

St. John's Episcopal Church Adult Education & Formation 2019 – 2020

The adult formation year at St. John's is divided into three terms. Together the terms encompass all of Christian life, and while each term has a focus, program themes are often appropriate to multiple terms. Within each term there are three primary ways and times of meeting: **Sunday Morning Forum** after the 10 a.m. service (11:30-12:15); **Small Groups**, usually meeting Thursday evenings (6:00-7:30 p.m.) or Sunday afternoons (1 p.m. – 2:15 or 4 p.m.-5:00) and **Seeking God Together Events**, such as Quiet Evenings, Retreats, and Pilgrimage. In addition to these programs, there are **Going Deeper Groups** that meet for an extended period of time, usually an entire year, and that go deeper in both content and in relationships within the group. Finally, there are throughout the year occasional "Pop-Up Potlucks and Presentations" (**3Ps**) that embrace themes and topics of interest to parishioners as they arise during the year and provide relaxed ways for parishioners to come together in formation.

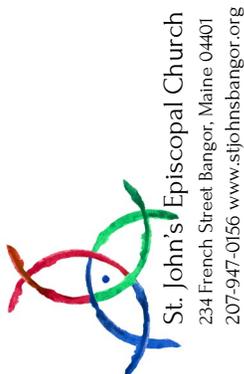
Since our faith is always changing and needs community to grow, we hope you'll participate in faith formation at St. John's. Please bring your interest, enthusiasm, and ideas to programs. If there are programs you would like to develop, please be in touch with Formation Director Pat Sprague and consider joining the formation team (formation@stjohnsbangor.org).

The Three Trimesters

Back to Basics with Scripture: Fall Trimester from late Pentecost through Advent. Emphasis on Scripture study and preparation for and experience of, the season of, Advent in which we both remember and anticipate the coming of Christ.

Love of God: Winter Trimester from Epiphany through Lent. Growing our understanding of the nature of God and its implications for our individual and corporate lives, and for the life of all Creation. During Lent, in preparation for the coming Easter season, we examine our own natures with the intent of strengthening our relationship with God.

Love of Neighbor: Spring Trimester from Easter through Pentecost. Increasing our ability to seek and serve Christ in every person, as well as in all Creation. Seeking to love our neighbors as ourselves, we explore our connections to both the sorrows and joys of God's beloved world, striving for justice and peace.



Address Service Requested



St. John's Episcopal Church

"Make God's Love Known"

Adult Education & Formation

*Growing in Love of
God and Neighbor*

"Thou shalt love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets"
-The Great Commandment

FALL: Back to Basics with Scripture

SUNDAY MORNING FORUM:
11:30 at Coffee Hour

September 22nd – November 10th *The 50-Day Bible Challenge: The Gospel of Matthew*

Join our 2nd Annual 50 Day Bible Challenge, with daily reflections, meditations, and prayers from *A Journey with Matthew*, edited by Marek Zabriskie. Bring your reflections, questions and observations to our round table discussion at Coffee Hour.

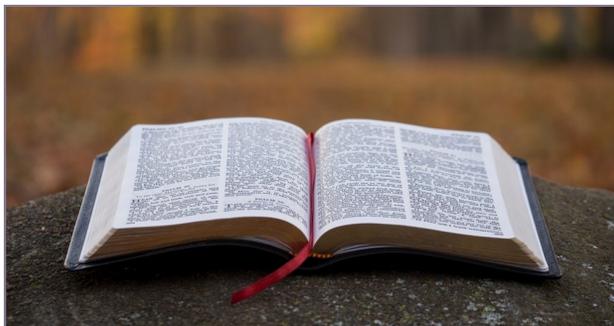
December 1st – December 22nd *Beginnings and Endings: The Four Gospels* - Each Evangelist has a particular message to convey and uses the first few verses to set an expectation of what is to come. Similarly, each closes with a differing commission for the ministry of his listeners or readers. In our modern times, the significance of the beginnings and endings of the Four Gospels is often missed. Matthew: December 1st; Mark: December 8th; Luke December 15th; John: December 22nd.

