



adult learning

winter/spring 2022

Please note: Activities are subject to change. Visit our calendar at doers.org/events/ for the most up-to-date information.

Wednesday Night Programs

This year our Wednesday Night gatherings will be broken into three parts, with all events on Zoom.

You can join fellow parishioners online for Evening Prayer at 5:30 pm, followed at 6:00 pm by our study topic and continued conversation at 7:00 pm. You can choose to come for all or part of our evening together. Register by going to the Adult Learning page at doers.org

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. This link will be emailed each Wednesday to all registered attendees.

Contact for Zoom link: Donna Horizon, (804)355-1779 or dhorizon@doers.org

Contact for Technical Support: Michael Smith (804)840-2689 or msmith@doers.org

Contact for Worship: Mary Brown (804)355-1779, ext. 313 or mbrown@doers.org

Contact for Study: Hilary Streever, (804)355-1779 ext. 319 or hstreever@doers.org

January 19 to February 23 – Introduction to Mindfulness & Meditation

In this 6-class Introduction to Mindfulness and Meditation series, St. Jameser Fraser Davis will guide us in an exploration of how mindfulness can support us in living our lives with more peace, clarity and open-heartedness. Each class will include a short talk, guided meditation and mindfulness practices, and collaborative discussion to explore and practice calming our busy minds, taming the stories we tell ourselves, and cultivating social and emotional skills like resilience, intentionality, skillful communication, compassion, and joy. The final class will be taught by Br. Leo Campos, who will talk about how the practices can support our Christian faith and traditional Christian prayer forms.

March 1 – Ash Wednesday (No Program)

March 9 to April 6 – Why You Need Dante

When many of us think of Dante, dreadful scenes from his *Inferno* often come to mind. But there is much more beauty and grace in his epic trilogy *Comedia*, and it is all worth pondering during Lent. The Rt. Rev. Porter Taylor and St. Jameser Anna Evas, Christian poets themselves, will guide us faithfully through this essential of Christian literature.

Adult Forums – Sundays

Select Sundays at 10:15 am in Valentine Hall unless otherwise indicated.

Annual Parish Meeting – January 30

Come to the sanctuary *the* meeting when the parish leadership to report on the state of the parish to the entire congregation, and for the parish to elect the next vestry class. Come to hear from our rector the Rev. Dr. John McCard, senior warden Laura McCoy, junior warden John Conrad, and financial officer Susan Coogan, and cast your vote for vestry.

Diocesan Ministry for Racial Justice and Healing – February 27

Meet the Rev. Dr. J. Lee Hill, Jr., our new diocesan Missioner for Racial Justice and Healing, and learn about our diocesan ministry for racial justice and healing. A native Virginian, Lee holds degrees from George Mason, Wake Forest, Emory University, and post-graduate certificates from Princeton Theological Seminary, the Morehouse School of Pastoral Leadership, and the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation. He is an ordained minister with standing in the Alliance of Baptists and the United Church of Christ, and has served congregations in California, New York, and North Carolina.

The C's of Salvation History – March 6 through April 3

Have you ever felt 'lost in the weeds' of the Bible – like, you know some details but not how they fit together into a big picture? Join the clergy for this 5-part Lenten series hitting the high points of the Bible: Creation, Crisis, Covenant with Israel, Christ, Church and the Coming Reign of God. Those who attend this series *and* attend an adult confirmation weeknight small group will be eligible for confirmation, reception, or reaffirmation of baptismal vows at the bishop's annual visitation on May 15.

Small Groups – Sundays

Connect with fellow parishioners and God as you go deep with the topic of your choice for a limited time.

Sunday Small Groups will meet for 5-7 Sundays January 16 to February 20, 10:15-11:00 a.m.

Register by Monday, January 17 for the Sunday Small Group of your choice through the eChimes (doers.org/echimes).

Learn about all the Sunday Small Groups available in the eChimes.

Sunday Bible Study – Most Sundays at 10:15 am

Parkinson Room with the Rev. Doug Wigner

In Advent we began a new year in our Revised Common Lectionary, and Luke will be our gospel heard Sunday mornings in worship. In a commentary on Luke, Jesus is called *The Compassionate Christ* – we'll discover if that is true. We'll explore how preachers might approach the text for that Sunday and if you were preaching, what would you say?

We'll meet in the Parkinson Room (ideally) or over Zoom (if necessary for safety).

Intentional Spirituality Group – First Sunday of the month, 10:15 am

Peterkin Parlor, with Brother Leo Campos and the Rev. Hilary Streever.

What does it mean to be spiritual as a Christian? How can we develop spiritual disciplines that bring us closer to Christ daily? Led by Br. Leo Campos and the Rev. Hilary Streever, the Intentional Spirituality Group is a holy space for walking in the Way of Christ together. We share ancient and new spiritual practices, prayerfully read relevant books together, hold each other accountable to disciplines, and support each other in the Way. The group also meets for retreats. Drop in or come regularly!

