

Education for Ministry (EFM)

EFM provides an opportunity for those who want to explore the role of scripture and theology in their everyday lives and make a serious commitment to study: the Old and New Testaments, Church History, Theology, and contemporary issues in relation to the Christian faith. The commitment is to a three-hour class once a week for 34 weeks a year. Completion of four years earns the learner a certificate from the University of the South School of Theology.

Time: 7 pm Tuesday nights beginning Sept. 16

Place: South Church library

Cost: \$340 per year

Contact: Rosemarie Buxton (978-683-7055)

Listening to Africa

Following his month long journey through Africa, Jeff Gill will be sharing his experience in a series of Friday afternoon gatherings. More than a travelogue, this program invites participants into a living dialogue with Africa. Seen through the eyes of schoolchildren and refugees, aid workers and survivors of genocide, Africa has much to teach us about what it is to be human in a complex world. Invite your friends. An evening option will be arranged if there is sufficient interest.

Time: 3 pm on October 3, 10, 17, and 31

Place: The Meeting Room

Everything Must Change:

Jesus, Global Crises, and a Revolution of Hope

Interested in what Jesus has to do with global crises like the environment, war, poverty, globalization? Find yourself wondering what possible connection there might be between what Christians do on Sunday mornings and these kinds of issues? This small group, based on a Brian McLaren book by the same name, tackles some of those very issues. Participants will be encouraged to read the book. Come with open minds ready to be challenged.

Time: Fridays at 3 pm beginning November 7

Contact: Rosemarie Buxton (rosebuxton@yahoo.com)
Jeff Gill (jgill@christchurchandover.org)

Radical Abundance – A Theology of Sustainability

Christ Church will host a webcast of this year's Trinity Institute, from Trinity Church, Wall Street.

As we rethink how to grow, build, supply, consume, dispose, and recycle everything in our lives, we often fail at partnering with the marginalized and powerless, and thus adversely affect them. Building sustainable communities goes hand-in-hand with thoughtful building of infrastructures and physical spaces. Is there a theological basis for living abundantly while striving for justice and sustainability?

In 2009, Trinity Institute will explore sustainability through the lens of liberation theology, which views Jesus not only as redeemer but also liberator of the oppressed. It posits a vision of Christians working together toward social justice by considering all people as full partners in healing our planet and our communities, regardless of their social or economic status. Only in striving for sustainable relationships, rather than accumulating and consuming more for ourselves, can we discover true abundance.

Through keynote speeches and panel discussions by leading theologians and grassroots activists, this three-day conference will consider radical ideas about abundance, sustainability, and well-being. Interactive reflection groups throughout will enable you to share your own experiences and solutions with fellow attendees.

Dates: January 21-23, 2009

Contact: Louise Valteau

Cost: \$30

Deanery Workshop Day – October 25

A day of workshops on Centering Prayer, Anger in the Bible, Flower Arranging, Art in Liturgy, “Green” initiatives in the Deanery, Capital Campaigns, Leadership and Spirituality for Vestry, Sacred Circle Dance, Early American Congregational Singing, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, and many more – All at Christ Church Andover! See the September issue of *The Prophet* for details.

To register: email mvdeanery@yahoo.com

Cost: \$10 suggested donation

Adult Education and Spiritual Formation



2008-2009
Program Year

*A program of courses, workshops, and small groups
for people at all stages along the spiritual journey*

Christ Church
Andover, Massachusetts

Phone: 978-475-0529
www.christchurchandover.org

Committee for Adult Education and Spiritual Formation
Rosemarie Buxton (Chair)
Judy Wright
Jacqueline Schelfhault
Jeff Gill (ex-officio)

Baptismal Preparation – Faith for Our Future

Preparation of parents and godparents for the baptism of a child is an important step in the formation of Christian households and in the passing on of the faith to our children. Our goal in this class is to help individuals understand the commitment to raising children in the Christian life and faith, and to giving them tools to help do that. Anyone is welcome to attend the class, and parents of those to be baptized are required to attend. Childcare with snack will be provided as needed.

