

## From Father Nik

In last Sunday's sermon we listened to what the Gospel tells us about how the journey of faith begins. The journey of faith does not begin when we are convinced by logical arguments for the existence of God. It doesn't begin when we decide there must be a purpose for our lives or at least something bigger than ourselves "out there." Faith doesn't even begin with our decision to have faith and be faithful. The journey of faith begins when Christ comes into our lives and calls us out of the fortified little kingdoms we've created for ourselves with the words, "Follow me."

Like so many times when Jesus speaks, when he commands, it's hard not to dismiss his call as simply too much. Does he really expect us to leave our boats and lay down our nets to follow him? Does he really think that we are able to do so? On my best days, I *believe* in his words, I *believe* that he is who we proclaim him to be, but even that can get shaky. And that is a far cry from following him, from betting my life on God's promises, and from stepping out into the world in humble confidence and obedience to the Way of love and justice that comprises the journey of faith (Mic 6:8). How can he say to us, "Follow me," and expect us not to falter, to look back, to hold back, spending our days burying our dead intentions, and nursing our weak beliefs?

Christ can say to us—as he did to Peter, Andrew, James, & John—"Follow me" and expect us to walk with him because he *is* the Way (Jn 14:6). When Jesus called the disciples, they had not been studying about him in Sunday School, they hadn't read St Paul's epistles about him, they hadn't even heard him teach and seen him heal the sick, yet they dropped their nets and left their boats to follow him. It was not on the basis of their beliefs but on the basis of his call that they began the journey of faith. So it is with us also. Our faith is not the result of doing all the right things or having all the right beliefs. Our journey of faith is not made by dispelling all doubt from our hearts or maintaining an impenetrable confidence in our own opinions. No, our faith is a gift. It is a participation in the Christ's own faith. His faith is reckoned to us as grace. And our journey of faith is a journey further into the faithfulness of the one who alone is truly faithful, Jesus Christ, our Way.

*Nik+*

## **Shrove Tuesday & Ash Wednesday**

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

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

Please fill out RSVP ticket which will help us to purchase supplies. Thank You

Ash Wednesday Eucharist at 7pm, Feb 18

## **Help a Friend Get To Church**

Please consider occasionally driving a fellow parishioner to church.

If you are interested in volunteering for this ministry,  
contact John Rickman – [annerickman@embarqmail.com](mailto:annerickman@embarqmail.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.

## **Kitchen Blessing and Shower**

Sunday February 8 during coffee hour after Eucharist

## **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 Sunday, February 8 @ 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.5, the book is *Unglued* by Lysa TerKeurst. Please contact Kathy for directions or more info: [boysthree@embarqmail.com](mailto:boysthree@embarqmail.com)

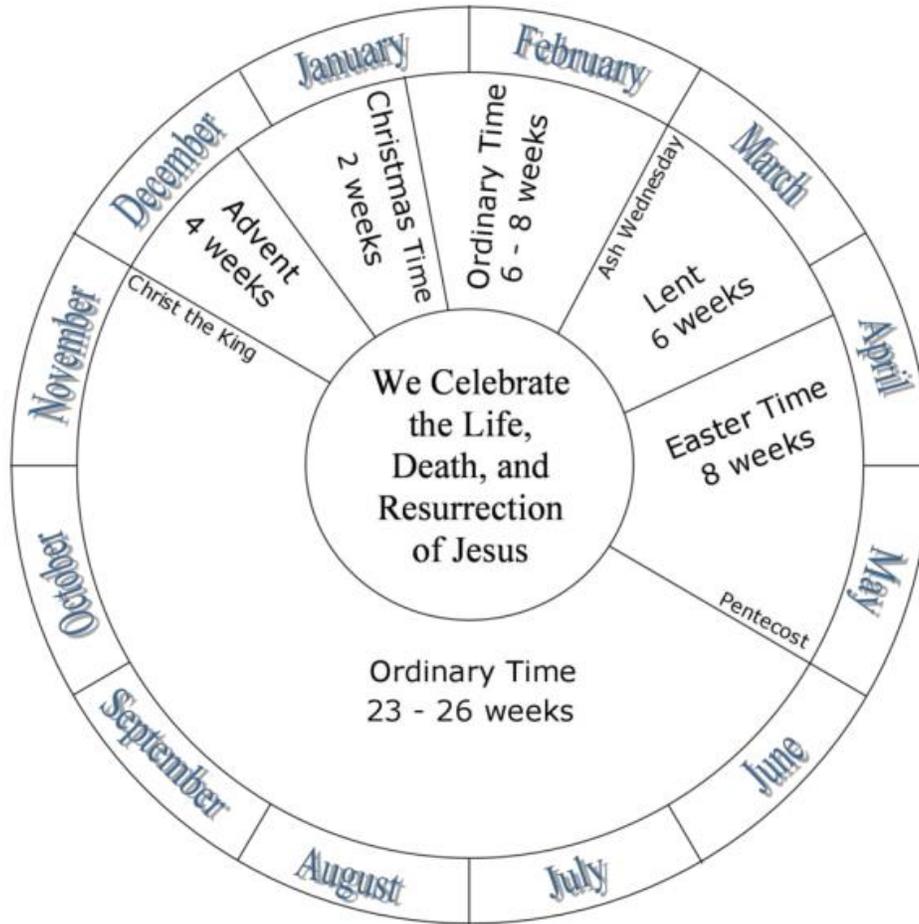
**The Men's Book Group** will meet Thursday, February 5, 2015 at 7:30am at Ashland Coffee & Tea. They are reading *Resident Aliens: Life in the Christian Colony* by Stanley Hauerwas & Will Willimon – (pages 80-92). Please join us!

## Christian Formation

An Adult Christian Formation class begins on **Ash Wednesday, Feb 18** and 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](mailto:KNicholasForti@gmail.com)

# The Liturgical Year



## Nik's Calendar

Friday, Jan 30 – Vestry alumni send-off, 5:30-7pm  
Saturday, Jan 31 – Pre-marital prep, 2pm  
Saturday, Jan 31 – Vestry Transitions Party, 7:30pm  
Monday, Feb 2 – Meeting with the Rev Dr Ed Bushong, 10:30am-noon  
Monday, Feb 2 – Vestry Retreat planning meeting, 12:30pm  
Tuesday, Feb 3 – Clergy Colleague Group Meeting, 9:30am-noon  
Thursday, Feb 12 – Fresh Start @ Trinity, Fredericksburg, 9am-4pm

## Looking Ahead

Thursday, Feb 5 – Men's Book Group, 7:30-8:30am  
Thursday, Feb 5 – Woman's Book Group, 10am-noon  
Saturday, Feb 7 – Vestry Retreat, 9am-noon  
Sunday, Feb 8 – New Kitchen Blessing & Shower, 11:30am  
Sunday, Feb 8 – Youth group, 5pm  
Tuesday, Feb 17 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 6:30-8pm  
Wednesday, Feb 18 – Ash Wednesday Eucharist, 7pm