

## From Father Nik

The journey of faith is the journey from subjection to sin to the promised land of life in Christ. It is the way that leads from the tyranny of selfishness to freedom under Christ's authority. Of course, it's hard for us to hear "good news" in being under another's authority, even if that other one is God. We've all been taught and trained to believe that freedom is being beholden to no one but ourselves, being bound to nothing but our own desires. Freedom is following first and foremost after whatever *we* "decide" *we* want, and only secondarily what others might want or need . . . if we "decide" that's what we *want* to do.

However, this "freedom" is another name for being under the authority of our own fallen whims—whims that are so easily manipulated by others. Just think of the massive, unrelenting advertising industry. Commercials and other ads are often designed for the purpose of enslaving our desires in such subtle ways that we find ourselves wanting things that often provide no gain for others or us and, in some cases, actually cause harm. How many times have you bought something only to say to yourself a week, a month, or a year later, "Why in the world did I buy *that*?" or "What a waste of money!" We may *know* better than to waste our hard earned money, our valuable time, and our already stretched-thin energy on the promises that these ads peddle, but when we're bombarded all day, every day, we can't help but succumb.

We find ourselves so enslaved to our own selfish and often manipulated whims because we are creatures of desire. We were created to love and to be loved. God created us from the over-abundance of His love. He created us to receive His love. And He created us to love Him. When we pursue a "freedom" that enthrones anything—including ourselves—in place of God as the ultimate object of our love and desire, then we are subjecting ourselves to an idol. And being under the authority of an idol leaves us unable to truly love those good gifts God has given us, like friends and family. But to be under the authority of Christ is to be loved by God (Grace) and to have our own desires rightly ordered toward the love of Him (Faith). This is the journey of faith.

## **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 on Sunday, Feb 15<sup>th</sup> at 4pm.

The dinner is soup & the movie is “*Luther*” –

A biopic about the 16<sup>th</sup> century Reformer, Martin Luther.

Please RSVP – [jnhaar@aol.com](mailto: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.

## **Kitchen Blessing and Shower**

During coffee hour after Eucharist today

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

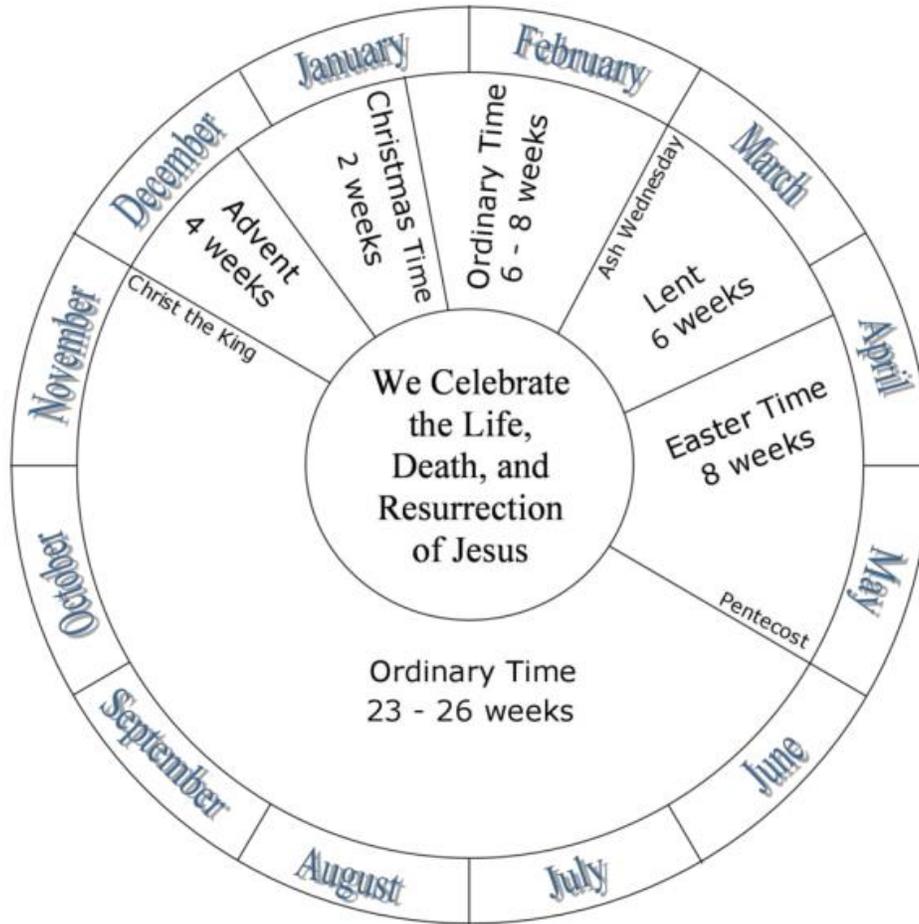
**The Men's Book Group** will meet Thursday, February 19, 2015 at 7:30am at Ashland Coffee & Tea. They are reading *Resident Aliens: Life in the Christian Colony* by Stanley Hauerwas & Will Willimon – (pages 93-103). Please join us!

## 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](mailto:KNicholasForti@gmail.com)

# The Liturgical Year



## Nik's Calendar

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  
Saturday, Feb 7 – Vestry Retreat 9am-noon  
Thursday, Feb 12 – Fresh Start @ Trinity, Fredericksburg, 9am-4p  
Monday, Feb 23 – Region XI Meeting

## Looking Ahead

Sunday, Feb 8 – New Kitchen Blessing & Shower, 11:30am  
Sunday, Feb 8 – Youth group, 5pm  
Sunday, Feb 15 – Movie night – 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