

## From Father Nik

At the first, preliminary General Convention in 1785, The Rev'd Dr William White & the Rev'd Dr William Smith were given the task of proposing a new Book of Common Prayer for the Episcopal Church. The primary impetus behind the drafting of a new Prayer Book was the elimination of the prayers for the King of England; however, the revolutionary tenor of the day crept into the Book's creation. Spurred on by this ethos, White & Smith sought to draft a Prayer Book containing the theological opinions of the people who would be using it. However, what the two clergymen discovered was that the people were not of one mind. Indeed, in some cases, the people held diametrically opposed views.

The Episcopalians of New England had come to define themselves against the Reform theology of the Puritan Congregationalists. This meant that New Englanders wanted a strong hierarchy emphasizing the authority of bishops. They also rejected Predestination, which was so important to the Puritan Congregationalists. Rather, they tended toward a more Lutheran & Sacramental theology with a higher view of the Church. In the South, however, Episcopalians generally held a lower view of the Church & hierarchy, placing emphasis on preaching over sacraments. Moreover, they distinguished themselves from the rapidly growing Methodists (who rejected Predestination, like the New Englanders) by appealing to Article 17 of the 39 Articles, according to which, the doctrine of Predestination "is full of sweet, pleasant, and unspeakable comfort" (BCP 871). Additionally, Boston, Philadelphia, & Williamsburg had become known for an increasingly popular view of God known as unitarian Deism, which rejected the idea of God as Trinity and suggested that once He created the universe, God never "intervened" either to direct history providentially or to reveal himself in Christ & Scripture.

White & Smith sought to placate New Englanders by removing Article 17 & other references to Predestination from the Prayer Book. They gave voice to the South's 'low church' tradition by replacing the word "priest" with "minister." And they courted unitarian Deists by omitting the Athanasian (BCP 864) & the Nicene Creeds (BCP 326-328), as well as altering the Apostle's Creed (BCP 53-54). The *Proposed Book* was sent to press in 1786 & met with almost universal rejection. In appealing to the desires of everyone, White & Smith had produced a Prayer Book that was acceptable to no one. From this failed attempt, the Episcopal Church learnt that the Prayer Book cannot be successfully bent to the agendas of the age or particular groups, but its enduring strength lay in its faithfulness to Scripture & Tradition.

Nik+

MICHAEL CURRY



## **Presiding Bishop-Elect Michael Curry**

The Rt. Rev. Michael Bruce Curry, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina, was elected the 27<sup>th</sup> Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church on the first ballot on June 27 at the 78<sup>th</sup> General Convention.

“God came among us in the person of Jesus of Nazareth to change the world, to change it from the nightmare it often can be into the dream that God intends. He came to change the world, and we have been baptized into the Triune God and summoned to be disciples and followers of this Jesus and to participate in God’s work, God’s mission of changing and transforming this world. We are the Jesus Movement now.”

### **Lemonade on the Lawn**

Thanks to Hugh & Sally for this morning’s refreshments!  
The Stiles family will be hosting next Sunday, July 19

### **Bishop Spong Discussion Group**

Ruth Syman-May & Janet Taylor will be meeting to listen to and discuss the 2015 Lenten Series presented by Bishop Jack Spong.

All are welcome!

The first meeting is 10am on Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup> at St. James the Less.  
Please contact Ruth at 804-240-8511 with any questions.

### **The Unique Boutique Arts & Crafts Festival**

will be held at Fork Church on September 19th, 2015 and is seeking artists & craft persons to participate in the 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

### **Eucharistic Ministers, Visitors, & Acolytes**

If you’re interested in being a Lay Eucharistic minister, Pastoral Visitor, or Acolyte, please let Fr. Nik know – [KnicholasForti@gmail.com](mailto:KnicholasForti@gmail.com)

# **Christian Education**

*... is Taking a Break for the Summer.*

## **Godly Play needs volunteers this summer for:**

- sorting & cleaning Nursery toys & equipment;
- helping with special summer events during the first part of church on Sundays from June 14 until August 16 (except July 5<sup>th</sup>);
- reorganizing the Godly Play stories & the supply closet.

Please call Boo Smythe at [804-357-3319](tel:804-357-3319) if you can help.

**J2A Youth Group** will meet again in September, **but stay tuned for occasional summer events.**

**The Adult Forum** will meet again in September.

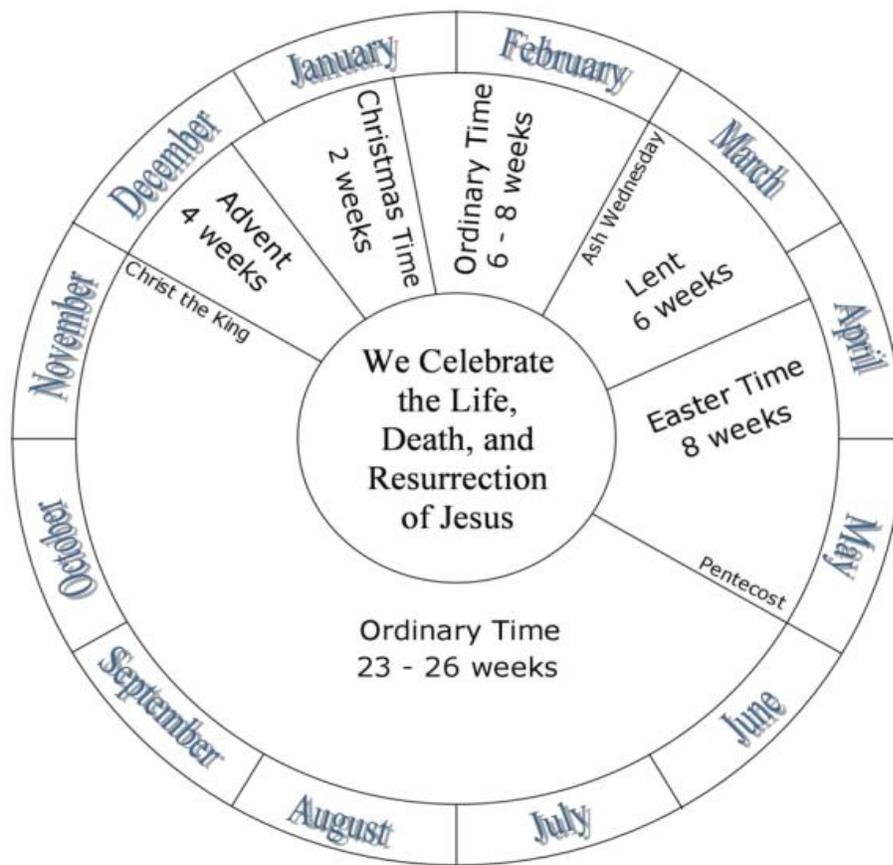
## **Small Groups**

**The Women's Book Group** will meet again in September. They are 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, July 23 at 7:30am at Ashland Coffee & Tea to discuss chapters 9 thru 11 (pages 134-178) of *Killing Jesus: A History* by Bill O'Reilly & Martin Dugard.

## **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, July 16 – Meeting with Fr Brian Turner in Fredericksburg, noon-2:30

Friday, July 17 – Young Rectors Group, Culpeper, 10am-12:30pm  
– Pastoral Meeting, 5-6pm

Saturday, July 18 – Marriage Prep with Couple, 10am-noon

## Looking Ahead

Tuesday, July 21 – Vestry Meeting, 7-9pm

Thursday, July 23 – Men's Book Group, 7:30-8:30am

**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.