



St. James's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH + RICHMOND VA

adult learning

Sunday Small Groups

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> .

Did Jesus Really Just Say That?

Co-Facilitator: Billy Baxter - Gibson Hall; 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.

Contact: Sarah Eck, ecksaraha@gmail.com and Suzanne Hall, suzanne.hall@verizon.net

Readings that Charm, Challenge, and Inspire

Co-Facilitator: Anna Evas; Michaux House, Room 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 and Br. Leo, brleocos@gmail.com