

## From Father Nik

Last Sunday, the Feast of Pentecost or Whitsunday, we baptized a young catechumen. Outside, on the side of the church by the graveyard, he was *buried with Christ by baptism* (Rom 6:4), and having *died with Christ* (Rom 6:8) through immersion in the baptismal water *in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit* (Matt 28:19), he became a member of Christ's resurrected and glorified body (I Cor 12:27). *For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body . . . and we were all made to drink of one Spirit* (I Cor 12:13). We then entered the church, the newly baptized clothed in the white alb that is a sign of the baptized, and he participated in Holy Communion for the first time. Having joined Christ in death and been raised in Christ's body, he then joined with us, the other members of Christ's body, in the Eucharistic Feast—the sharing in the Body and Blood of Christ in the consecrated bread and wine.

If this were not enough good news and reason for celebration, we also acknowledged that our Confirmation/Reception class has completed the first two-thirds of their preparation. When they began in March, we marked them with the sign of the cross and commissioned them to study the faith. During Lent, they delved into the Ten Commandments and then, in the season of Easter, turned their focus to the Lord's Prayer. So, on Sunday we gave to each of them a leather-bound Book of Common Prayer with the words, "Receive the gift of prayer." These words reflect what that class has learnt—namely, the prayer is a gift of Christ in the Holy Spirit, passed down from one generation to the next in the Church. Or, as St Paul says in his letter to the Galatian Christians: through the power of the Spirit bestowed on us at baptism, we are joined to Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, in calling God, "Our Father" (Gal 4:4-6). In this way, the God we worship is revealed to us. He is not some vague concept or an "old man in the sky." He is not one of the gods we make in our own image. He is the One God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*Nik*

## A Note from Lucy Oliver

To my Fork Church family,  
Please accept my heartfelt thanks for your many kind and loving thoughts on my 100<sup>th</sup> birthday... The wonderful Fork Church album especially fantastic cards from The Godly Play Sunday School children. The card from the Vestry & from the communicants will bring joy to me for a long time.  
May God Bless you all, Lucy M. Oliver

## **Trinity Sunday @ Trinity Church**

The Rev'd Bob Heatherington will preside at a 4pm Eucharist on Sunday, May 31 at Trinity Church (18185 Teman Rd. Beaverdam)

## **Men's Book Group**

will begin discussing our new book, *Killing Jesus* on Thursday, June 4 @ 7:30am at Ashland Coffee & tea.

## **Strawberry Faire**

### *Volunteers needed*

We will have a booth at the annual Strawberry Faire in Ashland on Sat, June 6 from 9am-5pm

If you are interested in helping with covering the booth, please let us know what times you're 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 31 @ 5pm.

**The Adult Forum** meets Sunday mornings at 9am. We're studying *St Paul's Letter to the Galatians* through Sunday, May 31. Come join us for coffee and good conversation.

## Small Groups

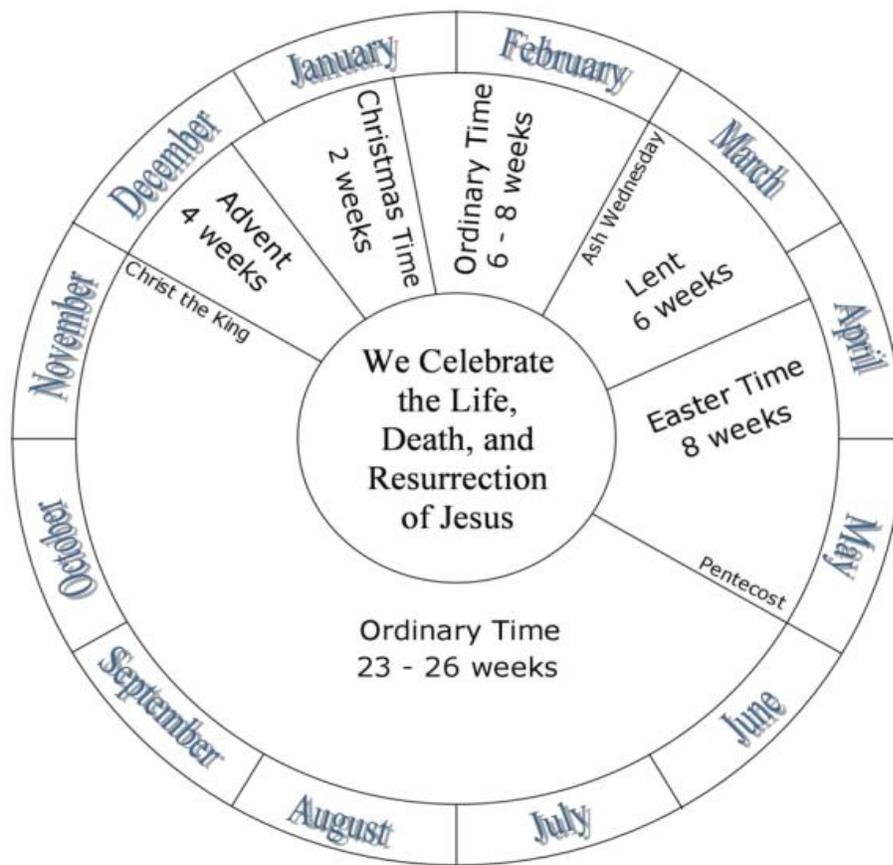
**The Women's Book Group** meets every other Thursday at Kathy Thomas' house from 10am-noon. The next meeting will be in September. They will be reading *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle over the summer. Please contact Kathy for directions or more info:

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

**The Men's Book Group** will meet Thursday, June 4 at 7:30am at Ashland Coffee & Tea. They are reading *Killing Jesus: A History* by Bill O'Reilly & Martin Dugard, (pages 1-51).

## 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

Thursday, May 28 – Lunch with Fr. Brian Turner, Noon

Tuesday, June 2 – Colleague Group, 9:30am (Bon Air)

– 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

Sunday, May 31 – Youth Group, 5pm

Thursday, June 4 – Men's Book Group, 7:30-8:30am

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