

From Father Nik

And Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up; and he went to the synagogue, as his custom was, on the Sabbath. And all spoke well of him, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth; and they said, "Is not this Joseph's son?"

~Luke 4:16, 22

In its “orderly account,” Luke’s Gospel has taken pains to locate the events of the narrative within wider world history. Through the story so far, Luke—unique among the gospel writers in this respect—has kept us informed of the sitting emperor of Rome, the Roman Legate of Syria, and the client kings of Palestine. Luke’s Gospel is also the only one to tell us that Jesus was about thirty when his ministry began (3:23). And we are reminded here that Jesus had been brought up in Nazareth, which is the setting for Luke’s inaugural scene in the story of Jesus’ ministry. Amid the great goings-on of the mighty, Roman Empire, and the drama of world politics, Luke focuses our attention on a hamlet in the hinterlands of a small province on the edge of the realm, and one of its native sons.

The neighbors who’ve known the young man since his early adolescence are astonished at his teaching. Isn’t this Joseph’s son? Luke leaves out the next line, but Matthew tells us that they added, Isn’t this the carpenter’s son (13:55)? Or, as Mark has it: Isn’t this the carpenter (6:2)? The dramatic irony is that the people of Nazareth do not know what we’ve just heard repeated three times (in three different ways) by Luke—namely, that Jesus is actually the Son of God. Still, this attention to Nazareth and Joseph are further clues to help us locate Jesus within his time and place.

Nazareth was a hamlet of peasants. Peasants in ancient, agrarian civilizations like first-century Palestine made up the majority of the population. What makes a peasant a peasant is that their produce—whether it’s the grain they grow or the fish they catch—is almost entirely confiscated (usually through taxes) to support the military and royal elite of the closest city. Nazareth was a satellite to the city of Sepphoris, which Herod Antipas had rebuilt at the beginning of his reign. A drought or increased taxes could easily overwhelm a peasant, causing him to lose his land. When this happened, the dispossessed peasant often turned to unskilled, manual labor. The Greek word for these laborers is what the Gospels call Joseph and Jesus—usually translated as carpenter. And it is this kind of life that reveals God-for-us because this is the life of the person that God, the Son became when He joined Himself to human nature, when He became flesh and dwelt among us.

Nik+

Coffee Hour

Thanks to Barbara Woods for this morning's refreshments!

Easter Church Flowers

Order in \$15 increments. Please, indicate your memorials/honors.

Order forms are in narthex of the church.

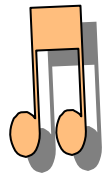
Send checks to Emily Dickson, payable to: Fork Church Flower Guild.

The deadline is 3/19.

Also, please bring garden flowers for the Cross early on Easter morning.

Choir Rehearsal

In preparation for Holy Week and Easter Sunday
The choir will be rehearsing every Wednesday at 7pm



Holy Week & Easter

March 20th – Palm Sunday, 10am Eucharist

Triduum

March 24th – Maundy Thursday, 7pm Agape Meal

March 25th – Good Friday, 7pm Liturgy

March 26th – Holy Saturday, 10am Liturgy

Easter

March 26th – Easter Vigil, 7:45pm Eucharist

March 27th – Easter Sunday, 10am Eucharist

Please keep the following in your prayers

Susan Melton, Linda Fore, Laura Hamill, Henry Vaughn, Cierra Ryan,
Marie Alexander, Susan Russo, Phyllis Bagby, Beryl Choi, Mary Franklin
Fulghum *and* James Palmer, Katherine Cauthorne, Barbara Oates,
Lucy Oliver, Virginia Turner, Carter Flippo *and* Glenn Schleede

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 on Sunday, March 13 at 5pm. Please bring \$5 for pizza.

The Adult Sunday School meets Sunday mornings at 9am in the parish hall to study the Gospel according to Luke.

