

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Christian Formation

Spring 2017



Spring Offerings

- Ongoing Adult Groups
- Movie and Discussion
- Quiet Morning Retreat
- Small Groups
- Lent
- **Children's Formation**
- Youth Formation

Glory to God whose power,
working in us, can do infinitely
more than we can ask or
imagine.

—*The Book of Common Prayer*
p. 126 (see also Ephesians 3:20)

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Ongoing Adult Groups

Exploring the Word

Sundays, 9:30 a.m.-10:15 a.m. Not on first Sunday in the month

A weekly drop-in group that meets to discuss and study one of the readings of the day.

Facilitator: Pam Nugent

The Holy Stitchers

Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-noon

A fellowship of people who knit, crochet, and do needlework, of all skill levels. They meet to make throws, afghans, and other handmade articles as a ministry for those in need.

Contact Charla Spann for more information.

Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study

12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

A weekly group that meets to read and study the Bible.

Facilitator: Anne Street

Wednesday Morning Men's Group

7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m.

A weekly time for study, prayer, and fellowship.

Facilitators: Al Niese and Ben Barnes

Sharing and Caring Group

The first Wednesday of the month, 1:00 p.m.—2:30 p.m.

An ongoing group that meets to offer support to those who care for or have lost loved ones.

Facilitators: Barbara Blanchard, Susan McCracken, Sandy Meyer

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

A weekly group that meets to read and discuss the Bible.

Group led: Contact Pam Nugent for more information.

Intercessory Prayer Group

Thursdays, 11:00 a.m.-noon

A weekly group that meets to pray for the needs of all.

Contact Nancy Hawkins for more information

Women's Group

Thursdays, 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

A weekly time for study, prayer, and fellowship.

Facilitators rotate every six weeks.

Christian Formation for Adults

Movie and Discussion

Chaplains: On the Front Lines of Faith

Some things sound the same but are different. We are showing this DVD again—back by the popular demand of those who really wanted to see the film and participate in the discussion but missed out a year ago. Macauley Lord and Myrna Koonce, who both have experience as chaplains, will be showing *different* clips from the film this time around, so the viewing and the discussion will definitely not be the same as it was last spring. This means that even if you participated the first time we showed the DVD, please come again because it will be a different program.

This film, produced by Emmy-winning filmmaker Martin Doblmeier, has been recently making the rounds of PBS stations around the country. As you will learn from the DVD, chaplains come from their own faith traditions, but their job requires that they provide comfort and support to people of other faiths and to those who may not follow any religion at all. And yet, wherever they work, they often minister to people at extremely vulnerable times of their lives, when they struggle with the ultimate questions of life and death. Whether they work in the military, in a hospital, in a prison, in a work place, or in a variety of other settings, chaplains are called to fulfill the spiritual needs of those in the communities they serve.

One of the chaplains interviewed on the film said this: **“What a chaplain does is lean into the painful places.”** This is why this is such a compelling film: it touches on the core of what it means to minister to one another, something we

all do. As disciples of Jesus Christ, as part of what our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry calls the “Jesus Movement,” we are all called to do that one way or another.

You are invited to spend a stimulating Saturday morning with fellow parishioners and stay for lunch. Although not required, it would be helpful if you would let the church office know if you plan to participate. It will make planning the lunch easier.

Facilitators: Macauley Lord, Myrna Koonce

When: February 11, 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., lunch included

Quiet Morning Retreat

“And God Saw That It Was Good”

This Lenten Quiet Morning may be just the thing as we begin to look for signs of renewal and new birth in the natural world around us. The focus will be on the beauty and goodness of the created world, including the cosmos. Not only is this a great topic for the spring, but it is also a nice follow up to *Laudato Si*, a program that the rector led during Advent. Two meditations will be offered followed by periods of extended silence and sharing.

Please join Mary Lee and fellow parishioners for this quiet morning, including lunch. If possible, please let the **church office know if you'd like to attend. That will make planning the lunch easier.**

Facilitator: The Rev. Mary Lee Wile

When: Saturday, March 4, 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., lunch included. (March 25 is an alternate date if anything interferes with meeting on March 4.)