Small Groups – Weekdays

St. James has an active and diverse group of small programs all throughout the week -from book clubs and bible studies to EfM and even yoga.

Education for Ministry (EfM) – Tuesdays, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Current group is full – contact Jane Dowrick to enroll for next fall!

Via Zoom until notified otherwise

Are you seeking to deepen and grow your faith? Education for Ministry (EfM) is designed to help us understand our lives and shape our actions and is one of the Episcopal Church's finest educational offerings. EfM is a program designed and directed by the University of the South (Sewanee) and is more than 40 years old.

Its curriculum of study, worship, theological reflection and small group interaction is one of the most comprehensive theological education experiences available, outside of seminary. Through EfM, we learn how we might respond to our baptismal call to represent Christ and his Church; "to bear witness to him ... to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take [our] place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church." (Book of Common Prayer). One EfM graduate said, "EfM has helped me be more aware of the God-full moments in my daily walk – at

work, at home, at play – and to discover how I can minister right where I am, right now, and to explore possible new ministry.” There is a tuition fee; scholarships are available. Visit the Sewanee EfM website at efm.sewanee.edu for more information.

Contact: Jane Dowrick, (804)334-0117 or efmvirginia@gmail.com

Sacred Ground

A curriculum designed by the Episcopal Church’s ministry for Becoming Beloved Community, Sacred Ground is a powerful ten-part film and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. This series is especially designed to help white people talk about racism with other white people. You are invited to join one of our small, lay-facilitated groups, which meet once or twice a month. Each small group walks together through chapters of America’s history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity. Learn more at www.doers.org/becomingbelovedcommunity, www.episcopalchurch.org/sacredground, www.episcopalchurch.org/beloved-community. Register for a Sacred Ground small group by contacting the Rev. Hilary Streever, hstreever@doers.org or (804)355-1779, ext. 319

St. James’s Community Yoga – Mondays at 2:30 pm and 4:00 pm via Zoom

Led by St. Jameser Sarah Eck, classes are generally one hour in duration and include an asana practice, breathwork and a short meditation. The classes are designed for all levels. Participants would need a mat, two blocks and a strap for most classes, or reasonable facsimiles. Contact: Sarah Eck, ecksaraha@gmail.com

The Tuesday Readers – Fourth Tuesdays, 7:00 to 8:30 pm

Michaux House, Fagan Parlor

Transitioning from the Age of Covid, Fall beckons with a new normal and gratitude for our connectedness after challenging times. Tuesday Readers 2021-2022 meets the fourth Tuesday of each month for an evening of book discussions and fellowship. Please join us!

Contacts: Mary Lou Rumble, (804)874-6374 or marylouise.rva@gmail.com or

Diane Dodd McCue, (804)690-4316 or ddoddmccue@vcu.edu

Brown Bag Book Group – First Thursdays, 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

Michaux House, Room 306

The Brown Bag Book Club Group reads and discusses both fiction and non-fiction selections, recommended and selected by members. The book list is determined in late summer for the next year and is available on the church website and calendar publications. All interested readers are invited to bring a lunch and join in the lively and thoughtful discussions.

Contact: Linda Owen, (804)240-5546 or lindaowen23@gmail.com

- January 6 — *Thick and Other Essays*, by Tressie McMillan Cottom
- February 3 — *The Nightwatchman*, by Louise Erdrich
- March 3 — *The Vanishing Half*, by Brit Bennett
- April 7 — *The Sum of Us*, by Heather McGee
- May 5 — *The Book of Lost Friends*, by Lisa Wingate
- June 2 — *The Address*, by Fiona Davis
- July 7 — *Sooley*, by John Grisham
- August 4 — *The Paris Library*, by Janet Skeslien Charles

Tuesday Men's Bible Study – Tuesdays, 7:30 am to 8:30 am

Valentine Hall

A weekly hour of fellowship, discussion and good food. Areas of study for this group have included the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, the Book of Acts, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Genesis, and Exodus.

Contact: Patrick Strickler, (804)539-1306 or jpstrickler@verizon.net or
Stephen Spraker, (804)282-6773 or sspraker@bbtscottstringfellow.com

Women's Bible Wisdom – 2nd and 4th Tuesday, 5:00 pm via Zoom

This Bible study meets twice a month to read together through a biblical book or theme at a time. We explore when and under what conditions the passages were written, and prayerfully ask how God is speaking through them now to us as Jesus Christ's followers. This year we continue our study of the highlights of the Christian biblical story using Seamless: Understanding the Bible as One Complete Story, by Angie Smith. Next stop: the New Testament!

