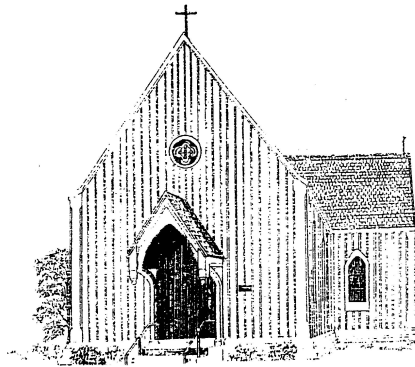


ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Christian Education & Formation

Winter 2012



Our vision is to nurture our parish and each person in his or her spiritual walk by providing a variety of Christian education opportunities so that the whole body of St. Paul's Church may be built up and empowered to do God's work in the church community and in the world.

— Vision Statement of the Adult Education Committee

Winter Offerings

- Ongoing Adult Groups
- Sunday Morning Forums
- Saturday Morning Forum
- Friday Evening Forum
- Special Offerings for Lent
- Small Groups
- Children's Offerings
- Youth Offerings

“To nurture our parish and each
person in his or her spiritual walk”

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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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“To nurture our parish and each person in his or her spiritual walk”

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Ongoing Adult Groups

Sunday Morning Gospel Study

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

When: To be announced.

Facilitator: Pam Nugent

Caring and Sharing Group

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

When: The last Monday of the month at 1:30 p.m.

Facilitator: Barbara Blanchard

The Holy Stitchers

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.

When: Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-noon

Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study

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

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

Facilitator: Jane Johnson

Wednesday Morning Men's Group

A weekly time for study, prayer, and fellowship.

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

Facilitator: Al Niese

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

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

When: 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Group led

Intercessory Prayer Group

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

When: Thursdays, 11:00 a.m.-noon

Facilitator: Marge Follansbee

Women's Group

A weekly time for study, prayer, and fellowship.

When: Thursdays, 2:00 p.m.-3:45 p.m.

Facilitators: Sarah Arnold and Susan Martens

Special Adult Offerings

Sunday Morning Forums

Adult Forum Conversations focused on our Parish Transition

I. History: Was It Really All About Henry VIII?

This forum will also include a look at St. Paul's founding and history here in Brunswick.

When: Sunday, January 15
9:15 a.m.-10:05 a.m.

Facilitator: The Rev. Dr. Ann Broomell

Annual Meeting and Self-Study Committee Presentation of the Parish Survey

When: Sunday, January 22
Worship 9:00 a.m.; Meeting 10:00 a.m.-noon
Children's Program 9:00a.m.-Noon

II. Worship

Who first prayed, "lift up your hearts," and how do we worship today?

When: Sunday, January 29
9:15 a.m.-10:05 a.m.

Facilitator: The Rev. Dr. Ann Broomell

III. Fifty Years: Half a Century and Compressed Cultural Change

This forum will look at the changes that have taken place in our culture and explore what it means for St. Paul's.

When: Sunday, February 5
9:15 a.m.-10:05 a.m.

Facilitator: The Rev. Dr. Ann Broomell

IV. Life Cycle of a Parish

What Is That and Where Are We?

When: Sunday, February 12

9:15 a.m.-10:05 a.m.

Facilitator: The Rev. Dr. Ann Broomell

V. Five Years from Now

What Is God Dreaming of for St. Paul's?

When: Sunday, February 19

9:15 a.m.-10:05 a.m.

Facilitator: The Rev. Dr. Ann Broomell

Lenten Forum Series on Forgiveness

When: Five Sundays, February 26, March 4, 11, 18, 25

9:15 a.m.-10:05 a.m.

Facilitator: The Rev. Dr. Ann Broomell

Session 1 (2/26)—**Forgiveness in the Bible:** How did the Hebrew people understand forgiveness, and what was taught and experienced in the centuries before the birth of Jesus? What did Jesus teach about forgiveness?

Session 2 (3/4)—**National and International Forgiveness:** Can forgiveness be used as a political act, such as when used by heads of state and industry, to break cycles of retaliation? What kind of impact can forgiveness have among nations and among peoples?

Session 3 (3/11)—**Forgiveness in Our Relationship with God:** When and why do we ask God for forgiveness? How do we approach this in the Episcopal Church? What does *confession* and *absolution* mean to us today?

