

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Jesus asks Peter, "Who do you say that I am?" And Peter responds, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God." Jesus asks us the same question today. How do we answer? What account can we give for the hope that is in us?

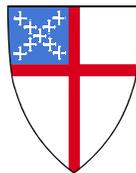
Helping people discern answers to these questions is a primary task of the Christian community.

Christian formation is the catch-all term we use to describe the whole process of being transformed by a relationship with God in Christ in order more fully to be Christ's hands and feet in the world today. Worship forms us. Prayer forms us. Mission forms us. Study forms us.

At St. Mary's we are invited to seriously and intentionally engage in the process of our own formation.



Scan this QR code with your smart phone to add St. Mary's to your contacts.



St. Mary's Episcopal Church

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St. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HIGH POINT, NORTH CAROLINA

Where faith embraces reason and tradition.....

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

FALL/WINTER 2016

SUNDAYS

Infants & Toddlers (Ages 0-4ish)

During our 9am service in the Community Life Center, children are invited to sit on the rugs and play quietly with the Director of Children's and Youth Ministry, Paul Collins. The Play Place which is located in the Parish House, is open to children up through age four during Christian Formation Hour (10:00-10:45am) and throughout the 11am service.

Children (Age 4ish-5th grade)

During our 9am service in the Community Life Center, children are invited to sit on the rugs and play quietly with the Director of Children's and Youth Ministry, Paul Collins. In addition, children are invited to Children's Chapel during the 11am service. Children's Chapel is an opportunity for youngsters to hear the Liturgy of the Word in words they can understand, practice different types of prayer, and learn about the liturgical seasons. We rejoice the congregation during the peace.

Youth (Grades 6-12)

Youth are encouraged to participate in every aspect of community life here at St. Mary's! Youth serve weekly as acolytes, chalice bearers, and lay readers. During the Christian Formation Hour, Youth may choose to attend available offerings.

The Forum at 10:00 a.m.

Facilitators: Various

Location: Parish Hall

This Fall we will be doing month long studies on a variety of topics. The general schedule is as follows. Detailed descriptions of individual weeks will be publicized as we move through the year and are available in The Forum brochure.

August - What is going on at St. Mary's

September - Why do we, Episcopalians, do what we do?

October - Being the church in the midst of crisis

November - What does the Bible say about...?

December - The Infancy Narratives

SUNDAY EVENINGS

Youth Confirmation Class

Facilitator: Paul Collins

Location: DeBeen - 3:00pm

Classes begin August 21 and run for 7 weeks, excluding September 4. Class time is from 3:00-4:30 pm Youth are only allowed to miss one class and should attend one of the Sunday morning services every Sunday during the 7 week period as they will have assignments based on these services.

Youth (Grades 6-12)

This year youth will meet in the Great Hall of the Community Life Center from 5-7pm for EYC (Episcopal Youth Community). Friends are always welcome!

Adult Confirmation Class

Facilitators: Fr. Umphlett, Deacon Stephenson

Location: Media Center - 7:00pm (2nd floor of Education Bldg)

This class is for those who would like to be Confirmed or Received into the Episcopal Church, or would like to reaffirm their faith. Students must attend 6 out of the 7 classes in order to be Confirmed or Received during Bishop Lee's visitation on October 16.

Aug. 21 - What is Confirmation

Aug. 28 - The English Reformation

Sept. 11 - American Colonies and the Episcopal Church

Sept. 18 - Worship and the Bible

Sept. 25 - Personal Piety and Prayer

Oct. 2 - Stewardship

Oct. 9 - Episcopal Piety

WEEKDAYS

MONDAY

Men's Bible Study

Facilitator: Monty Dixon

Location: Community Room 3b - 7:00am

We share life experiences as we strive to understand how scripture speaks to us as husbands, fathers, brothers, members of the community, and members of God's family. Sessions typically involve reading scripture, both in the old and new testaments, and engaging in discussions. In addition to scripture reading, we also make use of references such as bible commentaries and video series.

Mothers of Young Children Bible Study

Facilitator: Deacon Amanda Stephenson

Location: Media Center - 9:30am (2nd Floor of Education Bldg.)

This Fall we will study the Gospel of Matthew. Childcare is provided. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Rev. Amanda Stephenson. No prior knowledge of the Bible is expected.

MONDAY - cont'd

Serious Scholars

Facilitator: Fr. Umphlett and Deacon Stephenson

Location: Miller Common Room - 7:00pm

This group is a combination book group, bible study, and theology class. We will meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. We will read a book together, as well as some supplemental material, and our gatherings will be discussion based. The reading should not exceed 50 pages between classes, and most weeks it will be less than that. This Fall we will be learning more about the social/cultural world of the Bible, and specifically of the New Testament. We will read together The New Testament World: Insights from Cultural Anthropology (3rd edition) by Bruce J. Malina. For questions, please contact Deacon Amanda Stephenson.

TUESDAY

Evening Bible Study - Begins September 6

Facilitator: TBD

Location: Miller Common Room - 7:00pm

Godly Play

Facilitators: Paul Collins, Godly Play Leaders

Location: Godly Play Rooms - 3:30pm

WEDNESDAY

Youth (Grades 6-12) Bible Study

Facilitator: Fr. Umphlett

Location: Carter Brothers - 7:00am

This is an opportunity for fellowship and engagement with the scriptures lead by the Rector.

Women's Bible Study

Facilitator: Frankie Gurganus

Location: Miller Common Room - 9:30am

All women in the church are invited to participate. We read and discuss books of the Bible chapter by chapter. This year we are studying Women of the Bible.

Godly Play

Facilitators: Paul Collins, Godly Play Leaders

Location: Godly Play Rooms - 4:30pm

THURSDAY

Centering Prayer

Facilitator: Deacon Stephenson

Location: Chapel of Christ the King - 7:00pm

Centering Prayer is a Christian form of meditation. The group will meet for one hour each week. We will sit in silence for 20 minutes, share anything that may have come up, and then read and discuss a section from a book on contemplative prayer. No prior experience is needed.