

From Father Nik

With the 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church now in session, it seems a good time to give a little background on General Convention and the beginnings of the Episcopal Church. Before the American Revolution, Anglicanism in the colonies took the form of parishes under the oversight of the Bishop of London of the Church of England. Saint Martin's Parish, with its 'chapel at the Forks' (or Fork Church), was one of the Bishop of London's colonial parishes. However, this meant that in the wake of the Revolution, Anglicanism in America was in disarray. Not only were many of the Anglican clergy loyalists who returned to England during the war, but there were no bishops in America to ordain new clergy or provide leadership.

Since the Bishop of London had exercised oversight of the colonial parishes, no bishop was ever sent to the colonies. Moreover, the new republic was suspicious of the hierarchy and aristocracy that bishops seemed to represent. In England, bishops were Lords who were considered gentry and held seats in Parliament. This put the idea of bishops out-of-step with the democratic ethos and project of the new nation. So, Anglicanism in the first years of America had no bishops, had no apparent way of getting bishops, and wasn't even sure it wanted bishops. What a strange beginning for the Church whose name means, "under the leadership of bishops" (*i.e.* Episcopal)!

In this context, a young clergyman from Philadelphia, The Rev'd William White (1748-1836) wrote a pamphlet in 1782 that presented a plan for the organization and governance of the Episcopal Church similar in sensibility to the ethos and structures of the new nation. White also argued that the Episcopal Church could exist, organize, and even fully operate without bishops—exercising the oversight and sacramental duties of bishops as a convention—until the bishops of the Church of England would relent and consecrate American Episcopal clergymen as bishops in the apostolic succession. White's ideas became the basis of the first General Convention of the Episcopal Church in 1789. And, in the strange providence of God, White's pamphlet established his qualifications for leadership, leading to his consecration as a bishop in 1787 and his appointment as the first Presiding Bishop.

Welcome, 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 Paul & Amy Newell for this morning's refreshments!

Jennifer Smith will be hosting next Sunday (June 28).

Richmond Road Race – Saturday, June 27, 2015

Be in touch with Howard Anderson if you would like to help extend hospitality to the cyclists. (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 – 540-856-2141

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.

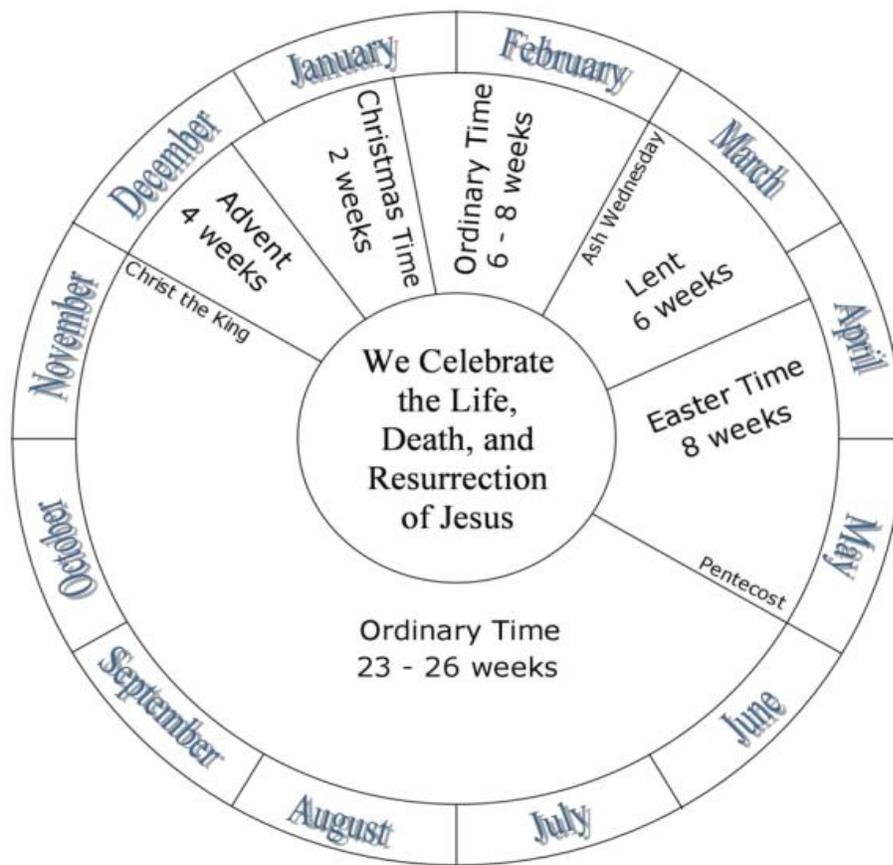
Small Groups

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

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

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

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

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.