

From Father Nik

The journey of faith is made possible through the gift of prayer. Prayer is primarily a gift because it's the unearned invitation into the inter-communication of the Triune God. Since we have become members of the Body of Christ by the grace given in baptism, we are bound to him by the Spirit of Truth (Eph 4:4-6), the very Spirit who *intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words*, since *we do not know how to pray as we ought* (Rom 8:26). So, it is by the Holy Spirit—whom St Paul calls a spirit of adoption since she binds us to Christ as members of his body—that we are able to join with Jesus in calling God, “Our Father” (Rom 8:15).

If Christian prayer is this gift of participation in the inter-communication of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, then this means that to enter into prayer is to *have the same mind that is in Christ Jesus* (Phil 2:5). And it is this insight that stands behind the centrality of the Book of Common Prayer in the Episcopal Church and the whole Anglican Tradition. If you want to know what it means to be Lutheran, you begin by reading the Augsburg Confession of Faith. If you want to know what it means to be Presbyterian, you begin by reading the Westminster Confession of Faith. If you want to know what it means to be Baptist, you begin by choosing a particular Baptist congregation and reading the “What We Believe” section of their website. But if you want to know what it means to be Episcopalian, you join with other Episcopalians in praying in the words of the Book of Common Prayer.

The insight of the Anglican Tradition of the Episcopal Church is that prayer precedes confessions of belief and doctrine. That's not to say that beliefs and doctrines are unimportant, but that they must be first grounded in the gift of prayer. Beliefs and doctrines are the descriptions we need to see rightly, but prayer—which draws us further into the mind of Christ—is the means by which we come to think rightly. Through beliefs and doctrines we come to know about God; through prayer we come to know God. So, the Book of Common Prayer situates our doctrines, our Creeds (Apostles and Nicene), and even the reading of Scripture within the context of prayer. Prayer makes doctrines possible. Prayer makes belief possible. Prayer makes the journey of faith possible. Thank God for prayer.

Nik+

Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday pancake supper at 6:30pm, Feb 17

(suggested donation: \$5/person, \$20/family)

Please fill out an RSVP ticket & return it to Fr Nik.

Ash Wednesday

Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes on Feb 18:

8:05am – Randolph-Macon College (Brock Commons)

7pm – The Fork Church

Movie Night

The Adult Forum is hosting Dinner and a Movie
at the Haar's this afternoon at 4pm.

The dinner is soup & the movie is "*Luther*" –

A biopic about the 16th century Reformer, Martin Luther.

Please RSVP – jnhaar@aol.com

Parish Directory

On the table in the narthex of the Church is a draft of the parish directory.
Please check your information & make additions or corrections as needed.

The final version will soon be available.

Fork Cookbook

Buy yours today from any cookbook committee member.

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.

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 worship, then join their parents for Communion.

J2A Youth Group meets twice a month for fun, fellowship, food, & formation. **The next meeting is today, Sunday, February 22 @ 5pm in the parish house.**

Adult Forum meets Sunday mornings at 9am. **During this Ordinary Time after Epiphany we are doing a seven week study of The Reformation.** Come join us for coffee and good conversation.

Small Groups

The Women's Book Group meets every other Thursday at Kathy Thomas' house from 10am-noon. The next meeting is Thursday Feb.19, the book is *Unglued* by Lysa TerKeurst. Please contact Kathy for directions or more info: boysthree@embarqmail.com

