

ADULT FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES 2008 - 2009

An Adult Learning Community: *All Saints has outstanding programs of faith formation for adults of all ages and for children. Formation in faith is a life-long experience and opportunity. We invite you to look over the wide array of offerings in this brochure. Please join us and please invite a friend. All are welcome. For information, please contact Barbara Bembery at office@allsaintsbrookline.org or 617-738-1810, ext. 101.*

Sacred Space, *October 5, October 26, November 17, January 26, March 22*

Guest teachers will explain how the art and architecture of our worship space lift the human spirit to praise God. Together these presentations will explain the history and gothic design of All Saints Parish, our world-renowned stained glass windows, and contemporary liturgical revisions that included putting the altar in the midst of the people.

◆ Sunday, October 5th, 1:30 pm: “The Windows of All Saints” -- Rick Montross, author of “A Tour of All Saints Parish” will give a tour of the Church, focusing on the outstanding windows of All Saints created by Connick Studios. (*Offered as part of the 2008 House Tours of Brookline.*)

◆ Sunday, October 26, 12 noon: The Rev. Louis Pitt, Jr., Sixth Rector of All Saints Parish (1954-1972): “The Centrality of the Altar in Christian Worship.”

◆ Monday, November 17, 7:30 pm: Peter Cormack, Honorary Director of the Charles J. Connick Stained Glass Foundation, “Transatlantic Gothic: Aspects of Anglo-American Medievalism.” Location: Marsh Chapel, Boston University (Sponsored by the Connick Foundation)

◆ Sunday, January 25, 12 noon: The Rev. Christian Brocato, Priest Associate, Parish of the Epiphany, Winchester: “Re-envisioning the Worship Space at All Saints”

◆ Sunday, March 22, 12 noon: “Ralph Adams Cram’s Vision of Sacred Space at All Saints Parish”

Explorations in Faith, *Six Wednesday evenings, October 1-November 5, 7:00–8:30 pm*

An introductory course for those who are new to All Saints; anyone wishing to be baptized, confirmed, or received into the Episcopal Church; and for those who want to take a fresh look at Christianity. The course will present the basic beliefs and practices of the Christian faith and include lecture, discussion, Bible study, and video presentations. Led by David Killian, Rector of All Saints; Leslie Sterling, Assistant Rector; Randy Callender, Seminarian. We will be reading *What Does a Progressive Christian Believe? A Guide for the Searching, the Open, and the Curious* (copies are available on the bureau in the Guild Room).

Centering Prayer

An Introduction to Centering Prayer,

Wednesdays, October 8, 15, 22, and 29, 7:00 – 8:30 pm. No fee. People from mainline religious backgrounds used to think they had to go outside their own tradition to learn how to meditate. Now, in a form of meditation known as “centering prayer,” they

are discovering a contemplative practice that is both strikingly contemporary and deeply resonant with their traditional faith. The series will include presentation, meditation, and conversation. It will be facilitated by Father Bill Sheehan, OMI, pastor and marriage counselor; Martha Bullock, coordinator of C.O.N.E. (Contemplative Outreach of New England); Peter Stringham, M.D., nationally recognized leader in violence prevention, especially among teens; and Kathy Long, Director of Religious Education at St. Francis Church in Dracut. For information, contact www.contemplativeoutreach.org or Martha Bullock at msbullock1@aol.com

Coming in 2009: A group to read “The Cloud of Unknowing”: for information, contact Martha Bullock at Msbullock1@aol.com

Centering Prayer Weekly Meditation Group,

Sundays, 9:15 – 10:15 am, meets in the Quiet Room. Quieting the mind and feeling open to spending time in the presence of God is a form of prayer with a gently transformative power. It is an ancient form of prayer whose technique and results speak clearly to the needs of the modern world. The results of the practice lead to a quiet deepening which opens us to the beauty of God's world and to the profundity of His presence and love. Using a method called *lectio divina*, the group reflects on a passage of scripture for the Sunday, sits in quiet meditation, and shares in discussion. Led by Martha Bullock (Msbullock1@aol.com) and Peter Stringham (Peter.stringham@gmail.com)

Centering Prayer Mini-Retreats: Busy Life, Peaceful Center-Integrating Prayer in All We Do, *Saturdays, 2:00 – 4:30 pm.*

These Saturday retreats will be opportunities to quiet the mind to become open to the spirit. We will spend time together in the presence of God in *lectio divina*, receiving a presentation on meditation, sitting in centering prayer, and reflecting on themes appropriate to the seasons of the year.

- ◆ October 18 – Gratitude
- ◆ December 6 – Advent
- ◆ February 14 – Love
- ◆ April 4 (Palm Sunday weekend) – Forgiveness
- ◆ June 13 – Rest and Refreshment

Stewardship Education: “Celebrate and Give Thanks”

We live with the daily reality of God’s abundant blessings, both at All Saints and in the world. God’s generosity gives us overwhelming reasons to celebrate and be grateful, and to express that gratitude with gifts of time, talent, and treasure. During the four Sundays in October, testimonials from parishioners and the sermons will focus on the theme of celebration and thanksgiving. The kick-off event will be a special sermon on Stewardship Sunday on October 5, with a parish luncheon following the service.