“To nurture our parish and each person in his or her spiritual walk”

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Sunday Morning Forums (continued)

Session 4 (3/18)—**Forgiving Others and Forgiving Ourselves:** How do we forgive? When is it better to forgive but not forget?

Session 5 (3/25)—**Forgiving Too Soon:** What are the five stages of forgiveness?

Hymns as Poetry and Theology

The shining out of the glory of God and the light of Christ is the theme of the Epiphany season. The holiness of God also shines gloriously through the great hymns/poems of the Christian tradition—and through the life stories of those who wrote them.

During this forum we will reflect on religious language and its meaning for us in the poetry of some of the great hymns. We will sing some hymns and try writing one of our own. We will focus on the Wesleys, Isaac Watts, and a few others, and use Marcus Borg’s new book on religious words as well as the works of other theologians.

When: Three Sundays, May 6, 13, 20
9:15 a.m.-10:05 a.m.

Facilitator: The Rev. Al Niese

Saturday Morning Forum

How and Where Do We Find God in Our Busy Lives?

In January 2011 a panel of five laypeople from our church shared their thoughts on the question of how we live our Christian faith in a weekday world. We listened to one another, and we explored the question together. Many of us came away with some ideas for how we might live our lives more in accord with our baptismal covenant. Many of those who attended wanted to repeat the program with a different topic.

This year, with a new panel of laypeople, we will tackle the question of how and where we find God in our busy lives. People have jobs; some are raising your children; even retired people have schedules packed with volunteering, babysitting grandchildren, taking classes, and visiting friends. Where and how do we hear God's voice amid the din of our busy, purposeful lives? Is God relegated to Sundays, or are there opportunities for finding holiness in our daily hectic agenda?

When: Saturday, January 28 (Snow date will be February 4.)
10:00 a.m.-noon

Facilitators: Charles Arnold, Sarah Arnold, Jim Hornor,
Anne Street, and Paul Womer.

Friday Evening Forum

The Power of Prayer

Pray the Devil Back to Hell is a captivating and powerful documentary that tells the remarkable story of a Liberian woman who, through prayer and non-violent protest, helped bring an end to Liberia's 14-year civil war. Violence, rape, and murder were the norm as Muslim warlords battled the country's equally depraved "Christian" president, Charles Taylor. One night Leymah Gbowee, a Christian, had a dream that she should gather a group of women to pray for peace. A small group began praying in a church, and by working together they eventually attracted more than 3,000 Christian and Muslim women. With the power of prayer and their own remarkable courage, this group of women eventually helped bring peace to their country, forced the president into exile, and helped bring to power Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the first democratically elected female head of state in all of Africa.

This is a true story of faith and courage in the face of overwhelming odds. Demonstrating unswerving tenacity, these women bring a message of hope to the whole world. Building an interfaith coalition that prayed and worked for peace, Gbowee's story is one of hope, a testament to the power of prayer, and a witness to what a single individual can do when God is allowed to work in his or her life. We all have it in us to make a difference.

Pray the Devil Back to Hell has won numerous awards around the United States since being released in 2008. They include the 2008 Tribeca Film Festival award for Best Documentary, the 2008 Audience Choice Award at the Jackson Hole Film Festival, and the 2009 Cinema for Peace Award for

Justice. Most recently, Leymah Gbowee was one of the Nobel Peace Prize winners for 2011.

When: Friday, January 20 (The snow date is February 3.)

7:00 p.m.-7:15 p.m.—coffee/tea and dessert

7:15 p.m.-8:30 p.m.—DVD showing

8:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.—Discussion

Facilitator: The Rev. Al Niese

Special Offerings for Lent

Lenten Meditations Booklet

This will be the sixth year that the Rev. Cn. Dick Hall and Pam Nugent have helped put together a booklet of Lenten meditations made up entirely of contributions by members of our church family. Of the forty writers, seventeen have never before authored a meditation for this booklet. That's very exciting! All the writers share their spiritual wisdom (their life experiences, their insights, and their convictions) with all of us, and we as readers play an important role by affirming what they have offered. The result is that the Word lives in this Body of Christ, and we are all strengthened and encouraged.

As you make your forty-day journey, use these inspired meditations as a resource while you spend time in prayer, in reading Scripture, and in private meditation. We thank all the writers for their thoughts, time, and effort; you have given a wonderful gift to all of us.

