

*The Fork Church Search Committee members' comments on why we recommended The Reverend Kenneth Nicholas "Nik" Forti to the Vestry to be our new priest.*

Kemp Norman:

He is young & will have the energy to make the parish grow. He grew up near Hopewell & he is local & knows the area well & has a strong interest in Virginia history. He has a strong background in youth ministry, particularly with college students at UVA, UMD & at All Saints Richmond. Pastoral care is his strongest suit, as told to us by his current employer. He will be good leader for mission work based on his job in Chattanooga. He has a strong intellect as shown by his graduate work. He has no preconceived plans- he will grow with us & us with him.

Faye Joy:

Nik is smart and he listens. He has a real sense of presence. Our committee's decision to present him was a unanimous one.

Scott Smythe:

I know that Nik will be a good fit at Fork. He's a caring, thoughtful & intelligent person. He's young & energetic in a laid-back way.

Jesse Gordon:

It is evident Nik has a deep faith and is grounded in his spirituality. He is a deep thinker and is very concerted in conversation. His focus on pastoral care is a great asset and will serve The Fork Church well. In our early discussions, we learned that he visited Ashland Berry Farm with his family every year. He distinctly remembers seeing Fork as a child. This was the first of many connections that we will make as we welcome him to our church. I'm excited about the opportunities that our mutual ministry can bring to us and our community.

Mazie Florance:

I don't remember any specific incidents to report. At breakfast, I definitely felt he had a good sense of humor. He does not seem to take himself too seriously.

Rick Alderman:

I think the most impressive thing about Nik is his commitment to scholarship. I really enjoyed listening to him over the phone during that part of our interview process and meeting him at Cracker Barrel for breakfast, which cemented my first impressions. What I especially liked was his style of worship and his homily; he really hit a home run with me. I look forward to our relationship with him at Fork. I think he will be a real success.

Mac Chenault:

Nik has been committed to be a priest since he was 15 years old; while this is somewhat unusual in today's world, it shows his commitment to the Church. He is very personable and I believe he will be able to connect with the people of Fork and I believe he will be able to grow the Church if given support and some time. I believe his pastoral skills to be good. He grew up in this larger Richmond area which I believe will help him to understand what our Church needs to grow and survive. I am looking forward to his sermons since he is well educated in the theology.