

adult learning – fall 2021

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

September 15 - Welcome Wednesday

After worship at 5:30 pm, we'll continue simply with fellowship to catch up with each other since the summer.

September 22 to October 13 - Arts and Theology

Don't let the word 'theology' scare you off! Come to hear a variety of Christian leaders wax eloquently about the important role the arts play in our Christian faith and religion: from visual arts, to poetry, to music.

October 20 to November 24 - Becoming Beloved Community History Project: 1865-1900

Last fall, a group of Doers began researching the history of St. James's through the lens of race, a few decades at a time. This time, they are asking questions like, what was the parish's involvement in Reconstruction? This series will also include presentations from local and church historians, as well as viewings of the recent PBS documentary How the Monuments Came Down (<https://vpm.org/how-the-monuments-came-down>)

December 1 to December 15 - Embodying the Incarnation

Our Advent series will be led by St. Jameser Sarah Eck, licensed yoga instructor and leader of St. James's Community Yoga, and the Rev. Hilary Streever. We will explore traditional and new ways to pray with and through our bodies as we encounter again the story of the mystery of the Incarnation.

Adult Forums – Sundays

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

The Big Small Group – Showcase September 19

We know how important small educational groups are for building a sense of belonging and enriching our relationships with each other and God at church. Sunday mornings this fall at St. James's, in lieu of lecture series in Valentine Hall, much of our formation will be in Sunday Small Groups. Come to learn what topics are on offer for our Sunday Small Groups, and to learn about our weekday small groups, including our Bible studies and book groups.

Q&A with the Rector & Wardens – September 26

The Rev. Dr. John McCard, Laura McCoy, and John Conrad fill us in on the latest news and developments at St. James's.

All Saints Day Baptism Party – November 7

During the pandemic, baptisms continued as privately-held events in our Memorial Garden. Thanks be to God we could hold baptisms, but they missed out on the warm embrace that comes from our congregation when held Sunday morning in our sanctuary. Come to meet, welcome, and celebrate our newest Christians and their loved ones.

The Taste of St. James's – November 21

The Taste of St. James's debuted in 2011 as the Holiday Gourmet Food Sale. This fall, we are continuing the online pre-sales and selling in-person Sunday morning! We will feature long-time favorites including soups, breakfast casseroles, and the Bake Shop. This event funds St. James's Food Force, our outreach ministry to homeless residents in Richmond. Volunteers are needed to prepare soups and baked goods, as well as to staff the event. Also, plenty of shoppers are needed to buy all the delicious soups and treats for sale!

Advent Fair – November 28

The Advent Fair is an opportunity for all parishioners and all ages to create a variety of Advent-themed crafts, pick up seasonal spiritual tools like devotionals and calendars, and enjoy fellowship as we prepare for the season of Advent.

Peter Paul Development Center – December 5

Founded to "support the neighbors of the East End and educate its students, equipping them to serve as positive contributors to their families, community, and society," Peter Paul Development Center is one of our primary partners in ministry. We invite you to learn more about this important ministry in Richmond's East End and how they have persevered during COVID-19, from Executive Director Damon Jiggetts.

Alternative Gift Market – December 12

As we prepare for the coming of the Christ child, the gifts we prepare for others can reflect his love. The St. James's Alternative Gifts Market offers gifts that enrich our walk with Jesus. Yours can be a donation to a signature ministry or featured partner; gift certificates towards a St. James's mission trip, pilgrimage or retreat; or stocking stuffers like Children's Center crosses and fair trade goods. Each gift comes with an original St. James's gift card or certificate.

Small Groups – Sundays

In lieu of large lecture series, this October and November adult learning will be available in small, lay-hosted groups. Connect with fellow parishioners and God as you go deep with the topic of your choice for a limited time.

They'll meet for 5-7 Sundays October 10 to November 21, 10:15-11:00 a.m.

Register by Monday, October 4 for the Sunday Small Group of your choice through the eChimes (doers.org/echimes) or at <https://forms.gle/vnxxFKiHUBYogR5X6>.

Learn about all the Sunday Small Groups available in the eChimes and at the Big Small Group Showcase on Sunday, September 19, 10:15 a.m. in Valentine Hall.

Did Jesus Really Just Say That?

Co-Facilitator: Billy Baxter; Gibson Hall, Conference Room B

This group will read *The Difficult Words of Jesus* by Amy-Jill Levine, a prominent Jewish New Testament scholar, and discuss some of Jesus's more poignant and controversial statements in the Gospels. For example, what did he mean you should sell what you own and give money to the poor, so that you will have treasure in Heaven? We will explore what these statements meant in the context of 1st Century Judea, as well as what they mean for us today both individually and as members of a larger faith community?

Contact: Billy Baxter, wbaxterii@yahoo.com or (804) 317-7318

Contemplative Practices of the Heart

Co-Facilitators: Sarah Eck & Suzanne Hall; Michaux House, Basement

Come and experience the contemplative practices of Lectio Divina, Centering Prayer and prayer with Anglican Prayer Beads. Explore how these ancient practices may bring new life and deeper dimension to your spirituality. Companion book suggestion: *Intimacy with God, An Introduction to Centering Prayer* by Thomas Keating. Anglican Prayer Beads may be found on-line or locally at Richmond Hill.