Special Offerings for Lent (continued)

Lenten Study and Sharing

The Lenten book study this year is *Finding Our Way Again*, by Brian McLaren, an internationally known speaker, and sometimes controversial author. If you'd like to know how Christianity can become more a way of life for you than merely a system of beliefs, if you want to discover more sacredness in everyday life, then this is a book for you. McLaren assumes the role of mentor, someone who has gone before with successes and failures, in order to explain a better way. This book can be used as a spiritual guide to refresh your soul and renew your perspective on what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

Written in a conversational style with lots of stories to illustrate his points, McLaren suggests that we have to rediscover our faith, shaped and strengthened by ancient practices. He believes that practices can and do affect our lives and our awareness of spiritual realities, because they wake us up to life and help us pay attention. The way this gets worked out is a blending of the active and contemplative aspects of the way of Jesus. It is in this sense that McLaren proposes a "both/and" solution.

McLaren is very interested in authenticity, and he sometimes provokes disagreements to get there. When you read this book, you may find yourself alternatively provoked, stimulated, reassured, angry, and encouraged by his words. Whatever your reaction, this book promises to provide the basis for good discussions as we explore the roots of our faith together. Please join us on Wednesdays in Lent.

When: Five Wednesdays, February 29, March 7, 14, 21, 28
5:45 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Coffee and desert to follow.

Facilitators:

- 2/29 The Rev. Bob Patterson (focuses on Chs. 1-3)
- 3/7 The Ven. Mary Lee Wile (focuses on Ch. 10)
- 3/14 The Rev. Ben Barnes (focuses on Ch. 11)
- 3/21 The Rev. Chick Carroll (focuses on Chs. 8 and 12)
- 3/28 The Rev. Dr. Ann Broomell (focuses on Chs. 16-18)

Small Groups

Quiet Morning: Mud Season of the Soul

As we slog through late winter in Maine, sometimes our souls can seem as clogged and cluttered as those ragged piles of last year's leaves mixed in with melting snow. This Quiet Morning offers time to ponder: *What new growth might actually be planted in the midst of that fertile mess?*

When: Saturday, March 17

9:00 a.m.-noon (lunch follows)

Facilitator: The Ven. Mary Lee Wile

Richard Rohr's *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*

The Franciscan priest, author, and internationally known speaker Richard Rohr is the founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In this recent book, Rohr is our guide as we set out on a journey in the second half of life, one that encounters "necessary suffering," loss of control, and diminution. He argues that one of life's paradoxes is that at the time that we are "falling down," we also have an opportunity to move upward in a spiritual sense. As he puts it, "the way down is the way up" (p. xviii). Rohr helps the reader find a way to turn the difficult experiences of life into stepping-stones to a new journey, one that is about finding joy, wisdom, and fulfillment.

We are summoned on this journey, not commanded to go, yet we do not have to travel alone. We are often encouraged and strengthened to go forward by spiritual friends or

guides. It is with their help that we can “move forward in ways that we do not even understand and through the quiet workings of time and grace” (p. 51). Rohr knows that profound silence where God resides, and in his own knowing helps us enter it with him. “What looks like falling can largely be experienced as falling upward and onward, into a broader and deeper world, where the soul has found its fullness . . . It is not a loss but somehow a gain, not losing but actually winning” (p. 153).

You are invited to share your own spiritual journey with others in this small group. Enrollment will be limited to 11 people, and you must sign up in advance. You will also be responsible for purchasing your own copy of the book.

When: Four Thursdays, April 12, 19, 26, May 3
4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

Mentor: The Rev. Cn. Dick Hall

Children’s Offerings

Nursery Room

Our Nursery program provides a warm, caring, and playful environment for infants and children up to pre-school. Parents are welcome to stay with children in the room (services are broadcast in) or drop them off with our caregiver who has many years of professional experience caring for young children. St. Paul’s participates in the diocesan Safe Church program.

When: Sundays, 9:00-11:30 a.m.

Church School

Beginners

Children ages pre-K through 3rd grade are welcome in our Church School program. We start at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary with songs and then move to the classrooms and parish hall for Bible stories, activities, and snacks. Our mornings, based on the interdenominational Seasons of the Spirit curriculum, encourage children to experience God’s presence and story with all their senses—through music, art, cooking, play, drama, and more. Children remain in Church School through the first half of the 10:30 service and then rejoin their families for the Eucharist. Parents are always welcome to stay with us in the classroom if they wish. Since snack is served, please let us know in advance if your child has special health or dietary needs.

