

From Father Nik

There are a handful of church jokes that are as old as Methuselah and, despite not being terribly funny, promise to be with us even unto the close of the age. Some are generically Christian; others are denominationally specific. There's one that I've heard at least two or three times at every Episcopal Church that I've served or attended and has long-since lost its appeal to my humor; though, still appeals to my sense of the true and the good. It's a one-liner that's usually said in connection with the fellowship hour after church and goes like this: "For Episcopalians, coffee is the eighth sacrament."

The humor at work in this witticism is that Episcopalians treat coffee—or, at least, 'coffee hour'—with the same reverence usually reserved for the seven sacraments. However, the joke sometimes falls flat among some Episcopalians. Obviously, the problem with the joke has nothing to do with coffee or the (well-deserved) reverence for it. This one-liner is sometimes delivered to crickets chirping because not every Episcopalian believes there are *seven* sacraments. For some—particularly, low-church, Virginia Episcopalians of a more mature vintage—there are only *two* sacraments. So, just what is a sacrament?

This Sunday we begin both a sermon series and an Adult Sunday School series focused on the Sacraments. The schedule for the Adult Forum series will be:

- Sept 13 – What is a Sacrament?
- Sept 20 – How many sacraments are there?
- Sept 17 & Oct 4 – Baptism
- Oct 11 & 18 – Confession
- Oct 25 & Nov 1 – Holy Orders
- Nov 15 & 22 – Communion/Eucharist
- Nov 29 & Dec 6 – Confirmation
- Dec 13 – Anointing of the Sick
- Jan 3 – Marriage

With any luck, my sermons will loosely correspond to this schedule as well. So, if you're anxious to know whether there are two or seven sacraments, or what a sacrament is, I'll see you Sunday morning. *Nik+*

Thank You

to everyone who donated food, money & time
to make our *CARITAS* commitment a huge success!

Thanks to Lou Ann Cave & the Adult Forum for preparing the bag lunches
and to Jennifer Smith & her crew for providing breakfast.

A special thank you to Paul Jalbert who rolled his equipment in
and grilled 35 steaks for 35 happy men.

Thanks to Barbara Woods who helped
make lunches, furnished a cake, & worked the dinner meal.

Thanks to Chris Hawks who volunteered to spend the night.

Thanks, as always, Fork Church! ~Sally Campbell

THANK YOU, SALLY CAMPBELL

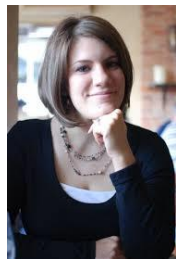
for organizing the Fork Church involvement in *CARITAS*!

Lemonade on the Lawn

Thanks to Mazie Florance for this morning's refreshments!

Fall Small Groups

This Fall, the Thursday morning Men's Group & Women's Group
Will both read *Searching For Sunday* by Rachel Held Evans.



The book's chapters are organized according to the Seven Sacraments,
so the Adult Sunday School will explore those sacraments in depth.

**We'd like to organize another (co-ed?) small group
to meet on a weeknight to discuss the book.**

If you're interested, please let Fr Nik know.

Bishop Spong Discussion Group

meets Thursday, Sept 17 at 10am at St. James the Less

Christian Education

Godly Play begins this Sunday. 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 at 5:30pm on Sunday, September 20 at the Church of Our Savior, Montpelier.

The Adult Sunday School begins meeting this Sunday to explore the Sacraments.

Small Groups

The Women's Book Group will discuss *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle on Thursday, Sept 24 at 10am. Please contact Kathy for directions or more info: boysthree@embarqmail.com

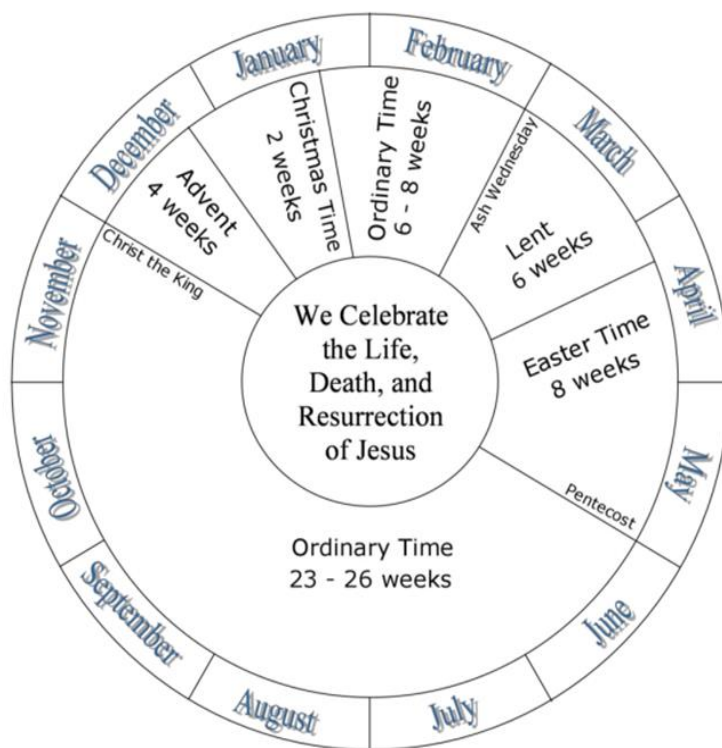
The Men's Book Group will meet Thursday, Sept 24 at 7:30am at **The Ashland Coffee & Tea** to finish discussing *The Wisdom of Stability* by Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove.

Christian Formation

The Way of Discipleship classes for Confirmation & Reception will resume on Wednesday, October 7 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

- Thursday, Sept 10 – Marriage Prep with couple K & B, 7-8pm
Friday, Sept 11 – House Blessing for Ben & Adrienne, 6pm
Sunday, Sept 13 – Episcopal Campus Ministry Event at RMC, 6:30-7:30pm
Monday, Sept 14 – Meet with the Rev'd Dr Ed Bushong, 10:30am-12:30pm
Thursday, Sept 17 – RMC Campus Ministries Council, noon-1pm
– Marriage Prep with couple, 4-5pm
– Attend Reynolds Lecture at the Polegreen Church, 8:30pm
Friday, Sept 18 – Young Rectors Group in Culpeper, 10am-noon

Looking Ahead

- Tuesday, Sept 15 – Vestry Meeting, 7-9pm
Thursday, Sept 17 – Spong Discussion Group @ SJtL, 10-11am
Sunday, Sept 20 – Youth Group Event @ Church of Our Savior, Montpelier, 5:30pm
Thursday, Sept 24 – Men's Book Group, 7:30-8:30am
– Women's Book Group, 10am-noon
Sunday, Oct 4 – St Francis Day Blessing of the Animals, 4:30pm

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.