



*THE BIBLE AND THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER*

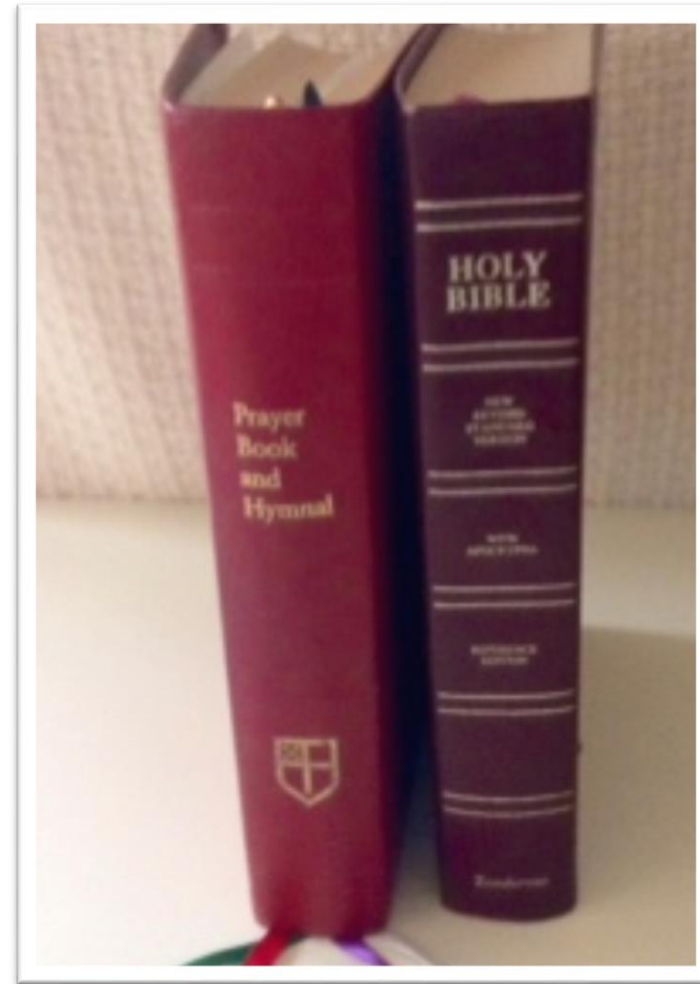
Bishop's Challenge 2014

# *The Book of Common Prayer: A Spiritual Treasure Chest*

Episcopalians claim to be related by Shared Prayer, as well as Holy Scripture.

“Our prayer is common and continual, through the hours of the day and the changes and seasons and chances of this life.”

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church



# Beginning a Spiritual Discipline during Lent



## The Holy Bible

1. What is your first childhood memory of the Bible?
2. Share two things you think are important about YOUR Bible.



## The Book of Common Prayer

1. How have you used the BCP as a spiritual resource up to now?
2. Name two things that you wish you knew about the BCP.



## Time for Prayer

1. How has personal or small group prayer been helpful to you in the past?
2. What do you hope to gain from praying with the Bible & BCP?

## What's so special about *The Book of Common Prayer*?

- **First composed in 1549**
- **Revised over time & used today by more than 80 million Anglican Christians world-wide**
- **Rites for Marriage & Burial have become part of popular culture**
- **Claimed by many outside Anglicanism for its spiritual treasures**

## ***How can the BCP prove useful to your own spiritual journey?***

- ❖ **An encounter with the Divine in the normal, ordinary things of life: water, bread, wine, ashes, oil.**
- ❖ **Themes of holiness, but also of struggle, regret, surrender, death, and hope.**
- ❖ **Rhythms involving the whole body – standing, sitting, kneeling, hands uplifted, hands laid on us, hands in blessing.**

# Resources for further study:

- ▶ ***Opening the Bible (The New Church's Teaching Series)*** by Roger Ferlo
- ▶ ***Opening the Prayer Book (The New Church's Teaching Series)*** by Jeffrey Lee
- ▶ ***Welcome to the Book of Common Prayer*** by Vicki K. Black
- ▶ ***The Book of Common Prayer: A Spiritual Treasure Chest – Selections Annotated & Explained*** by The Rev. Canon C. K. Robertson

# How the new Bible & BCP Challenge works:

- ▶ Each day (except Sundays) sit with the **reading schedule**, your **Bible**, and a **Book of Common Prayer**.
- ▶ Read the **Psalm** listed in the reading schedule for that day.
- ▶ Read the **NT chapter** listed in the reading schedule for that day.
- ▶ Say your **personal prayers**.
- ▶ Say the **Lord's Prayer**.
- ▶ Read the "**nugget**" in the **Book of Common Prayer** listed in the reading schedule for that day.

**\*\* Please Note:** This is one, very simple, format. You are encouraged to experiment with Morning or Evening Prayer, Daily Devotions for Individuals & Families, and the Service of Compline.

# The Bible & the Prayer Book

**Example:** Thursday, March 13, 2014 – Day 9 of the Bishop's Challenge 2014

- ▶ Read Psalm 8
- ▶ Read Matthew 8
- ▶ Personal Prayer or Quiet Reflection
- ▶ Say The Lord's Prayer
- ▶ Prayer Book "nugget": Pray Collect 3, Of the Holy Angels (BCP 251)