SMALL GROUPS:

GOSPEL OF MATTHEW - Thursday Evening Soup & Bread. October 10th & November 7th, 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the Bangor Room. This is an opportunity for a deeper conversation on Matthew than is possible at the Sunday Morning Forum

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER:

ADVENT QUIET EVENING, December 8th 4:00 – 6:30pm at St. James' Episcopal Church, Old Town. In what is often a busy time, come away for a while to hear meditations in the quiet of the evening. With opened ears and hearts, make your creative response to God's word and leading. Bring hand work or craft supplies, other craft materials will be available. A simple evening meal will be provided by the clergy of St. John's, Bangor, St. Patrick's, Brewer, and St. James', Old Town.



WINTER : Love of God

SUNDAY MORNING FORUM:
11:30 at Coffee Hour

February 2nd – April 5th *The Way of Love: Practices for a Jesus-Centered life*. Together we'll explore a new curriculum of the Episcopal Church designed to lead us deeper in our faith and challenge us to live it in new ways in our modern society. **Turn:** Pause, listen, & choose to follow Jesus, **February 2nd**; **Learn:** Reflect on Scripture each day, especially on Jesus' life & teachings, **February 9th**; **Pray:** Dwell intentionally with God each day, **February 16th**; **Worship:** Gather in community weekly to thank, praise, & dwell with God, **March 1st**; **Bless:** Share faith & unselfishly give and serve, **March 8th**; **Go:** Cross boundaries, listen deeply, & live like Jesus, **March 22nd**; **Rest:** Receive the gift of God's grace, peace, & restoration, **March 29th**; **Putting it all together:** Living the Way of Love, **April 5th**

SMALL GROUPS:

Martin Luther King, Jr., Still A Prophet for Our Time. February 9th and 23rd at 4pm, meeting at the Rectory on Grove Street. On February 9th we'll watch the movie *Selma*. Before our next meeting, we'll read *Letter from a Birmingham Jail*. On February 23rd we'll again share a meal and discuss both the movie and book. *Selma* is available on popular streaming services, and MLK's *Letter* can be downloaded from the internet for free. Come for one or both.

A Friendship Like No Other: Experiencing God's Amazing Embrace, by William Barry SJ. **Thursday Evening Soup & Bread, March 5th – April 2nd 6 - 7:30 pm in the Bangor Room.** We will use Barry's book as a foundation for our discussions. Fr. Barry, a renowned spiritual director, explores the premise that God wants to relate to us as a close friend. Grounded in ignatian spirituality, he offers reflections on experiencing the presence of God, with brief, personal meditations woven throughout. A great way to travel through Lent in community.

FORGIVEN AND FORGIVING, by L. William Countryman **Sundays at 1 pm March 1st - April 5th in the Back Lounge.** Come for food for body and soul as we explore together Countryman's affirming understanding of forgiveness as the natural response to the abundant love of God, yet does not neglect the possible difficulties, complexities, and pain involved.

If you need childcare for any of these events contact the church office at 947-0156 or contact Patricia Sprague.

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER:

LENTEN QUIET EVENING March 29th 4pm-6:30pm at St. John's, Bangor, meeting in the church for opening worship and a series of meditations interspersed with silence and time to roam, concluding with a simple soup dinner prepared by the clergy of St. John's, Bangor, St. Patrick's, Brewer, and St. James', Old Town.

SPRING : Love of Neighbor

SUNDAY MORNING FORUM:
11:30 in the Chapel

May 10th – May 24th **Anglicanism 101:** Explore the history of Anglicanism and discover what makes it unique among Christian faith expression. Sessions will explore traits and charisms of Anglicanism and topics will address interests of those attending.

SMALL GROUPS:

Life Together: A Discussion of Christian Fellowship, **Thursday Evening Soup & Bread: April 30th - May 14th in the Bangor Room 6:00-7:30.** An exploration of the scriptural and practical aspects of Christian community while reading together the seminal book by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER:

PILGRIMAGE *Exploring Our Anglican Heritage: A Pilgrimage for the Episcopal Diocese of Maine.* England in April! Designed to foster a deeper relationship with God by visiting and praying at holy places, connecting with old friends and making new ones, and discovering for the first time (or once again) the depths of the English church's spirituality and history. April 15-27, 2020, led by the Right Rev. Thomas Brown, Bishop of Maine.

ALL YEAR - GOING DEEPER

Education For Ministry: Wednesdays, 6 pm in the Library, September -May
EFM is an adult formation group studying Scripture, church history, theology, ethics, and interfaith relations. Emphasizes theological reflections as a path to grow in relationship to God, each other, and all creation. For more information contact David Ulirsch or Patricia Sprague.