Contact: Mary Lou Rumble, (804)874-6374 or marylouise.rva@gmail.com

Living Faith Bible Study – Wednesdays, 10 to 11:30 am

Michaux House, Valentine Hall or Zoom

This opportunity for fellowship, spiritual refreshment and enlightenment begins with prayer and a period of silence for meditation, followed by study and discussions that help to make our Christian faith a "living faith" and apply the witness of the Scripture to our everyday lives. The subjects for discussion each week are the lectionary readings for the upcoming Sunday. Leadership of the study is a shared effort among the participants and from time to time our clergy drops in to lead our discussion. Come join us! We plan to begin our Fall session on September 15.

Contact: Betse Trice, (804)282-4726 or betset@hotmail.com

Thursday Men's Bible Study Breakfast – Every other Thursday, 7:30 to 8:30 am

Valentine Hall

We are a lay-led group that meets every other Thursday to read and discuss the Lectionary Readings for the upcoming Sunday. It's a great way to learn the scriptures and build deeper relationships with other St. Jamesers. We start off with fellowship over coffee and breakfast, then move into the readings then comments from the speaker before we engage in an open discussion. We usually pitch in \$5 to contribute to the breakfast and try to conclude right at 8:30am. This group was started by Buzz Valentine in 1984 and has been faithfully meeting ever since. Let us know if you're coming so we can save a space for you or get on our email list!

Contact: Drew Lichtenberger, drewlichtenberger@gmail.com or (804) 396-3002

Special Offerings

Newcomers Class - January 12 & 16; May 4 & 8, Valentine Hall

New to St. James's? We want to meet you! Attend two back-to-back sessions – one Wednesday evening 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm followed by one Sunday morning – for fellowship, worship, and basics about Christian life & membership at St. James's.

Register: <https://forms.gle/WTFkbLECcC1EmZ8f6>

Interfaith Dialogue: Love & Marriage – February 15, Valentine Hall

Pizza and fellowship at 6:00 p.m.; Program 6:45 p.m.

We are excited to join Congregation Beth Ahabah for interfaith dialogues throughout the program year. This winter, Congregation Beth Ahabah will join us for a conversation about Christian and Jewish understandings of love and marriage.

Baptism Orientation – dates to be determined

Are you considering baptism for yourself or your child? Are you expecting a child and thinking about baptism? Our clergy, staff, and Baptism Guides warmly invite you to our one-hour baptism information session designed to answer important questions in preparation for this joyful sacrament. We address both theological and practical questions like: "What does God do at baptism?" "Who should I ask to be a godparent for my child?" and "How do I sign up my child or myself to be baptized at St. James's?" Offered twice a year.

Contact: Ashlee Ligon, Interim Director of Children's Ministry, childrensministry@doers.org

Pilgrimages

El Camino de Santiago: The Portuguese Way – tentatively May 2022

Legend has it our patron saint, the apostle James, carried the gospel all the way to northwestern Spain. Medieval Christians from all over Western Europe made the city bearing his name, Santiago, one of the greatest pilgrimage sites in Christian history. Follow in the footsteps of thousands of pilgrims with fellow St. Jamesers along the Portuguese Way.

We will bike from Portugal into Spain, then drop the bikes and hike to Santiago. It is a moderate to difficult trip: the bike ride is along the coast and is mainly a flat course; the walking will be rigorous but not difficult. This pilgrimage will qualify for a certificate of completion from the Roman Catholic Church. Capacity: approximately 15 to 20 pilgrims. More details to come.

Contact: The Rev. Dr. Mark Cooper, markcooper1966@gmail.com

Becoming Beloved Community

In search of deeper understanding of the painful history of race and racism in America, the Becoming Beloved Community ministry is developing a pilgrimage by bus to a variety of sites in the deep south. Possible sites include: Selma; The National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery; Memphis; Atlanta.

For more information, contact BBC Project Manager Becky DeCamps (rahylton2@gmail.com).

Field Trips

Exploring God's Creation: Nature Walks – Select Saturdays, Dates TBD

One profound place for Christians to see and appreciate God's hand at work is in creation itself. Join botanist and parishioner Johnny Townsend and nature buff the Rev. Hilary Streever as we visit nearby parks with spirits filled with curiosity and eyes wide with wonder at God's creatures.

Contact: Hilary Streever, hstreever@doers.org or (804)355-1779, ext. 319

Outreach Committee Agency Site Visits

Join Outreach Committee members on site visits to community agencies with which the church has a ministry partnership to learn more about the agency mission and how it embraces community need. Each agency is a potential recipient for outreach funding. Watch church communications for specific dates and places.

Contact: Mignon Tucker, (804) 370-3881 or mignontucker21@gmail.com

Adult Learning Ministry Team

Mark Shuford, Chair

Grey Ligon

Lile Benaicha, Vestry liaison

Andy Bennett

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