13 grew out of the understanding that other cultures and religions have some type of a ceremony of passage when their children move from childhood to young adulthood – usually around the age of 13 – about the time they are completing Middle School. We find Bat/Bar Mitzvahs at this age in Judaism. Preparation for Rite 13 is similarly designed with study, discussion and expectations. It is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate each child as he or she is moving from childhood to young adulthood – to recognize the gift of womanhood or manhood bestowed by God on each one.

Here at Fork Church we celebrate Rite 13 as a recognition that the young people are on their way to becoming adults. Adulthood is something to be earned – not something that simply happens. This is the thrust of the content of the J2A curriculum, the next segment of Journey to Adulthood.

What is womanhood or manhood? Each of us can only answer this question from our own experience. To become a woman or a man is a gift of God. It is to grow into the person that God has created each of us to be. From the very beginning our parents had hopes and dreams for us and our future. But most importantly God has created each of us to be a unique person with wonderful inborn talents and abilities that make us children of God. This is what we celebrate in the Rite 13 ceremony, that each young person is God's Beloved. Join us

Come next Sunday, May 6 and join with our youth and their parents in this Rite 13 celebration. It will take place just after the Prayers of the People and before the Peace. By your presence you are fulfilling the promise made at each Baptism here at Fork Church when you answered "We will" to the question

"Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?"

Your presence gives encouragement and support to our young people as they navigate this challenging and complicated world we live in today.

Boo and Jim Smythe

Announcements

The Easter Season is the most joyous and celebratory season of the church year. As we rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ these next few weeks, we will, as a part of the celebration, omit the confession. It will return as we enter the season “After Pentecost.

Today, the youth will be taking part in the service in a variety of ways:

As Lectors

In the Children’s choir

In the play “Cries of Faith” by Jeffrey B. Snyder.

Following the service, there will be a Vestry Meeting in the Parish Hall.

On Thursday, May 1 the women’s book group is meeting. It is the first session for discussing Richard Rohr’s Falling Upward: a Spirituality for the Second Half of Life. If you are interested please contact Kathy Thomas.

This Week's Calendar

Sunday, April 27	Second Sunday of Easter
	9:00 AM Adult Sunday School
	10:00 AM Holy Eucharist
	10:00 AM Godly Play –Parish House
	11:30 AM Vestry Meeting
Thursday, May 1	10:00 AM Book Group
Sunday, May 6	9:00 AM Adult Sunday School
	10:00 AM Holy Eucharist
	10:00 AM Godly Play –Parish House

Dates to Remember

Sunday, June 1	Last Day of Godly Play
Sunday, June 8	Parish Eucharist and Picnic at Mt. Olympus