

## From Father Nik

In studying Galatians in the Adult Sunday School, we've come to an odd passage. Paul has been building an argument for how the Law—the covenant & commandments God gave to Israel at Mount Sinai—has prepared the way for the fulfillment of God's more ancient Promise to Abraham (Gal 3:6-22). That Promise of blessing for all peoples, through Abraham's offspring, is fulfilled in Jesus Christ, and we are all heirs of that promise in Christ (Gal 3:23-4:7). We inherit the Blessing of the Promise through Baptism into Christ's Body (Gal 3:27 & 29, 4:7). Therefore, we no longer need the guidance & discipline of the Law, for we have the faith of Christ to justify us, to lead us along paths of righteousness (Gal 3:24-26). In other words, it's time to take the training wheels off; they're only going to keep us from getting up enough speed to maintain our balance. It's time to take the bumpers out of the gutters; they'll only keep us from bowling our best game.

So far, so good. Then Paul starts on about being enslaved to “elemental spirits” that aren't “naturally gods” but that the Galatian Christians are in danger of serving as if they *are* gods (Gal 4:3, 8-9). The sign of this slavery was their observance of special “days, and months, and seasons, and years” (Gal 4:10). This all sounds like spooky stuff, but really Paul's point is pretty straightforward. There are many things in creation that demand of you the obedience you owe only to God. And these things will enslave you by taking up all of your time. For whatever orders your time is what orders your heart.

There are many things that clamor for control of our time, but God has ordered time around the Sabbath (Gen 2:2-3; Ex 20:8-11), and He has set Christ, who has redeemed time, as Lord of the Sabbath (Mark 2:28). For most of us, work determines our schedules & demands more of our time than nearly anything else. And, of course, it's a good thing to spend our time doing good work. But it's not our work—no matter how good or helpful or even religious—that justifies us, heals our brokenness, and redeems our time. God has already done that for us in Christ. Having our time redeemed means that the Sabbath has been made for us, not us for the Sabbath (Mark 2:27). Therefore, we who are in Christ are free to take time for the worship of God; the love & care of others; and the many other little ways that God's grace breaks into our lives & into our world. Christ has won for us the time to take the time to enjoy the beauty of God's creation & the creative achievements of others, to nurture old friendships & cultivate new ones, to read good literature & not-so-good literature, to get lost in contemplation & good conversation. In other words, Christ has won for us the time to take time for Sabbath. *Nik+*

## **Fr Nik will be away**

from Sunday, June 21 through Monday, July 6.

He'll be working as the St. George's Camp Chaplain at Shrine Mont.

## **Eucharistic Ministers, Visitors, & Acolytes**

If you're interested in being a Lay Eucharistic minister, Pastoral Visitor, or Acolyte, please let Fr. Nik know – [KnicholasForti@gmail.com](mailto:KnicholasForti@gmail.com)

## **Bishop's Jubilee**

**July 3-5, 2015 at Shrine Mont**

Two Fun Filled Days of Music and Family Activities:  
5k Run, Carnival Games, Crafts, Live Bluegrass, and more!

Contact Shrine Mont for more information

[shrine@Shentel.net](mailto:shrine@Shentel.net) – 540-856-2141

## **The Unique Boutique Arts & Crafts Festival**

will be held on the grounds of Fork Church September 19th, 2015 and is seeking artist & craft persons to participate in the show & sale. For more information go to the website ([uniqueboutiquefestival.com](http://uniqueboutiquefestival.com)) or email at [uniqueboutiquefestival@gmail.com](mailto:uniqueboutiquefestival@gmail.com) or speak to Amy Newell, Alice Noland, Linda MacDonald, or Emily Dickson

**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

*... is Taking a Break for the Summer.*

**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 in September, but stay tuned for occasional summer events.**

**The Adult Forum** meets Sunday mornings at 9am. We're studying **St Paul's Letter to the Galatians** through Sunday, June 14. Come join us for coffee and good conversation.

