

## St Michael's Adult Formation-Summer 2011

### Theology Café



Why is there an Episcopal Church in the United States of America? What connects it to other Christian Churches? What identifies us as being somehow different from other Churches? Are we Catholic? Or are we Protestant? Are we Anglican? Are we Celtic? Being somewhat all these things are we not really any of them? What are the marks of "Episcopalia" that identify us as being Episcopalian and what were the turns we took on the roads of history that prompted us to pick up and carry those treasures with us and wear them now as badges? Join us Sunday mornings from 9:30 – 10:15 in the Burruss Memorial Library as Father Greg and Father Jim lead this discussion. Good coffee. Great conversation.

### St. Michael's Library--Looking Ahead to Fall

The 2011 winter/spring book sale in February and March was a huge success. Not only did parishioners donate droves of books, they bought them, too! The sale netted over \$200--all for the purpose of adding to the library collection.

Seven new books were purchased recently from Cokesbury. They vary in theme and content, but all are timely and relevant to the church's concerns.

Roger Ferlo, a professor at Virginia Theological Seminary, will be visiting St. Michael's in the fall. Opening the Bible by Ferlo is part of the New Church's Teaching Series. This series helps "Anglicans deepen their understanding of the Christian faith" (back cover). Ferlo's contribution is a primer on reading and understanding the Bible.

The New Shape of World Christianity: How American Experience Reflects Global Faith by Mark Noll traces the start of American Christianity and describes its evolution and its relevance to the emerging global church.

While the World Watched by Carolyn Maull McKinstry is related to possible fall Forum programs on racism. Ms. McKinstry is a survivor of the Birmingham bombing during the Civil Rights movement.

Marcus Borg is always a favorite Biblical scholar and theologian. His latest book is Speaking Christian: Why Christian Words Have Lost Their Meaning and Power--And How They Can Be Restored. Words like "redemption" and "savior" have been narrowly defined recently. Borg "delivers a language for twenty-first century Christians that grounds the faith in its deep and original roots" (book jacket).

Falling Upward: A Spirituality For The Two Halves of Life by Richard Rohr contrasts spiritual needs in youth with those of the aging population.

Scripting Jesus by Michael White is a history book discussing how the Gospels were originally considered storytelling rather than fact.

One of the new titles for the library is a children's book, Images Of God For Young Children. Each page begins with a statement--"God is Joy", for example-- and poetically describes how God is that joy. The illustrations are beautiful in their designs and colors.

Watch for these titles to be displayed this fall in the library. There will be more extensive reviews of some of the books in the Link. Happy reading!

Submitted by Church Librarian, Beth Wiltshire

### **Mark Your Calendar!**



The Rev. Dr. Roger Ferlo of Virginia Seminary will visit St. Michael's October 29 and 30! His program on Saturday will be entitled "Nimble Believing." Curious and want to help with the program? Contact Kay McCall at [kay.mccall@comcast.net](mailto:kay.mccall@comcast.net). We will be glad to have your help with this program for St. Michael's and the larger the community!