CHRIST AND CULTURE:
SEEKING CHRIST IN A CHANGING WORLD

ADULT EDUCATION & FORMATION - FALL/WINTER 2017

In times of rapid cultural change, it can be difficult to find something constant to put our trust in to get us through difficult or confusing times. Political parties offer few solutions. Inspirational speakers and thinkers might motivate us, but the effect is often fleeting rather than truly transformative. The inertia of modern life, set against the rapid change of the digital information superhighway, can lead to paralyzing cynicism if we aren’t careful. Yet, our faith offers us a way forward, both rooted in time-tested tradition, worship, and Scripture, and also in the vibrant, active, and on-the-move call of the Holy Spirit. Of course, hearing God in the midst of such a noisy, busy culture can be difficult. As a result, our Adult Formation offerings this year are designed to help us look at how we might begin Seeking Christ in a Changing World. In the midst of the digital, social, and political fog of 21st century life, Christ remains both a steadfast light calling us into the world and a dynamic way of life adapting to the new challenges of culture. Join us as we seek Christ together and put into practice St. Anselm’s ancient advice to be a people of “faith seeking understanding” and so seize the hope set before us in Jesus.

“We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul ...”
Hebrews 6:19a

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
60 CHURCH ST ASHEVILLE, NC  28801
828-253-9361   TRINITYASHEVILLE.ORG

September 10 - October 22
EXPLORING THE EPISCOPAL EXPERIENCE
In The Undercroft

The Episcopal Church is one denomination of Christ’s holy Catholic Church and our identity is unique. Our new Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry says, “We are the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement.” In this seven-week class, led by the Rector, we will learn how the Episcopal Church came to be and how it continues to offer a unique expression of life in Christ. We will look through the lens of the Book of Common Prayer to understand the Episcopal church’s expressions of faith; namely theology, sacraments, scripture, prayer and holy living. We will also take some time to explore the particular identity of Trinity Church. This class is especially appropriate for those who are new to the Episcopal Church or new to Trinity. Those who take this class will be prepared to be confirmed or received by our Bishop when he visits Trinity.
Beginning in September
BECOMING BELOVED COMMUNITY
An Episcopal Journey to Racial Healing, Reconciliation, and Justice

In The Conference Room

Led by the Rev. Dennis Fotinos, and using The Episcopal Church’s resources to address racism in American culture, this group represents not so much a set of programs as a journey, a set of interrelated commitments around which Episcopalians can gather our many efforts to grow as a community of reconcilers, healers, and justice makers. The group meets on the first Sunday of each month at 3:30 pm, representing Trinity’s first adult formation offering prior to the Celtic Eucharist. This group meets September through June.

September 10 - October 1
BEYOND THE BELLY OF THE WHALE:
JONAH AND JEWISH-CHRISTIAN RELATIONS

featuring Walter Ziffer, author and Holocaust survivor on September 24

Conference Room

Dive in-depth into Jonah, beyond just the belly of the big fish! Led by Ed Bleynat, we will explore this fascinating book, its central role during Yom Kippur (the Jewish Day of Atonement), and will use it as a springboard to explore Christianity’s own Jewish heritage and sometimes troubled history with the religion from which it grew.

On Sept. 24, a special guest speaker, Walter Ziffer, will discuss this topic not only historically, but also his personal experiences with anti-Semitism both as a survivor of Holocaust/ Shoah and who, since that time, has worked to improve Jewish-Christian relationships. Walter Ziffer is an author and retired professor of religion and philosophy, most recently at Mars Hill College. He endured three years of slavery at seven different Nazi concentration camps.

On Oct 1., the series will close with guest Bob Deutsch. Mr. Deutsch reads Jonah during the Yom Kippur service at a local synagogue each year and will join us to discuss the book’s central role during the Jewish High Holy Days.

September 10, 17, October 1, 8
PARENTS IN CONVERSATION:
HOW TO READ THE BIBLE (WITH YOUR KIDS AND TEENS)

Clark Room

Who are the most important spiritual influences in the life of your child or teenager? It’s probably not your priest or even your youth or children’s ministers. It’s probably you. So how do we go about passing on the Christian faith within our families? During the first four weeks in Parents in Conversation, we are going to explore the basics of reading the Bible with the help of theologian Alan Storey and the Manna & Mercy series. The Bible can be a daunting book, full of ancient customs, wisdom, and stories that can be confusing to modern ears. Storey and Manna & Mercy offers us an accessible and engaging look at how to read the Bible and why to read the Bible, without relying on simplistic literalism or complicated source criticism. The Senior & Junior High classes will also be following the same schedule these weeks.

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October 15
PARENTS IN CONVERSATION:
OPEN TOPICS

In The Clark Room

Honoring the foundational roots of Parents in Conversation, come join us on this morning for an open, free-ranging discussion about the trials and joys of parenting.

October 29
PARENTS IN CONVERSATION:
GODLY PLAY OPEN HOUSE

Join us in the Children’s Ministry area to see and be a part of the wonderful Godly Play programs at Trinity.
October 29
MISSION FOCUS
SUNDAY
In the Undercroft
Since its inception, Trinity parish has been profoundly committed to mission with its members planting churches through the region, founding Mission Hospital, and having a formative hand in almost every significant social services organization including ABCCM, Meals on Wheels, and the local Habitat chapter. But Trinitarians have also been involved with mission throughout the world with a variety of organizations. This Sunday, we will hear about three such organizations, including Consider Haiti, Episcopal Relief and Development, and Stop Hunger Now.

November 5
PARENTS IN CONVERSATION: COLLEGE CARE
Clark Room
Join us this Sunday morning as we send love and care to our Trinitarian college students. With finals on the horizon for many of our college students, we will write supportive notes of encouragement and pack goodies to bolster spirits, all to remind them that their Trinity family is holding them up in prayer and love.

