

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Adult Christian Formation

Fall 2017



Fall Offerings

- Ongoing Groups
- Retreats
- Small Groups

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 Groups

Exploring the Word

Sundays, 9:30 a.m.-10:15 a.m. Not on first the Sunday in the month. Resumes September 17.

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: Terry Howell

Wednesday Morning Men's Group

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

A weekly time for study, prayer, and fellowship.

Facilitator: Al Niese

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

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. Resumes September 14.

A weekly time for study, prayer, and fellowship.

Facilitators rotate every six weeks.

Writing Spiritual Memoir

The second Thursday of the month, 4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

Writing is a wonderful way to keep track of where **we've been and where we're going**. **Writing clarifies; writing helps us discover**. Writing can also be an act of prayer, deepening our relationships with the Holy by helping us **better understand God's role in our lives**. **You don't need to be a polished writer to come!** All you need is your story (the one **you've been "writing" all your life**) and a **desire to put your story down on paper and share with others**.

Facilitator: Rick Wile

Retreats

Deepening Our Commitment to the Christian Journey

With Bishop Stephen Lane’s visitation to St. Paul’s on Sunday, October 1, this group is open to anyone 12 years of age or older who would like to be confirmed, received from another tradition, or reaffirmed in the Episcopal Church during the bishop’s time with us.

There will be a three-week period of preparation in September as follows. Please notify Mary Lee or the church office if you would like to attend.

Facilitator: The Rev. Mary Lee Wile

When:

- A brief meeting (after each of our three services) on September 10 to hear about the program and pick up a journal.
- Occasional online check-ins and suggestions.
- A “retreat day” the day before Bishop Lane’s visitation on Saturday, September 30.

Quiet Morning: “All Shall Be Well”

Julian of Norwich wrote those words in the Fourteenth Century during a time when the plague had killed three quarters of the population of Norwich. Poverty was rampant, unemployment was high, war raged in France, and religious persecution could lead to death. Julian never denied the reality of such suffering but believed that in and through God, “all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.” T.S. Eliot echoed these lines in his concluding stanza of *The Four Quartets*, written in 1942 during the bombing raids in London while he was in ill health. These are words not so much of comfort as of assurance. In this time of contention and division, and as darkness comes earlier each day, they are good words to hear and ponder.

Participants are invited to spend a few hours with the Rev. Mary Lee Wile responding to two meditations, each followed by periods of extended silence and sharing. Lunch will follow for those who can stay.

Facilitator: The Rev. Mary Lee Wile

When: Saturday, November 11, 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., lunch included. Please notify the church office if you plan to attend.

Small Groups

Bonhoeffer Revisited

At the Lenten series last spring, based on the documentary film about Dietrich Bonhoeffer, many expressed an **interest in learning more about Bonhoeffer’s writings**. Perhaps part of the interest in Bonhoeffer stems from the utterly courageous marrying of belief and action that Bonhoeffer demonstrated in his life, a union that led to his death. Sarah Arnold and Macauley Lord have agreed to facilitate a **small group on Bonhoeffer’s *Life Together***, a short book he wrote to guide the students at his small, illegal seminary in Germany during the Nazi reign.

The book is rich with Bonhoeffer’s theological insights, but it is also full of practical guidance for Christians living in **community, as we do at St. Paul’s**. **There is no need to purchase and read the book**, because the group will look at and discuss excerpts provided during our time together. In his book Bonhoeffer poses hard questions about how we can understand some of the difficult biblical texts that we read, such as those in the Psalms, while at the same time he celebrates **the gift of God’s mercy and what it means to be a community in Christ**. **As one of Bonhoeffer’s former students said in the documentary we saw in the spring, “He [Bonhoeffer] spoke to us as no other teacher ever did.”** Please join us.

Facilitators: Sarah Arnold and Macauley Lord

When: Five Tuesdays—October 17, 24, 31, November 7, 14;
3:00 p.m.-4:15 p.m. (small group not to exceed 12 people)

The Ministry of Restoration

Jürgen Moltmann, a German Reformed theologian, wrote, “Jesus’ healings are not supernatural miracles in a natural world. They are the only truly ‘natural’ things in a world that is unnatural, demonized and wounded.”

Jesus came into the world to proclaim and continue **our education about what God’s purpose is for the restoration** of the natural things of this world. It is important for us to know what the natural things are and how Jesus teaches us through his actions and to know what it means to be in a restorative ministry in this time and place of human history.

This opportunity to learn in a small group will focus on some of the people Jesus encountered and how his encounters with them changed and restored their lives to what God had intended they should be. Our purpose is to see and know how our simple actions in the world are actually actions of ministry—a critical ministry of the laity.

Facilitator: The Rev. Richard H. Hall

When: Four Tuesdays—November 28, December 5, 12, 19;
4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. (small group not to exceed 12 people)

Reading the Bible and the Koran Side by Side

This small group was supposed to take place last spring but had to be canceled. We are offering this timely program again for late fall.

Something unusual will be offered beginning January 9 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 of 2016 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 December 26 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—January 9, 16, 23, 30, February 6;
2:30 p.m.-3:45 p.m.

Adult Christian Formation Committee

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Chick Carroll
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Danielle Murphy
Pam Nugent, chair
Bob Walking

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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The Rev. Mary Lee Wile, Deacon
The Rev. Chick Carroll, Deacon
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