Small Groups

Reading the Bible and the Koran Side by Side

Something unusual will be offered beginning April 18 for five Tuesdays: an opportunity to learn the reality about Muslim and Christian beliefs by looking at the scriptures. This is a time to go beyond what the media says and find out for ourselves the real differences and similarities between the Bible and the Muslim Koran.

Facilitated by Chick Carroll, we will look at five Bible stories that are central to our faith and compare them with corresponding stories in the Koran. Many of us learned so much in the fall by attending the Sunday afternoon program, An Interfaith Encounter, with Christian, Jewish, and Muslim faiths represented. Here is a chance to explore together and compare well-loved Bible stories with what Muslims believe. Expect some surprises!

Please sign up by calling the church office by April 9 so that a short guide, *Reading Scripture Together* (\$8.99), may be ordered for you. If you have any questions, please speak with Chick Carroll.

Facilitator: The Rev. Chick Carroll

When: Five Tuesdays—April 18, 25, May 2, 9, 16; 2:30 p.m.-3:45 p.m.

Requiem in Stones: A Novel of Grief & Grace, by Rick Wile

An understanding of what this novel is about is well **described by author Lee Hope: “Rick Wile . . . uses fiction to lead us through a profound, archetypal Christian journey of suffering, bottoming out, and redemption. Following the death of his child, the narrator loses his faith. He grapples with God as his harrowing spiritual path gradually leads him toward surrender, service, and transcendence. *Requiem in Stones* offers spiritual consolation to those who struggle to reconcile grief and belief.”**

Although the book is specifically about a grief that resulted from the loss of a child, not an uncommon occurrence unfortunately, the story told will resonate with anyone who has experienced a devastating loss of any kind—a spouse, a friend, a pet, a future, even themselves. Loss and grief are universal.

The author will be making a special guest appearance at the last session.

Facilitator: Tom Nugent

When: Five Fridays—April 21, 28, May 5, 12, 19; 4:00 p.m.-5:15 p.m.

Offerings for Lent

Lenten Supper, Study, and Sharing

Our parishwide Lenten study this year will focus on a film by the Emmy-winning filmmaker Martin Doblmeier—*Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Pacifist, Nazi Resister*. This is a dramatic documentary about the world-famous German theologian, who willingly abandoned a promising teaching career in the United States to return to his homeland at a critical and dangerous juncture.

In four evenings we will explore, through Bonhoeffer’s own words and through the words of people who knew him, what drove him to do what he did: to bravely break away from the mainline German Church, even forming his own seminary, and to resist what he saw as evil, even at the cost of his own life. As one reviewer said, “What the film does is anecdotally present the growth of Bonhoeffer’s theology from the conventional Lutheranism of his upbringing into a kind of social activism in which the actions of one’s life are what brings one to Christ.”

Please join your fellow parishioners for supper, study, and conversation about this twentieth century martyr, whose moral courage and convictions led him to prison and hanging by the Nazis just days before the Allies arrived. Bonhoeffer stands as a powerful example of belief in action.

Presenters: Charles Arnold, Sarah Arnold, the Rev. Carolyn Eklund, Macauley Lord

When: Four Tuesdays—March 7, 14, 21, 28. (The Sunday following is designated as a snow date.)

Supper: 5:30 p.m.-6:15 p.m.

Forum and discussion: 6:15 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Lenten Meditations Booklet

For more than ten years, St. Paul's has enjoyed this collection of 40 meditations written entirely by members of the parish. Always eagerly awaited, it is a wonderful sharing of insights, experiences, and thoughts on the daily Bible readings throughout Lent. It prompts a close fellowship among parish members like no other program, and it inspires us individually and communally as we walk the 40 days of Lent on our way to the Easter celebration.

You are invited to use the booklet as your own devotional during your Lenten journey. Please thank the contributors who willingly gave their efforts and thoughts to everyone in the parish. It a gift in which we can all share.