## Small Groups

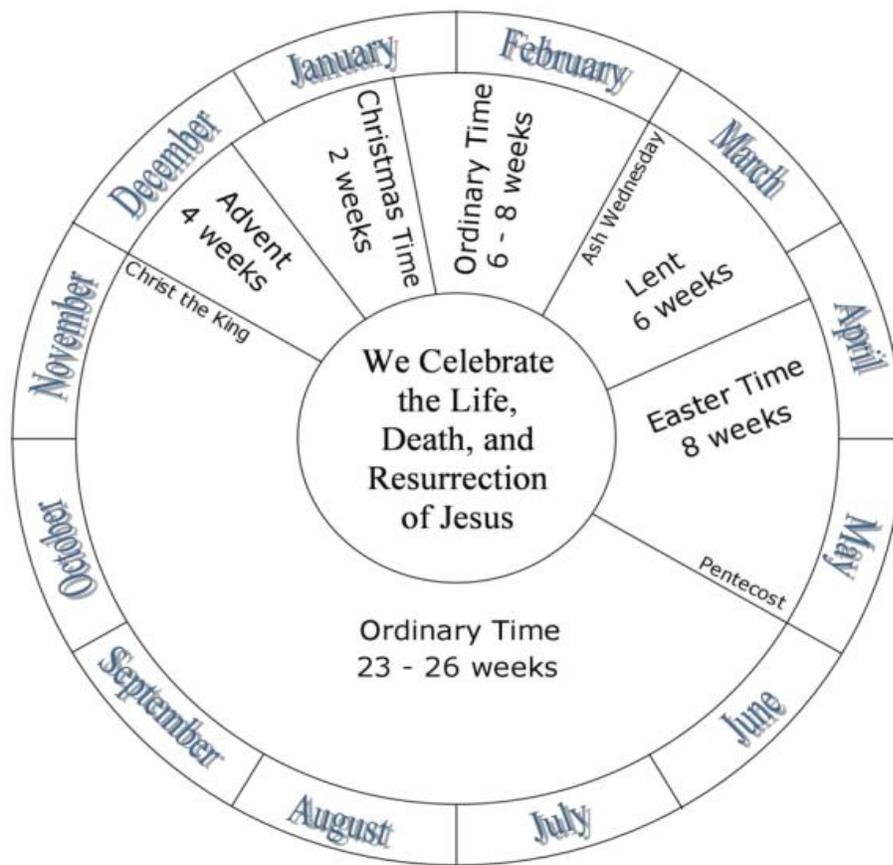
**The Women's Book Group** meets every other Thursday at Kathy Thomas' house from 10am-noon. The next meeting will be in September. They will be reading *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle over the summer. Please contact Kathy for directions or more info:

[boysthree@embarqmail.com](mailto:boysthree@embarqmail.com)

**The Men's Book Group** will meet Thursday, June 18 at 7:30am at Ashland Coffee & Tea. They are reading *Killing Jesus: A History* by Bill O'Reilly & Martin Dugard, (pages 52-92).

## Christian Formation

If you're interested in being Baptized or would like to become a member of this Church, please contact Fr Nik – [KNicholasForti@gmail.com](mailto:KNicholasForti@gmail.com)



## Nik's Calendar

Tuesday, June 2 – Colleague Group, 9:30am (Bon Air)  
 – Building Use Guidelines Committee Meeting, 7pm  
 Wednesday, June 10 – Building Use Guidelines Committee Meeting, 7pm  
 Friday, June 19 – Young Rector's Group, 10am (Culpeper)  
 Sun, June 21-Mon, July 6 – Vacation: Shrine Mont Camp Chaplain

## Looking Ahead

Saturday, June 6 – Strawberry Faire, Ashland 9am-5pm  
 Sunday, June 7 – Annual Parish Picnic, 10am  
 Thursday, June 18 – Men's Book Group, 7:30-8:30am