November 12-26
PARENTS IN CONVERSATION: RISING ANXIETY AND ADOLESCENTS
Clark Room
Anxiety is on the rise among adolescents in the United States. Some writers worry it’s the beginning of a public health crisis. What’s to blame? What’s at the root of it all? And, most importantly, how might our faith begin to address the needs beneath the endemic anxiety?

October 22
LOVE HEALS
featuring the Rev. Becca Stevens
In The Nave
Trinity welcomes the Rev. Becca Stevens, an author, priest, and founder of Thistle Farms. The Rev. Stevens will give us first-hand examples of how Christ is present and transformative in the midst of culture, even amid the most challenging circumstances. Since 1997, Thistle Farms has served as a sanctuary for survivors of abuse. For two decades, Thistle Farms has welcomed women with free residences that provide housing, medical care, therapy, education, and income-earning enterprises. Stevens will share with us how Christ’s love really can change the world as our speaker during Forum and our preacher at our morning services.

Becca has been featured in the New York Times, on ABC World News and PR, was recently named a 2016 CNN Hero and a White House “Champion of Change.” She was featured in the PBS documentary, A Path Appears, named Humanitarian of the Year by the Small Business Council of America and inducted into the Tennessee Women’s Hall of Fame. Stevens attended the University of the South and Vanderbilt Divinity School. She has been conferred two honorary doctorates.

Love
heals by the mercy of God.
heals with compassion.
heals during the act of forgiving.
heals past our fears.
heals across the world.

November 5 - 26
LOVE THAT HEALS US - AND THE WORLD!
In The Undercroft
With Stevens’ newest book as our guide, we will explore the kind of love that changes and heals the world.

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December 3  
**MISSION FOCUS SUNDAY**  
In the Undercroft  
Mission trips. They aren’t just for teenagers anymore. Around the country, churches are sending skilled adults on humanitarian missions to share and receive the love of Christ in various cultures and contexts. On this Sunday, we will explore what this might look like at Trinity and cast a vision for extending the generous work of this parish beyond our walls and perhaps even our nation’s borders.

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December 3  
**PARENTS IN CONVERSATION: ADVENT WREATH MAKING**  
In Tuton Hall  
Join us for this beloved and fun annual tradition of making Advent wreaths together, an intergenerational activity that is perfect for families.

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December 3 - 17  
**MARY OWEN AND DREAMS**  
In the Library  
During these three weeks, Mary Owen will facilitate a short workshop on exploring your dreams as a way for understanding your life.

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Dec. 10-17  
**FILMS WITH A PRIEST: FINDING THE INCARNATION AT THE MOVIES**  
In The Undercroft  
Advent is the season of waiting for the arrival of our Lord in the flesh, so this season, we will explore the ways in which we can see the Incarnation on the silver screen. We will explore the humanity of Christ through the unconventional depictions of Jesus on film and then we will explore how Jesus shows up unexpectedly at the box office through a variety of cinematic Christ figures. On Thursdays, Dec. 7 and Dec. 14, Fr. David will host an informal film screening and BYOD (bring-your-own-dinner) at 6:30 p.m. at Trinity.

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Dec. 10-17  
**PARENTS IN CONVERSATION: FAITH AND PARENTING IN A PLURALISTIC SOCIETY**  
Clark Room  
We no longer live in a world in which Christian faith can be assumed by everyone, not even within one’s own family. Our nation is diverse and pluralistic. So what does it mean to parent and to pass on one’s faith in a world with so many different claims about God and in which our kids’ friends may ascribe to a different faith or no faith at all? And what if your child converts to a faith other than your own or decides they have no faith at all? What then? Come, join the conversation!
# CALENDAR

*All adult classes meet at 9:30 on Sundays (except where noted)*

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FAITH FORMATION
BEYOND SUNDAY MORNING

BECOMING BELOVED COMMUNITY GROUP
Led by the Rev. Dennis Fotinos and using The Episcopal Church’s resources to address racism in American culture, this group offers a safe space for folks interested in exploring or responding to issues of racial injustice. The group meets on the first Sunday of each month at 3:30 p.m., representing Trinity’s first adult formation offering prior to the Celtic Eucharist.
Contact: Dennis Fotinos 828-676-6883 dgfotinos@gmail.com

MEN’S BIBLE STUDY
This group meets every Friday morning at 7:30 a.m. in the Clark Room for Morning Prayer, coffee, snack, and Bible study of the week’s lectionary texts. All men are invited, and is particularly convenient for anyone working downtown.
Contact: Bill Myrick 262-203-26704 wmharris@gmail.com

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY
Meeting every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room, the Women’s Bible Study is a place of friendship, fellowship, prayer, and study of Scripture, emphasizing the week’s upcoming lectionary texts.
Contact: David Henson 828-253-9361 david@trinityasheville.org

SECOND CHAPTER BOOK GROUP
This book group meets every other month to discuss a previously selected book together.
Contact: Barbara Fotinos 828-676-6883 bfonitos@gmail.com

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING
This is an order for Episcopal women dedicated to prayer, service, and evangelism, which meets regularly to support each other in prayer and spiritual growth.
Contact: Nancy McCorkle 912-224-5387 nkmcorkle@gmail.com

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY (EFM)
This is an in-depth course of study, produced by the School of Theology of the University of the South, that is equal in measure to the first year of many seminaries. Participants are immersed in biblical studies, church history, theology, and a unique process of theological reflection that often builds profound community with others. The group meets Monday evenings at Trinity and is facilitated by The Rev. Dr. Peggy Buchanan.
Contact: Peggy Buchanan 828-253-9361 peggy@trinityasheville.org