Dates: Nov. 2 baptisms: Oct. 19 and 26 and Nov. 1
Jan. 18 baptisms: Jan. 4, 11, and 17
Easter baptisms – Mar. 9, 16, and 22
Time: Sundays after church from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm, and the Saturday before the baptism at 4 pm
Contact: Debbie Moskal for baptism application form (978-475-0529 x10)

The Rite of Christian Initiation – Adult Baptism Preparation

Adults and teenagers who wish to be baptized will prepare for their initiation into the Christian life through a period of study and spiritual formation, under the guidance of one of our clergy, together with a lay sponsor from the parish, culminating in baptism at the Easter Vigil. Dates and times will be arranged individually. Please contact Jeff or Adam.

Contact: Jeff Gill or Adam Shoemaker (978-475-0529)

Sealed and Sent Forth

This course prepares adults (18 and older) for Confirmation, Reception into the Episcopal Church, or Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows. In it we will explore the Bible, Book of Common Prayer and Hymnal, Anglican worship, Church history and theology, all in an experiential adult learning and worshipping community.

Time: TBA based on needs of participants
Duration: 12 sessions
Contact: Adam Shoemaker (978-475-0529 x18)

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

This early morning group spends one hour reflecting on the previous Sunday's sermon, looking ahead at next week's lectionary readings, and discussing a book the members are reading together. New members welcome.

Time: Tuesdays at 7:00 am
Place: The Meeting Room
Contact: Judy Wright

Senior Bible Study

Inquiring minds want to know – how to read scripture, how to interpret it, and how to apply it to our modern lives. This group of people ages 60 and up focuses on one book of the Bible at a time, with attention to the historical background and context. No prior experience in studying the Bible is assumed. Come and join us in the journey.

Time: Tuesdays at 3:30 pm beginning Sept. 30
Place: The Parlor
Contact: Diane Hinzelman (978-794-0927)

The Potluck Forum

On occasional Sunday mornings we gather for a conversation on a variety of issues of the day – from social issues in our community or around the world, to issues affecting Christ Church or the Anglican Communion. Watch for announcements. Notice the change in time from previous years.

Time: 11:30 – 12:30 on Sundays
Place: The Meeting Room

Quiet Days (Advent & Lent)

Take advantage of a few hours of quiet to reflect on the meaning of these holy seasons and to grow closer to God. Each Quiet Day will include a brief talk by one of the clergy of Christ Church, with suggested practices for the quiet time. They will conclude with a simple lunch of soup and bread.

Dates: Dec. 11 and Feb. 15
Time: 9 am – 1 pm
Sign-up: 978-475-0529

Men's Ministry

The Men's Ministry is seeking to build upon the initial success it had during its first year by planning activities in 2008-2009 that touch upon the ministry's four tenets of spiritual, service, social, and support. Some of the upcoming activities include a parish-wide blood drive, a mission trip to Lawrence, a night out at the Celtics, and group discussions related to our spiritual growth. The ministry will continue to meet monthly, beginning in September, and encourage all men of the parish to participate.

Begins: September 15, 8:00 pm – initial meeting
Place: Meeting Room
Contact: David Tringali (978-409-1330)

Experiencing Jesus: Seeking a Closer Relationship to God in Heart and Mind

Christ Church, St. Paul's, North Andover, and Faith Lutheran, Andover, will collaborate in an exciting new small group program for adults who are interested in developing a closer relationship to God, no matter where they are in their personal spiritual journey. Together, we will experience Jesus intellectually with our minds and emotionally with our hearts as we seek to learn and understand his essential message of the "Kingdom of God." We will also explore what Jesus' message means to each one of us today. We will meet once a month on Sunday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 alternating between St. Paul's Church and Christ Church. Beverages and dessert will be served. The first meeting will be September 21st at St. Paul's. (Most meetings will be on the second Sunday of the month.)

The group will use a published multi-dimensional curriculum based on *Jesus: Uncovering the Life, Teachings, and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary* by Marcus Borg. However this is not a book discussion group and the reading will not be burdensome – just one chapter per month. Books will be available for purchase at a discount price. Registration is limited.

Begins: September 21 at 6:00 pm
Place: St. Paul's, North Andover (Oct. at Christ Church)
Contact: Jacqueline Schelfhault (978-470-3021)