Readings that Charm, Challenge, and Inspire

Co-Facilitator: Anna Evas; Michaux House 201

If, as Rowan Williams writes in *Being Human*, imagination fills the greater part of empathy, then imaginative works like stories and poems should help us to be more human, more connected with ourselves and others. Using concepts from Williams's book to guide us, we will discuss the lighter works of Tolstoy, Tolkien, T.S. Eliot, and Seamus Heaney. We will also read the heartwarming biblical story Tobit, illustrated by Rembrandt. All selections, with reading schedule, will be emailed by request.

Contact: Anna Evas, AnnaEvasHello@gmail.com

Parenting Group

Co-Facilitator: Emily Stock; Michaux House Youth Lounge

Parents of kids of all ages are invited to come share a cup of coffee together, share experiences, joys and challenges together. We'll have a few guest speakers and the group might decide to read a book or share a podcast together. Or just drink coffee. Come and see!

Contact: Emily Stock, emilynewmanstock@gmail.com

Earth Care, Soul Care

Co-Facilitators: Monica Lewis & Br. Leo Campos; Michaux House Garden

Christians have always responded to the problems in the world with good works that share God's love. Now, the ecological crisis calls us to respond. Yet, for many reasons, we, as a society, struggle to make the changes that will improve our collective, and planetary, health. As we work to protect and conserve the natural world, can we develop reserves of personal and spiritual resilience? Can we see that tending to the world – action – and tending to our inner lives – contemplation – need not be separate? Both are sustained by God's love.

We will read selections from recent books at the intersection of faith and environmentalism and we will share spiritual practices (such as intercessory prayer and litter and nature walks) as we support each other in deepening our understanding of our creator God who redeems us and sustains us along with all plants and animals, making all things new.

Contact: Monica Lewis, modemolew@yahoo.com or
Br. Leo, brleocos@gmail.com

Sunday Bible Study – Most Sundays, October 3 to December 19, at 10:15 am

Parkinson Room with the Rev. Doug Wigner

Leading into Advent we begin 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., beginning on September 22

Via Zoom until notified otherwise - Westminster Canterbury Richmond (1600 Westbrook Ave, Richmond, VA 23227)

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 – Begins in October

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 at <https://forms.gle/FY1LmEDxqDffdBJn7> . Contact: 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

- September 2 – The Nickel Boys, by Colson Whitehead
- October 7 – The Yellow Wife, by Sadeqa Johnson
- November 4 – The Book of Longings, by Sue Monk Kidd
- December 2 – How the Word is Passed, by Clint Smith
- January 6 – Thick and Other Essays, by Tressie McMillan Cottom

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, beginning Sept. 14 - 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, beginning September 15

Michaux House, Room 205 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 - September 29 & October 3; January 5 & 9; April 27 & May 1, 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: Donna Horizon, 355-1779, ext. 310 or dhorizon@doers.org

Interfaith Dialogue: Sukkoth and Hospitality - Monday, October 4 at Congregation Beth Ahabah
Pizza and fellowship at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Lobby; Program 6:45 p.m.

We are excited to join Congregation Beth Ahabah for interfaith dialogues throughout the program year. This fall, Congregation Beth Ahabah invites us into their *sukkah* (booth) for a conversation about Christian and Jewish understandings of hospitality.

Baptism Orientation - Sunday, October 31, 10:15 a.m., Valentine Hall

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. Spring Dates TBD.

Pilgrimages

"If You Came This Way . . .": A Pilgrimage to Farrar's Island, Henrico, Virginia – November 13
Henricus Historical Park and Dutch Gap Conservation Area, Chesterfield

This pilgrimage will be of particular interest to those interested and involved in the Becoming Beloved Community, Stewards of the Earth, and Intentional Spirituality Group ministries, not to mention lovers of poetry and church history. Limited to 20 participants, all ages welcome. Admission fees can be paid day-of at Henricus Historical Park: Adults: \$8; Children (ages 3 - 12): \$7; Children (2 and under): Free; Members: Free (must present a Patron Pass or photo identification); Military: \$1 discount to active and retired military personnel and their families.

RSVP by November 4 to Donna Horizon: dhorizon@doers.org or (804)355-1779

Contact: Mary Richie McGuire, mrmcguire@me.com or

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

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

Retreats

Shrine Mont Parish Retreat Weekend

Pre-Retreat Potluck: October 7, 2021, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., Memorial Garden

Retreat: October 22-24, 2021

Currently filled, so please contact our Chairs to join our wait list! Every fall, our parish goes on retreat to the beautiful diocesan retreat center, Shrine Mont, located in the mountains north of the Shenandoah Valley. Parishioners of all ages are invited to enjoy the beauty, relaxation, and fellowship that Shrine Mont has to offer. The popular Candlelit Compline, Walk/Run 5K, and Happy Hour for All Ages will return! We'll have opportunities for fun and socializing, worship at the Shrine, and optional small groups for activities and learning. Cost for Room & Meals: Children and youth are free; Free childcare for children 4 and under. Early Bird prices until July 15: \$185 for one adult or \$285 for two adults (in the same room).

Contact: Katie and Rob Reed, katiepreed@doers.org and robert.reed@allenandallen.com

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

St. James's Advent Retreat: Preparing the Way of the Lord in Our Hearts – Saturday, Dec. 4

Contact: The Rev. Dr. Bob Friend, revbfriender@hotmail.com or (804)310-5713

RSVP: Donna Horizon, dhorizon@doers.org or (804)355-1779

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

Grey Ligon, Chair

Lile Benaicha, Vestry liaison

Andy Bennett

Anna Evas

Leigh Hulcher

Jane Dowrick

Staff: The Rev. Hilary Streever