

From Father Nik

Scripture is the witness to the Word of God. As such, Scripture directs us to the Gospel—the good news of God reconciling all things Christ. It places the promises of God before us, *if we have ears to hear*. That is why the 16th century Reformers, Martin Luther & John Calvin, were so keen to quote St Paul, *Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God* (Rom 10:17). This might make faith sound like a very passive thing, not a journey at all. And there is something to that, since it begins with God's love for us and the promise that this love—this Grace—has been given to us in the person and work of Jesus, which we did nothing to earn, merit, or deserve. However, this Grace is the kind of love that raises the dead to new life, which means that faith—even as a gift—turns out to be more participatory than passive.

We don't just read scripture; we hear it proclaimed. We don't just hear it proclaimed, we are confronted by its witness to something—someone—*like us in every way*, but also wholly other. We are not just confronted by this witness; we are caught up into that witness. And we are not just caught up into that witness; we are transformed by the one who is the object of that witness, the one who confronts us, the one who is proclaimed. Through word & sacrament, we are made members of the body of Word of God made flesh, Jesus Christ.

Now the Church is the Body of Christ (Rom 12:5), that *great cloud of witnesses* (Heb 12:1) called together by the Witness to the Word, bound to one another by the Holy Spirit (Eph 4:4), and stretching through the centuries. So, the Bible is not a text we each read quietly to ourselves only. The journey of faith is not a lonely road we each walk alone. First and foremost, Scripture is proclaimed when we assemble for worship as the congregation of the members of the Body of Christ in our local parish, uniting ourselves to that cloud of witnesses—*the angels and archangels and all the company of heaven*—to embody the continuing witness to and worship of Christ through time. It is for this purpose that the Fork Church exists here in our little corner of Hanover County, Virginia—to be Grounded in Scripture, Guided by Tradition, and Growing in Grace.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Fork Church Annual Meeting will be today
immediately following worship.

Please see insert

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

Fork Cookbook

Buy yours today from any cookbook committee member.

Look What's Cookin' – 2015 Stewardship

The 2015 Stewardship Letter & Pledge Card have been mailed.

If you have any questions or need a Pledge Card,
please contact Scott Smythe (scott@virginiaberryfarm.com)

Souper Bowl

Please bring cans of soup to church on Sunday, Feb 1 for WHEAT

Shrove Tuesday & Ash Wednesday

Shrove Tuesday pancake supper at 6:30pm

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

Ash Wednesday Eucharist at 7pm

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, January 25 @ 5pm in the parish house.** (*Bring \$5.00 for pizza*)

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, and the book is *Unglued* by Lysa TerKeurst. Please contact Kathy for directions or more info: boysthree@embarqmail.com

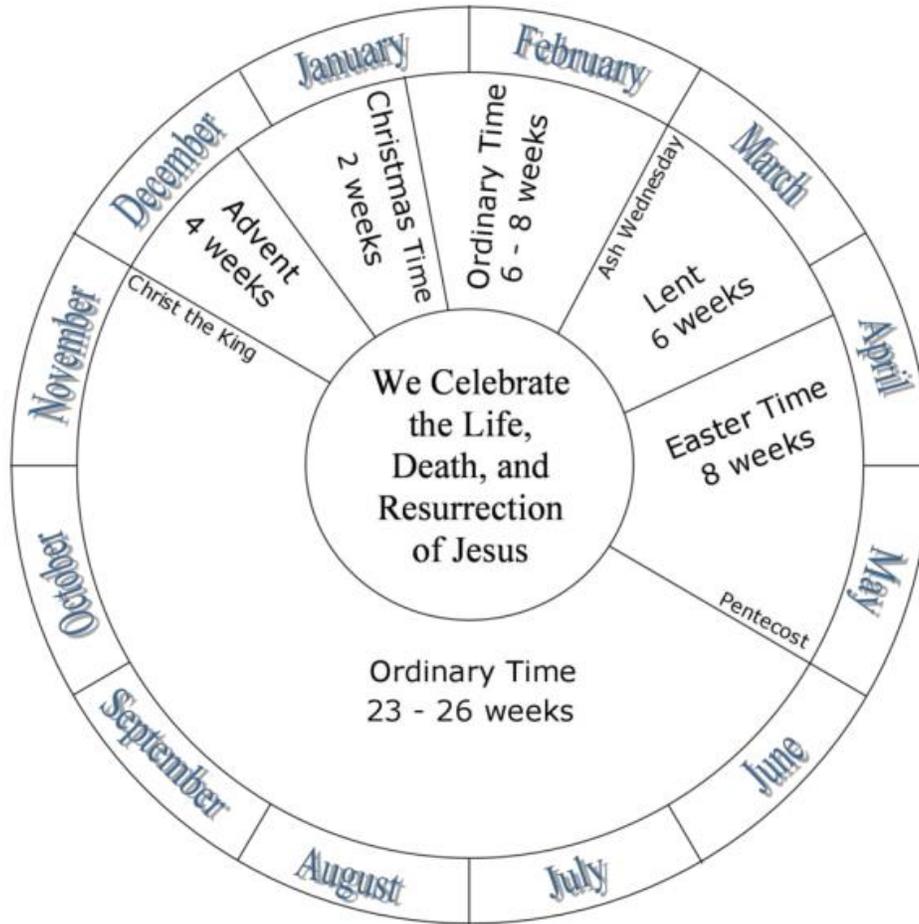
The Men's Book Group will meet Thursday, February 5, 2015 at 7:30am at Ashland Coffee & Tea. They are reading *Resident Aliens: Life in the Christian Colony* by Stanley Hauerwas & Will Willimon – (pages 80-92). Please join us!

Christian Formation

An Adult Christian Formation class will begin meeting during the season of Lent – (beginning in mid-February).

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

Saturday, Jan 17 – Pre-marital prep meetings, 10am-2pm

Tuesday, Jan 20 – Pastoral visits, 2-5pm

Thursday Jan 22 - Jan 24 – Diocesan Annual Council, Richmond

Monday, Jan 26 – Meeting with the Rev Dr Ed Bushong, 10:30am-12:30pm

Friday, Jan 30 – Vestry alumni send-off, 5:30-7pm

Looking Ahead

Sunday, Jan 25 – Annual Meeting, 11:30am

Saturday, Jan 31 – Vestry Transitions Party

Thursday, Feb 5 – Woman's Book Club, 10am-noon

Thursday, Feb 5 – Men's Book Club, 7:30-8:30am

Saturday, Feb 7 – Vestry Retreat, 9am-noon

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

Wednesday, Feb 18 – Ash Wednesday Eucharist, 7pm