

## From Father Nik

### First John 4:12-15

<sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God.

This passage, taken from the Epistle Lesson from last Sunday—(May 3, the fifth Sunday of Easter)—makes clear what is at stake in our call to be a community of witness. *No one has ever seen God*, for God is invisible, intangible Spirit. He has no need for the potentiality and changeability of matter because He is who He is (Ex 3:14). No one has seen the Father except the Son, the image of the invisible God (Col 1:15), who is one with the Father and reveals God to us (Jn 1:18). He it is who abides in the Father and in whom the Father abides (Jn 14:10/15:9). But *if we* who bear witness to him, the very same Jesus Christ, *love one another*, then *God lives in us, because He has given us of His Spirit*. It is His Spirit that binds us together as a community of witness, that we might walk by faith (2 Cor 5:7) and see what is unseen (2 Cor 4:18), for it is only in the Spirit that we can proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord (1 Cor 12:3). Therefore, if the Spirit of God dwells in us, making us a community of witness, then *God abides in those of us who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and we abide in God*. That is to say, when we bear witness to Jesus Christ through words and deeds of love for one another, we make visible to the world the invisible God, who came in our image and likeness out of the overabundance of His love for us and for all creation.

## **Bob Partlow**

has entered into home Hospice. Please keep him & Ruth in your prayers.

## **Spring Meeting** **Episcopal Church Woman of Virginia** *"Saying Yes to God"*

**When:** Saturday, May 30, 1-5pm; **Where:** Christ Church, Spotsylvania  
Register on line by May 26.

<http://www.thediocese.net/Forms/Form.asp?Action=Edit&FormID=64>

## **Men's Book Group**

will begin discussing a new book on Thursday, June 4.

## **Strawberry Faire**

We will have a booth at the annual Strawberry Faire in Ashland on Sat, June 6.

If you are interested in helping with covering the booth,  
please let Jacquie (secretary) know what times you are available by  
email [forkchurch@embarqmail.com](mailto:forkchurch@embarqmail.com) or phone (804-227-3413).

## **Annual Parish Picnic**

Mark your calendars - The annual picnic will be Sunday June 7, at  
Mt. Olympus Berry Farm (23298 Jefferson Davis Hwy).  
Eucharist will be at 10am with picnic to follow.

## **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 inaugural 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**

**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 May 17 @ 5pm.

**The Adult Forum** meets Sunday mornings at 9am. During the seasons of Lent and Easter we're studying *St Paul's Letter to the Galatians*. Come join us for coffee and good conversation.

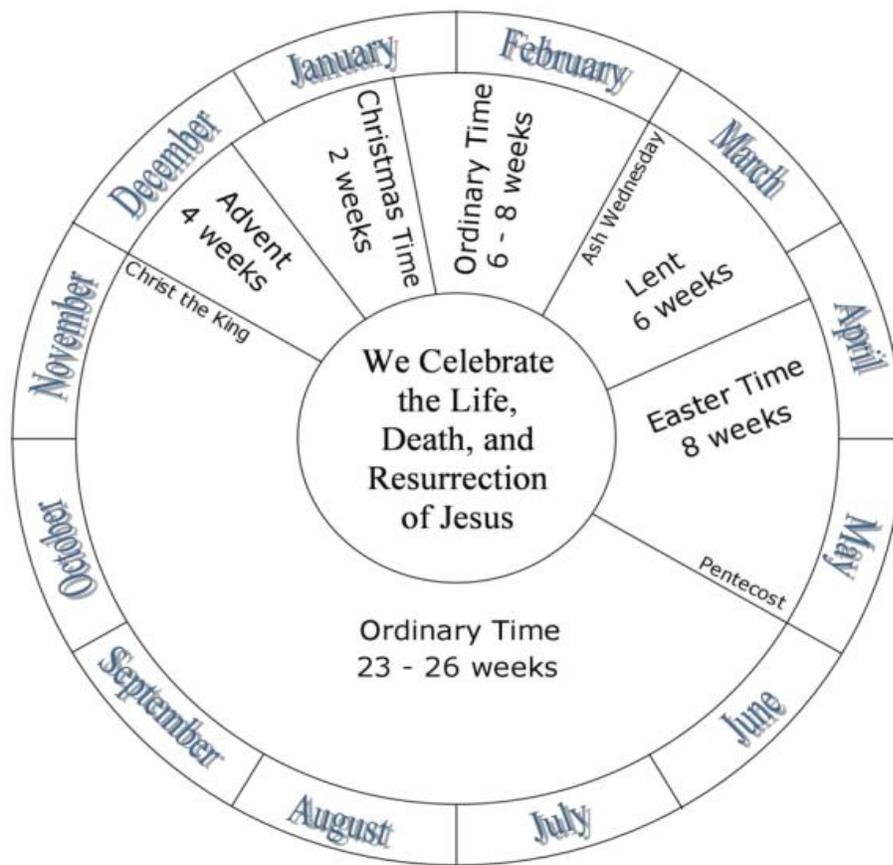
## **Small Groups**

**The Women's Book Group** meets every other Thursday at Kathy Thomas' house from 10am-noon. The next meeting is Thursday May 14. The book is *Daring Greatly* by Brene Brown. Please contact Kathy for directions or more info: [boysthree@embarqmail.com](mailto:boysthree@embarqmail.com)

**The Men's Book Group** will meet Thursday, May 21 at 7:30am at Ashland Coffee & Tea. They are reading *Resident Aliens: Life in the Christian Colony* by Stanley Hauerwas & Will Willimon. Please join us!

## **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

Monday, May 11- Meeting with Fr. Bushong, 10:30am  
 Meeting with Fr. Herbert Jones, 1:30pm  
 Tuesday, May 12 – Colleague Group, 9:30am  
 Wednesday, May 13 – Clericus, 1pm  
 Thursday, May 14 - Fresh Start, 9:30am  
 Friday, May 15 – Young Rector's Group, 10am

### Looking Ahead

Wednesday, May 13 – Catechism & Confirmation class, 6:30-7:30pm  
 – Choir Rehearsal, 7pm  
 Thursday, May 14 – Woman's Book Group, 10am-noon  
 Sunday, May 17 – Youth Group, 5pm  
 Tuesday, May 19 – Vestry meeting, 7pm  
 Wednesday, May 20 – Catechism & Confirmation class, 6:30-7:30pm  
 – Choir Rehearsal, 7pm  
 Thursday, May 21 – Men's Book Group, 7:30-8:30am  
 Sunday, May 24 – Pentecost Sunday, 10am