

## From Father Nik

At its most sacred & sublime, being the Church means gathering in worship, proclaiming the Gospel, and giving our lives in service to those in need. At a more mundane, but no less sanctified, level it means meeting together to attend to the business of the institution and to discuss, debate, & discern the work God has given us to do. This happens at the vestry meetings on the parish level, at the annual council/convention on the Diocesan level, and—every 3 years—at General Convention on the national level. The 78<sup>th</sup> General Convention of the Episcopal Church will be held in the Diocese of Utah (Salt Lake City) from Thursday, June 25 to Friday, July 3 this summer. Included in the work of those 9 days will be the election of a new presiding bishop and discussions about restructuring some aspects of the Church institution to make it more congenial to this post-Christendom, missional era that we're entering.

There are some who feel that this new era will be one of post-denominationalism, making meetings like Gen Con a superfluous holdover from our denominational past. In one sense, I gestured toward this in last Sunday's sermon on defining ourselves by being for the Gospel rather than against others—especially, other Christians. Like Paul's epistle to the Galatians, the sermon appealed to the unity we have in Christ by the grace of God—who came not to condemn the world, but to save it (Jn 3:16). When we define ourselves by who or what we're against, we define ourselves by the Law, & the Law condemns us as surely as those we define ourselves against.

No church denomination lives up to the justice & righteousness of our God. Still, if we're committed to the true unity we already have in Christ, then we shouldn't seek some least-common-denominator, paper-thin unity achieved through denying our denominational differences. At the center of every denomination is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. So, the way we find the unity we already have in Christ is by delving deep into our Faith as we receive it from our denominational traditions. It's not by moving to the fuzzy edges that we'll find the one Faith & one Spirit that unifies us. The way we find our unity with our Baptist, Methodist, Evangelical, Reform, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, etc, brothers & sisters in Christ is by delving deep into the center of our Faith as we receive it in the Anglican tradition of the Episcopal Church. In being formed more profoundly as Episcopalians in our Anglican tradition, we're also being formed more profoundly as Christians. And in being formed more profoundly as Christians, we're more deeply defined by the Gospel of Christ, in whom *there is neither male nor female, neither slave nor free, neither Jew nor Greek*, neither Anglican nor Roman, neither Episcopalian nor . . . .

## **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)

### **Fr Nik will be away**

from Sunday, June 21 through Monday, July 6.  
He'll be working as the St. George's Camp Chaplain at Shrine Mont.

### **Lemonade on the Lawn**

Thanks to Emily & Aaron Lazar for this morning's refreshments!  
Paul & Amy Newell will be hosting next Sunday (June 21).

### **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.

### **Richmond Road Race Saturday, June 27, 2015**

Be in touch with Howard Anderson if you would like to help us extend hospitality  
to the cyclists. ([hpjar@msn.com](mailto:hpjar@msn.com))

### **Bishop's Jubilee**

**July 3-5, 2015 at Shrine Mont**

Two Fun Filled Days of Music and Family Activities:  
5k Run, Carnival Games, Crafts, Live Bluegrass, and more!

Contact Shrine Mont for more information

[shrine@Shentel.net](mailto:shrine@Shentel.net) – 540-856-2141

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

will be held on the grounds of Fork Church September 19th, 2015  
and is seeking artist & 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

## **Congratulations, Ruth**

Today we recognize Ruth Syman-May for completion of the four-year Christian Formation program, "Education for Ministry". Everyone who has participated in

EfM is invited to join Ruth, her EfM co-mentors and Fr. Nik at the altar for a special blessing, as we send her out in ministry. A handout on EfM will be available after the service. For more information you may also contact Carol Sutton-Abaire at [cesabaire@gmail.com](mailto:cesabaire@gmail.com) or 227-3735 or Stephanie Werner at [stephwerner@hotmail.com](mailto:stephwerner@hotmail.com) or 986-2953.

## **Christian Education**

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

**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 worship, then join their parents for Communion.

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

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

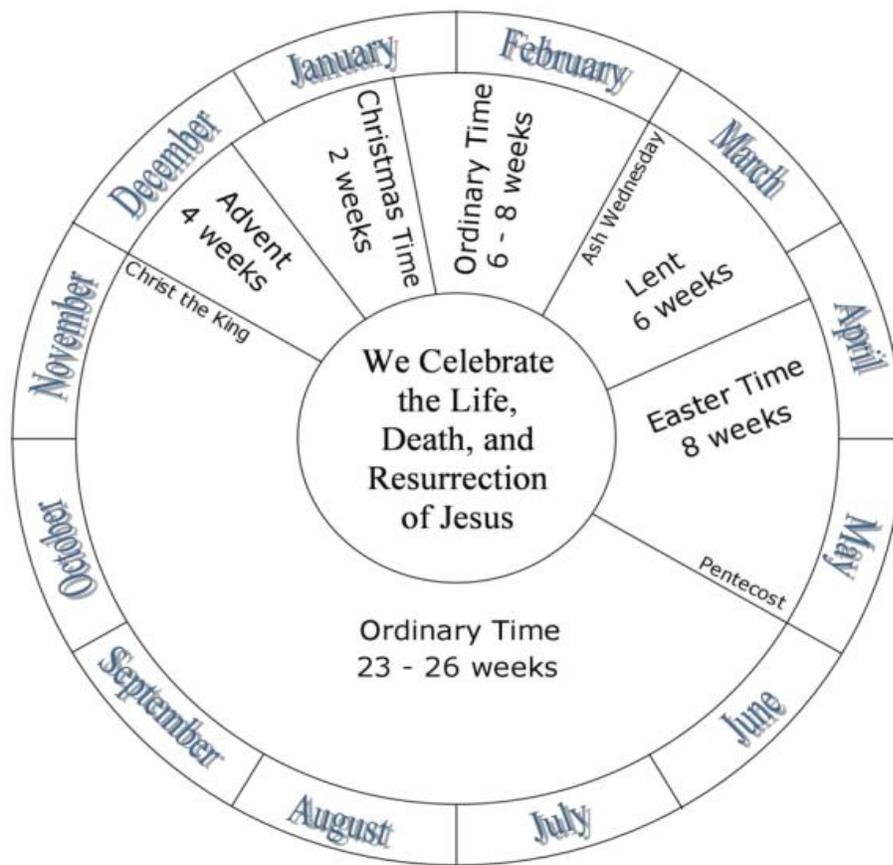
## **Small Groups**

**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, June 18 at 7:30am at Ashland Coffee & Tea to discuss pages 52-92 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

Wednesday, June 10 – Building Use Guidelines Committee Meeting, 7pm

Thursday, June 11 – Pastoral Visits

Friday, June 12 – Pre-marriage Prep Session, 5pm

Wednesday, June 17 – Pastoral Visits

Friday, June 19 – Young Rector's Group, 10am (Culpeper)

Sun, June 21-Mon, July 6 – Vacation: Shrine Mont Camp Chaplain

## Looking Ahead

Sunday, June 14 – Sunday children's event, 10am

Tuesday, June 16 – Vestry Meeting, 7pm

Thursday, June 18 – Men's Book Group, 7:30-8:30am

Saturday, June 27 – Richmond Road Race, 9am-5pm

**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.