

From Father Nik

One of the primary and most important tasks of the Rev'd Dr William White and the first few General Conventions was to produce a Book of Common Prayer for (and unique to) the Episcopal Church in the United States. It was necessary for the newly organized Church to create its own Prayer Book instead of retaining the Church of England's 1662 Book of Common Prayer because that Prayer Book included prayers for the King of England, "that he may vanquish and overcome all his enemies." Prayers like these, which were read aloud in church at Sunday worship each week, had created a great deal of tension and exacerbated the division between loyalist and patriot Episcopalians.

All Anglican clergy in the colonies had sworn obedience to the King of England, as their sovereign and as the head of the Church, at their ordinations (which had, necessarily, taken place in England where the bishops were). Many took that vow as seriously as their other ordination vows. Dr Samuel Seabury, the first Episcopal Bishop in America, had been a chaplain and cartographer for the British forces during the Revolutionary War. But it wasn't just the clergy, especially in New England, who were loyalists rather than patriots during the Revolution, but also many lay people in the Episcopal Church were either openly or secretly loyal to the crown.

Afraid of being imprisoned or even killed by patriots but also unwilling to break their ordination vows, many New England Episcopal clergy simply quit holding public Sunday services during the war. In the middle and southern colonies, there were fewer loyalists among the Episcopal laity and clergy — (many Virginia clergy were Scottish and had little love for the English, anyway) — but they still had to deal with a Prayer Book that included prayers for the monarch and his conquest over all enemies, which included the Continental Congress and Army at that time. A Pennsylvanian clergyman instructed the men of his congregation to quit coming to church (because he trusted that the patriots wouldn't harass women and children), and many in Virginia simply dipped their quills in ink and struck through all offending lines in the Prayer Book. But in the wake of the Revolution and American Independence, the newly organized Episcopal Church, under the leadership and guidance of Dr White, needed a new Prayer Book shorn of prayers for the King of England. Moreover, the fierce division among Episcopalians that such prayers helped engender taught the Episcopal Church that the Prayer Book mustn't include any prayers that any Christian, whatever his political or national allegiance, could not say. In other words, the founding fathers of the Episcopal Church in the United States wanted to be sure that our prayers and hymns in common worship must always direct our loyalty to God alone, and not a king or a president or a flag or a nation.

Nik+

Welcome and Thank You Father Haywood Spangler!

The Rev'd Dr Haywood Spangler has been a priest in the Diocese of Virginia since 1998. He has been the rector of parishes in Luray, Charlottesville, and Richmond, and has served on the board of Peter-Paul Development Center in Richmond's east end. He also taught at the University of Virginia's McIntyre School of Commerce. He is currently Director of Education at Leadership Metro Richmond. He holds an MDiv from Yale University and a PhD from the University of Virginia.

Fr Nik is Away

from Sunday, June 21 through Monday, July 6.

He's working as the St. George's Camp Chaplain at Shrine Mont.

The Rev. Charles Joy is available for pastoral emergencies, 757-642-5024.

Lemonade on the Lawn

Thanks to the Droppleman's for this morning's refreshments!

And the Droppleman family will be hosting next Sunday, July 5

Bishop Sponge Discussion Group

Ruth Syman-May and fellow EfM graduate Janet Taylor will be meeting to listen to and discuss the 2015 Lenten Series presented by Bishop Jack Sponge. All are welcome to join and the first meeting is Thursday, July 16th. Meeting time is 10:00am at St. James the Less in Brydon Hall. Any questions please contact Ruth at 804-240-8511.

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)

or email at uniqueboutiquefestival@gmail.com or speak to

Amy Newell, Alice Noland, Linda MacDonald, or Emily Dickson

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 5th);
- 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.

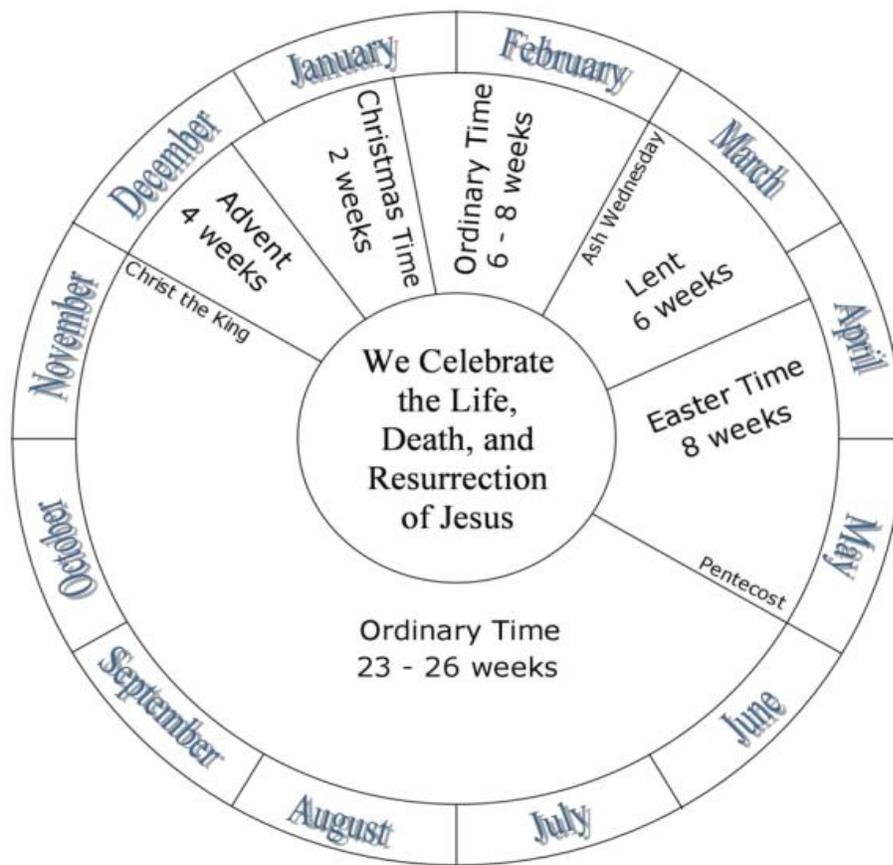
Small Groups

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

The Men's Book Group will meet Thursday, July 9 at 7:30am at Ashland Coffee & Tea to discuss chapters 6 thru 8 (pages 95-133) 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



Nik's Calendar

Sun, June 21-Mon, July 6 – Shrine Mont: St George's Camp Chaplain

Looking Ahead

Thursday, July 9 – Men's Book Group, 7:30-8:30am

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.