

From Father Nik

Before the current Book of Common Prayer came out in 1979, the practice of the Episcopal Church was to restrict reception of Communion to only those church members who had been confirmed in the Episcopal Church. This meant that children under the age of twelve—the normal age of Confirmation at that time—didn't receive communion. It also meant that other Christians who had been baptized and, in some cases, confirmed within another denomination were also kept from receiving. If a Roman Catholic or a Lutheran or a Methodist or Presbyterian wanted to receive communion in an Episcopal Church, they had to first be confirmed and received as a member of the Episcopal Church.

The requirement of membership was dropped with the publication of the '79 Prayer Book because of the historical and theological work that had been done by the Liturgical Renewal Movement. This movement, which spanned the late 19th century through the mid 20th century, included clergy and scholars from across denominational confessions. They scoured Scripture and the Church Fathers, and recovered previously lost documents of the early Church. What they found was that the only requirement for Communion according to scripture and the Church Fathers and Mothers was Baptism. So, the scholars of the Liturgical Renewal Movement, and those who followed their work, began to call for an "Open Table"—by which they meant that all of the Baptized should be allowed to partake of communion. Today, the phrase "Open Table" has been adopted by a new generation who (often unwittingly) use it to undermine the Liturgical Renewal Movement's recovery of the ancient Christian insight that Baptism (alone) makes us worthy receive the Body and Blood of Christ in Communion.

Our current Book of Common Prayer is structured around this insight that Baptism and Eucharist are inextricably intertwined. The Liturgies for Baptism and Eucharist form the core of the Prayer Book—the Daily Office (which can be prayed by both the baptized and those not-yet-baptized) preceding the Baptismal Liturgy and the other Sacramental Rites (Confirmation, Matrimony, Ordination, etc) following after the Eucharistic Liturgies. In this way, we are reminded that those gathered for Eucharist are the community of the Baptized (not Episcopalians or Methodists or Roman Catholics). We are reminded that in the Eucharist we take into our bodies the body and blood of Christ because he first took us into his body through the water of Baptism (which signifies the atoning blood of his sacrifice). We are reminded that as often as we eat the bread and drink the cup of Eucharist we proclaim Christ's death until he comes again (1 Cor 11:26), which we can only do because we have been united with him in his death through Baptism (Rom 6:3-5). We are reminded that these are *the gifts of God for the people of God.*

Nik+

Coffee Hour

Thanks to the Thomas family for today's refreshments!
Bev & Laura Smith will be hosting next Sunday's refreshments.

Volunteers are needed for all the Sundays in December

To sign up, please go to

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/9040449A5AA2FA57-coffee/25614452

Thanksgiving Day

Eucharist at 10am on Thursday, November 26.

The Liturgy will be from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer,
in keeping with the historic origin of Fork Church.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

The Flower Guild is preparing to green our sanctuary for Christmas.

Please consider making a gift

in Honor or Memory of someone meaningful in your life.

These will be published in the

Christmas Eve and Christmas service bulletins.

Please make your check payable to Fork Church Altar Guild by Dec 15.

(Suggested donation is \$25)

Send check with order form to:

Emily Dickson , 15003 Lane Mill Rd., Montpelier, VA 23192

Questions? Contact Emily at 339-1757 or emily.appleseed@gmail.com

Advent Wreaths

We'll be making Advent Wreaths to take home
after worship on Sunday, November 29th – Cost: \$10.

Notify Boo if interested: 804-357-3319 or boosmythe@gmail.com

Interested in Serving on Vestry?

Contact Fr Nik – KnicholasForti@gmail.com; 804-291-6124

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 morning worship; after which, they join their parents in church for Communion.

J2A Youth Group will meet today, Sunday December 6, at 5:30pm, in the parish hall. Bring a gift of \$5 or less for the “White Elephant” gift exchange.

The Adult Sunday School meets Sunday mornings at 9am in the parish hall to explore the Sacraments.

Small Groups

The Women’s Book Group will discuss the fifth section of *Searching for Sunday* by Rachel Held Evans, “Confirmation” on Thursday, December 3, at 10am. Please contact Kathy for directions:

boysthree@embarqmail.com

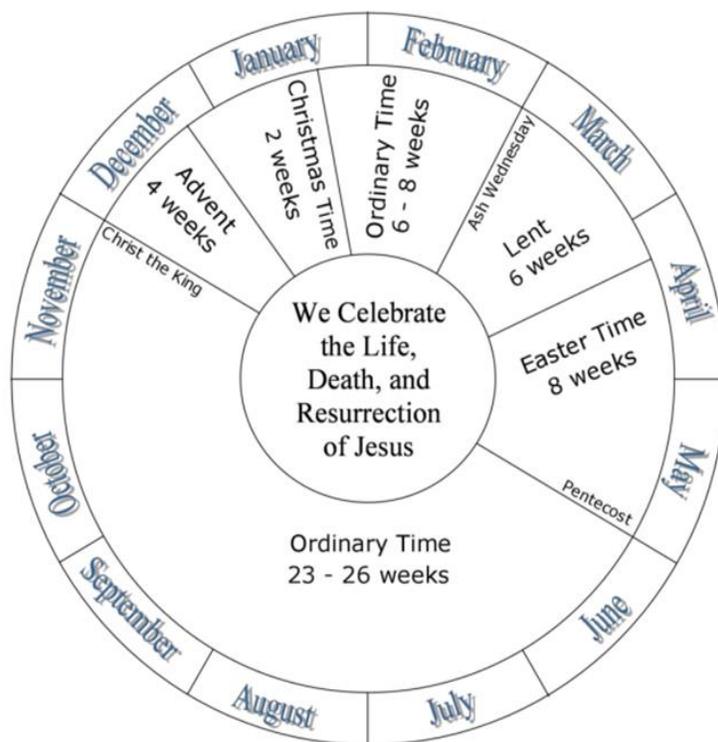
The Men’s Book Group will meet Thursday, December 3, at 7:30am at Ashland Coffee & Tea to discuss the fifth section of *Searching for Sunday* by Rachel Held Evans, “Confirmation,” (pp 161-199).

Christian Formation

The *Way of Discipleship* class for Confirmation & Reception meets on Wednesdays at 6:30pm.

If you’re interested in being Baptized or would like to become a member of this Church, please contact Fr Nik – KNicholasForti@gmail.com

The Liturgical Year



Nik's Calendar

Monday, Nov 30 – Coffee with the Rev'd Dr Ed Bushong, 10:30am-12:30pm
– PPDC Chapel, 5:30-6:30pm

Tuesday, Dec 1 – Clergy Colleague Group, 9:30-11:30am

Wednesday, Dec 9 – St. James the Less Free Clinic dinner, 5:30-8pm

Thursday, Dec 3 – Meeting with the RMC Chaplain, 10-11am

Tuesday, Dec 8 – Lunch with the Rev'd Brain Turner, noon (Fredericksburg)

Thursday, Dec 10 – Fresh Start, 9:30am-3:30pm

Looking Ahead

Thursday, Nov 26 – Thanksgiving Day Eucharist, 10am

Sunday, Nov 29 – Advent Wreath making after worship in the Parish Hall

Wednesday, Dec 2 – Confirmation/Reception class, 6:30pm

– Choir Rehearsal, 7pm

Thursday, Dec 3 – Men's Book Group, 7:30-8:30am

– Women's Book Group, 10am-noon

Sunday, Dec 6 – Youth Group Christmas Party, 5:30-7:30pm

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.