Small Groups

The Women's Book Group will meet next on Thursday, March 17, at 10am to discuss the first part of Chapter 6 (pp 90-115) of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Discipleship* (Reader's Edition – Fortress Press). Please contact Kathy for directions: boysthree@embarqmail.com

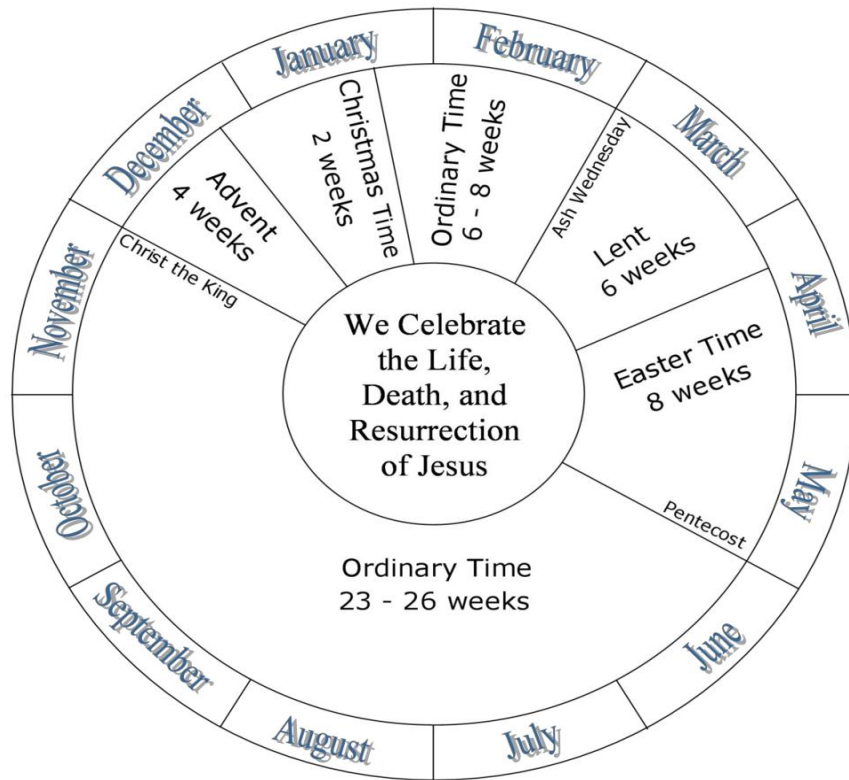
The Men's Book Group will meet Thursday, March 17, at 7:30am at Ashland Coffee & Tea to discuss the first part of Chapter 6 (pp 90-115) of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Discipleship* (Reader's Edition – Fortress Press).

Christian Formation

If you have never been Baptized or Confirmed, and are interested in receiving these sacraments, please contact Fr Nik – KnicholasForti@gmail.com

**These classes are also for those considering
Reaffirming their Baptismal Covenant.**

The Liturgical Year



Nik's Calendar

- Monday, Mar 14 – Coffee with the Rev'd Dr Ed Bushong, 10:30am-12:30pm
– Parochial Report meeting, 1:30pm
– Peter Paul Development Center Chapel, 5:30-6:30pm
- Tuesday, Mar 15 – Clergy Lunch meeting, 12:30pm
- Wednesday, Mar 16 – Pastoral meeting, 9:30am
- Wednesday, Mar 16 – RMC Episcopal-Methodist Campus Ministry, 9:30pm

Looking Ahead

- Sunday, Mar 13 – Youth Group, 5pm
- Tuesday, Mar 15 – Vestry Meeting, 7pm
- Wednesday, Mar 16 – Choir Rehearsal, 7pm
- Thursday, Mar 17 – Men's Book Group, 7:30-8:30am
– Women's Book Group, 10am-noon
- Sunday, Mar 20 – Palm Sunday Eucharist, 10am

Office hours: Jacquie Alleva, our office administrator, works Tuesday & Wednesday mornings and Thursday afternoons. If you would like to submit an announcement, please do so by noon on Thursday.