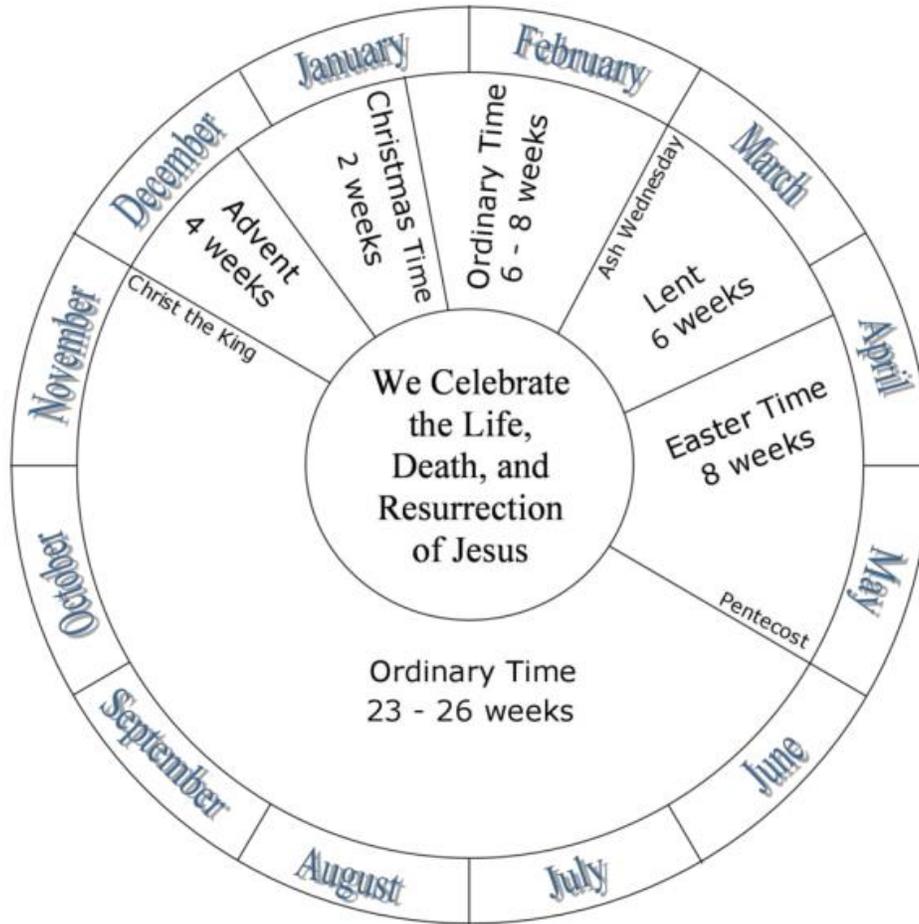
The Men's Book Group will meet Thursday, February 19, 2015 at 7:30am at Ashland Coffee & Tea. They are reading *Resident Aliens: Life in the Christian Colony* by Stanley Hauerwas & Will Willimon – (pages 93-103). Please join us!

Christian Formation

An Adult Christian Formation class begins on
Ash Wednesday, Feb 18 at 6pm
& will meet weekly during the seasons of Lent & Easter.

If you are interested in being Baptized, Confirmed,
or Received as a member of this church,
or if you would like to reaffirm your baptismal covenant,
please contact Fr Nik – KNicholasForti@gmail.com

The Liturgical Year



Nik's Calendar

Wednesday, Feb 11 – Clericus @ Emmanuel, Brook Road, 1-3pm

Thursday, Feb 12 – Fresh Start @ Trinity, Fredericksburg, 9am-4p

Saturday, Feb 14 – Supper Club

Monday, Feb 16 – Meeting with the Rev Dr Ed Bushong, 10:30am-12:30pm

Wednesday, Feb 18 – Eucharist & Ashes @ Randolph-Macon College, 8:05am

Monday, Feb 23 – Region XI Meeting

Looking Ahead

Sunday, Feb 15 – Movie night, "Luther," 4pm

Tuesday, Feb 17 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 6:30-8pm

Wednesday, Feb 18 – Ash Wednesday Eucharist, 7pm

Thursday, Feb 19 – Men's Book Group, 7:30-8:30am

Thursday, Feb 19 – Woman's Book Group, 10am-noon

Tuesday, Feb 24 – Vestry Meeting, 7-9pm