Who, When, & Where:

Ages pre-K through 3rd grade; 9:30-11:10 a.m.;

Starts in the main sanctuary, ends when the children join the main worship service at approximately 11:10 a.m.

Intermediate

For our older elementary school-aged children, this class offers a bit more "hands-on" Bible work and historical background, while still retaining a healthy dose of fun. Kids act out

roles from Bible stories, make crafts, and work on service projects in order to engage all types of learning styles in the day's lesson. At 10:15 the Intermediate class ends, and children then have the option of either joining their parents in worship for the full service or joining the younger children for snack, more crafts, and games until the Eucharist at 11:10.

Who, When, & Where: Grades 4-6; 9:30-10:15 a.m.
In the Shell Room (off the back of the Parish Hall).

The Chapel Choir

Members of the Chapel Choir come together weekly in order to learn about "making a joyful noise unto the Lord." In addition to singing, we spend some time learning about the structure and liturgy of the Episcopal church, the order of the church year, and the important role of music in worship. Members will be introduced to a variety of music, including hymns and service music as well as traditional classical church anthems and newer contemporary selections. Our goal is to learn to sing correctly and joyfully the beautiful music of the church and to understand the spiritual meaning of the words that we sing. Any child from the parish or friend of a child, grades 2-8, is welcome, even those who are just beginning to explore the possibility of their musical abilities. The only thing required is a commitment to attend rehearsals on Wednesday afternoons and Sunday mornings and to be at any of the church services at which they are scheduled to sing, usually the family-oriented Festival Sundays. Attendance at other Sunday church services is encouraged as well.

Potential members may speak with Lois Kwantz,
Director, or leave their names at the church office (725-5342).

When: Wednesdays, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Sundays, 8:55-9:20 a.m., Church School to follow

Youth Offerings

Rite 13 (for Junior High/Grades 6-8)

The Rite 13 program assists young people as they take the first steps of passage away from their families and into their own lives. During these two years, the group acknowledges God's gift of gender and explores its societal implications, celebrates the amazing creative power and potential God has given us, and creates a safe haven to explore new ideas, interests and abilities. Among the activities the group undertakes are a number of service-related projects—most recently, the creation of a welcome banner for a local day shelter and a bake sale to fund the purchase of Christmas gifts for underprivileged youth.

Each year, the parish celebrates the Rite 13 liturgy together for all teens turning 13 during that school year; the service marks God's gift of manhood and womanhood and launches the teens on their journey towards adulthood.

When: 9:30 a.m.-10:15 a.m. in the main office

Leaders: BJ Kittredge and Susan Tyler

J2A (for High School/Grades 9-12)

Journey to Adulthood (J2A) blends action and contemplation in teaching young people faithful living. To prepare for adulthood, teens engage in an in-depth exploration of four subject areas (Self, Society, Sexuality, and Spirituality), each of which is related to specific Biblical passages and theological traditions. During the four years that teens meet in the Sunday morning J2A group, it is understood that they will gradually move into leadership positions both within their peer group and in the wider parish. Every 2-3 years, confirmation is offered to teens 16 and older as an opportunity for the parish to acknowledge their transition into young adulthood.

As an important part of their spiritual formation, high school teens are periodically given the opportunity to engage in a mission trip or pilgrimage sponsored by the diocese.

When: 9:15-10:15 am in the J2A Room (across from the parish library)

Leaders: Anne Sturm and Hugh Savage

Special Events

At St. Paul's, we nurture our vibrant teen faith community with a variety of programs throughout the year—some worship-based, others service-based, and still others just plain fun!

“Open Mike” Night: February 17, 7:00 p.m.

Come one, come all to sing, recite, perform, or just enjoy the performances of others. For grades 6 and up. Adults welcome too!

Diocesan Events

In addition to our parish teen events, the diocese offers a number of teen events, including overnights, summer camp experiences, and more. For more information on events for middle- or high-school students, please contact Jane Hartwell of the Diocesan Youth Mission, at 772-1953.

Diocesan “Nightwatch” trip to St. John the Divine in NYC (for High school students) April 27-29

Adult Education Committee

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Anne Brautigam
Chick Carroll
Pam Nugent, chair
Carol Thomas
Bob Walkling
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St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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Robert Judd, Music Director
Lois Kwantz, Chapel Choir Director
Aubrey Farmer, Sexton