Christian Formation for Children

Church school begins at 10:30 a.m. and ends at 11:10 a.m.

All our programs for kids emphasize hands-on learning, catering to a variety of learning styles and capabilities. Our curriculum is lectionary-based, which means that the stories your children hear in class each week are the same as those heard in worship that Sunday. We think this is important so that parents and kids have the opportunity to converse about what they've heard in church.

If your children have special needs, please let us know so that we can work with you to welcome them into the appropriate class and provide any accommodations that would make their experience more comfortable.

Nursery Care, Newborns-Age 3

9:15 a.m.-11:45 a.m. every Sunday,
Ground Floor Nursery Room

You are welcome to carry your little one to the nursery at any point during the service you attend or to come in and out of the nursery as your child needs. The nursery is located on the first floor, just down the hall from the church sanctuary.



Kimmy Edwards

While in the nursery your children enjoy safe, loving attention; art projects; snacks; story time; and free play; all overseen by our professional caregiver, who has many years of experience caring for young children.

Lambs , ages 4-5 and Lions, Grades 1-3

10:30 a.m. to 11:10 a.m.

Lambs—Ground Floor Room 2

Lions—Ground Floor Room 1

At 10:15 children, parents, and teachers share a snack. At 10:30 students and teachers go to their classrooms on the Ground Floor until 11:10.

We strive to make our classes inclusive of children with all different types of learning styles and abilities, so Church School does not require the children to read or sit still for long periods. Our overriding theme for both Lambs and **Lions is God's abundant love for us as expressed through our relationships with family and friends and with God's creation.**

Eagles Class, Grades 4-5

10:30 a.m.-11:10, a.m., Upstairs, Room 7

In the Eagles Class children continue to be led in their explorations and discussions of biblical stories. Much individual attention is provided and efforts made to include activities that affirm the children's particular skills and interests. Students may suggest or be presented with opportunities and elect to be part of service projects for their community. This group shares snack time with the Lambs and Lions.

Reading abilities still vary widely at this age; our teachers are sensitive to the range of learning styles and abilities represented in each class so that all children feel welcomed and loved.

Parent Café

While Lambs, Lions, and Eagles attend their respective classes, parents are invited to share coffee and conversation at tables in the Great Hall. Handouts for potential informal discussion will be available on the tables, but parents may choose to just hang out together.

Christian Formation for Teens a.k.a. St. Paul's Youth Group (Grades 6-12)

At St. Paul's we strive to offer all our parish teens a community of faith that is nurturing, creative, safe, and fun.

In addition to our Sunday morning groups, we offer a number of special (and exciting!) events for teens throughout the year. We also work with the diocese to connect our teens with wider faith formation opportunities such as mission trips, pilgrimages, and outings to destinations in Maine, New England, and beyond!

St. Paul's Middle School Group, Grades 6-8

9:30 a.m.-10:15 a.m., Upstairs, Room 6

and in conjunction with the monthly St. Paul's Youth

Group activities. See stpaulsmaine.org and

facebook.com/St-Pauls-Youth-132138126856716/

For the latest schedule of youth events.

This program assists young people as they take the first steps of passage away from their families and into their own lives. During these three years, the group explores the stories of our Episcopal faith through reading, discussion, art, and creative mission work, relating biblical themes to issues they confront every day.

Among the activities the group undertakes are a number of service-related projects, community-building efforts, and exploration of spirituality as each member embarks on his or her journey toward adulthood.

St. Paul's Youth Group

Teens meet monthly, sometimes twice a month to build Christian community, learn how to live in the Christian faith, how important it is to serve and learn about the Episcopal Church and visit other faiths.

Visit the St. Paul's website or Face book page for the latest schedule of youth events.

Adult Christian Formation Committee

Charles Arnold
Sarah Arnold
Chick Carroll
Jim Hornor
Liz Messler
Pam Nugent, chair
Bob Walking

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Carolyn H. Eklund, Rector
The Rev. Mary Lee Wile, Deacon
The Rev. Chick Carroll, Deacon
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