

From Father Nik

With the bishop's annual episcopal visit this Sunday, we have four members of our parish community who will be officially Received into the fellowship of the Episcopal Church. Two of them will be Confirmed as well, since they have not previously received the sacrament(al rite) of Confirmation. These four members of our congregation and their sponsors have taken their preparation for Confirmation and/or Reception very seriously. In fact, they've spent the better part of the year in preparation.

We began meeting weekly on Wednesday evenings in Lent. During that time, the Confirmands, Candidates for Reception, and their Sponsors met every Wednesday to explore the Ten Commandments and the history of God's Covenant with his people Israel. Then in the season of Easter we turned our attention to the study of the Lord's Prayer and the New Covenant in Christ, by which we are given a share in the Promises of God to his Chosen People. This culminated at Pentecost when we gave our Confirmands and Candidates for Reception each their own Book of Common Prayer. Over the summer, we took a break from our weekly class meetings; however, our Confirmands and Candidates for Reception continued their preparation by reading two books: *Episcopal Questions, Episcopal Answers* by Ian S Markham and C K Robertson, and *The Episcopal Handbook*. During the Ordinary Time of autumn and into Advent, the Wednesday evening classes resumed, focusing in on the Nicene Creed as the Rule of Faith. This past Wednesday, they concluded their preparation by reading aloud together the Gospel according to Mark.

I have been deeply impressed and encouraged by the time, effort, thought, and care these eight pilgrims have displayed on their journey of discipleship. Like the fellowship in Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, we've shared our stories, both sublime and humorous. In the sharing, we've learned about each other, ourselves, and the gift of Faith given us by the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Tradition. And though we only scratched the surface, we began to discover the profound depths and breadth of that Faith and Tradition. For that, and for their perseverance and enthusiasm, and for their questions and their insights, and for their friendship and their fellowship, and for the innumerable blessings of their company, I want to express my most sincere gratitude to Esmond, Laura, Emily & Paul, John, Bev, Sally, and Jenny. Thank you.

Nik+

Welcome, Bishop Jones!
Thank you for being with us this morning.

Coffee Hour

Volunteers are still needed for Sundays in January

To sign up, please go to

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/9040449A5AA2FA57-coffee/25614452

Peter Paul Development Center

Christmas Gifts for the children of PPDC

Make your check payable to Fork Church,

put PPDC on the memo line,

and place your gift in the collection plate

You can also place cash in an envelope with PPDC on the front
or mail your check to Fork Church.

CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY

Christmas Eve

5pm – Family Worship: Carols, Christmas Story, & Eucharist

10:30pm – Carols & Hymns performed and led by the Choir

11pm – VIGIL EUCHARIST

Christmastide

Sunday, December 27 – 10am Eucharist

Sunday, January 3 – 10am Lessons & Carols with Eucharist

Sunday, January 10 – 10am Epiphany Pageant & Eucharist

Please Help Local Families Have A Safe Winter

It's come to light that some Hanover families who use wood for heat have unsafe chimneys. The Wood Ministry is raising funds to help these families be safe when heating their homes. We're partnering with Neat Sweep. Please make checks out to **West Hanover Wood Ministry** and send to Richard Lear, 247 Burruss Mill Rd, Bumpass, VA 23024-4939

Christian Education

Godly Play 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 will deliver their homemade cookies today, after worship.

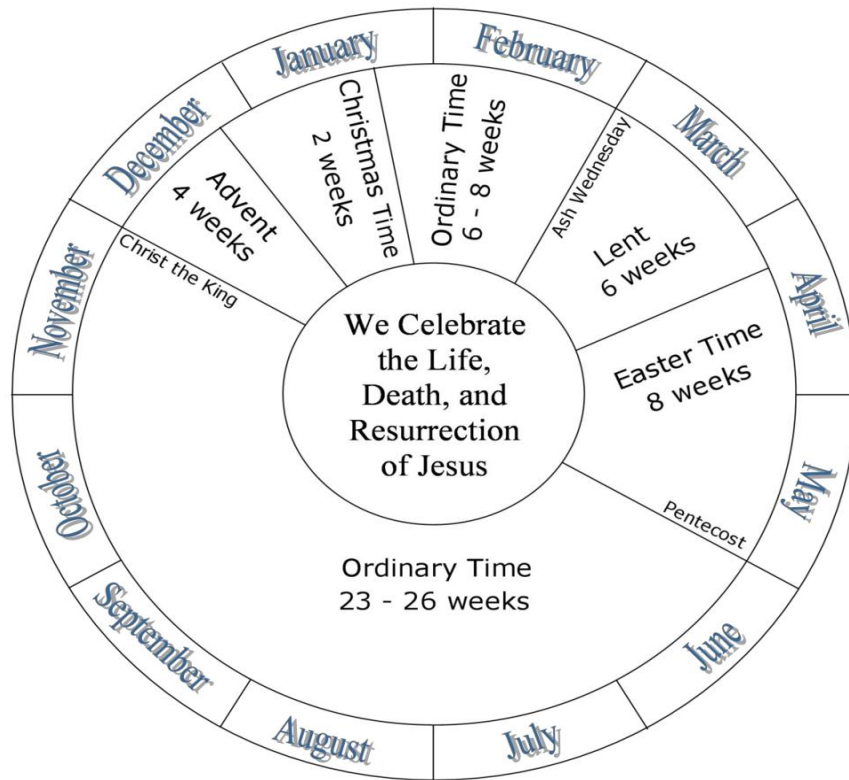
The Adult Sunday School meets Sunday mornings at 9am in the parish hall to explore the Sacraments.

Small Groups

The Women's Book Group will discuss the seventh section of *Searching for Sunday* by Rachel Held Evans, "Marriage" on Thursday, January 7, at 10am. Please contact Kathy for directions: boysthree@embarqmail.com

The Men's Book Group will meet Thursday, January 7, at 7:30am at Ashland Coffee & Tea to discuss the seventh section of *Searching for Sunday* by Rachel Held Evans, "Marriage," (pp 237-256).

The Liturgical Year



Nik's Calendar

- Friday, Dec 18 – Young Rector's Group, 10:30am-12:30pm
Monday, Dec 21 – Coffee with the Rev. Dr. Ed Bushong, 10:30am-12:30pm
– On-Line meeting with Fr. Ben & Fr Phil, 3:30-5pm
Monday, Jan 4 – Peter Paul Development Center Chapel, 5:30-6:30pm

Looking Ahead

- Thursday, Dec 24 – Xmas Family Worship: Carols, Christmas Story, & Eucharist, 5pm
– Prelude of Carols & Hymns, 10:30pm
– Christmas Eve Vigil Eucharist, 11pm
Sunday, Dec 27 – Eucharist, 10am
Sunday, Jan 3 – Lessons & Carols with Eucharist, 10am
Wednesday, Jan 6 – Choir Rehearsal, 7pm
Thursday, Jan 7 – Men's Book Group, 7:30-8:30am
– Women's Book Group, 10am-noon
Sunday, Jan 10 – Epiphany Pageant & Eucharist, 10am

Office hours: Jacquie Alleva, our parish secretary, works Tuesday & Wednesday mornings and Thursday afternoons. If you would like to submit an announcement, please do so by noon on Thursday.