“Being a good steward means being aware of the fact that God has given us all that we have and developing the practice of thankfulness and generosity. God’s grace — God’s unearned, undeserved, and unconditional love for us — invites, even demands a life of thankfulness and praise.”

—Linda Grenz, *Faith-based Stewardship: A Fresh Perspective on Congregational Giving*

Small Group Discussions and Sharing **Education for Ministry, Mondays 6:30 – 9:00 pm**

If you’d like to know who came first, Moses or the Macabees... If you’d really like to know what happened on the way to Jericho...if you would like to spend time with others to deepen your understanding of ministry and heritage, EFM could be for you.

The Education for Ministry program at All Saints begins in September and is open to all. The course is designed for lay people who want to explore theology in a serious and spirit filled way. In year one of the series, we will study The Hebrew Scriptures.

Each session consists of opening prayer, discussion of assigned readings, a Theological Reflection exercise, and closing prayer or devotion. As summarized in the EFM prospectus:

“Students belong to small ‘communities of learning’ in which the events of each person’s life may be examined in the light of the materials being studied. While the course materials provide substantial academic content, the focus of the program is **life as ministry**.” For more information, explore the EFM website at www.sewanee.edu/EFM or contact Barbara Bemberry at office@allsaintsbrookline.org Fee: \$340 for one year. Scholarships available.

Gospel Reflection Group, Sundays, 9:15 – 10:15 am

How can the Gospel shape our lives and give meaning to our daily struggles? Join us each Sunday morning as we read the Gospel lesson for the Sunday worship service and reflect on the Gospel’s relation to our lives. We will use a method of Scripture sharing developed in Latin America and Africa that is now used by people in countries around the world. No reading or study is required before the session. Just come with a spirit that is open to be touched by the Gospel’s teaching. For more information, contact David Killian, rectord@allsaintsbrookline.org or Leslie Sterling at ammaleslie@earthlink.net.

Sermon Conversations, Sundays, 12 noon – 12:45 pm

Sermons often invite us to consider a new way of thinking or acting. Often they raise questions or stir us to further exploration. These monthly opportunities to discuss the sermon with the preacher after the 10:30 am Sunday service. These sessions will be held in the Library immediately after the service and will last for 45 minutes. Dates TBA.

Bible Study – The Book of Acts, Saturday, September 13, 9:00 – 10:30 am – organizational meeting

Responding to a parish hunger for deeper Bible study, a group will begin reading and studying The Book of the Acts of the Apostles this fall. This fifth book of the New Testament, telling

the story of Jesus’ resurrection and ascension, the work of the early apostles, and the adventures of Paul and his companions, is the closest thing to a novel in our scriptures and is exciting reading. At our first meeting, we will decide on our format and our meeting details and figure out who will bring the bagels! Contact Karen Keely at karen@twodames.net.

Celtic Mini Retreats, Saturdays 3:00 – 4:30 pm

◆ **September 20 - Homecoming: A Celebration of Story and Song with Alan O’Hare**

This summer Alan O’Hare, Celtic shenachie and director of Life Story Theatre, returned to Ireland to visit the people and places that formed him and that speak to his soul. He visited the grave of John O’Donohue, the author of *Anam Cara, Beauty*, and *Eternal Echoes*. When John died on January 3 of this year, people around the world grieved the loss of this great teacher. Alan will read John’s poems and will speak of the sights and sounds, the people and the places, the memories and the wild imaginings that were part of his homecoming. Through stories of pilgrimage, anam cara, prayer, and Celtic music, Alan will facilitate the gathering and nurture the Celtic spirit within. The Celtic Eucharist will be celebrated at 5:00 pm, following the retreat. For more information about Alan and Life Story Theatre, visit www.lifestorytheatre.org.

◆ **November 1 – “Death, Dying, and Resurrection”**

On the Celtic feast of Samhain, the holiest day of the year and the new year on the Celtic calendar, the Celts felt a special closeness to the dead. Through word and song, we will reflect on these great mysteries.

Fellowship Groups

Beacon Street Fellowship, for those in their 20s and 30s. We gather for brunch once a month after the Sunday 10:30 am worship service, for occasional events such as “Theology on Tap” presentations and discussion at area restaurants and other times for discussion and socializing. For information, contact the website: www.beaconstreetfellowship.com or the Rev. Valerie Bailey Fischer at: valerie_bailey@comcast.net

Forty Plus Fridays, for people over 40 (or getting close) Fridays, 7:00-9:00 pm. Join us for spiritual conversation on topics of interest to people over 40 (or getting close ...we won’t card anybody!)

- ◆ September 12 – “What is Forty Plus Faith?”
 - ◆ October 17 – “How Forty Plus Faith watches the debates”
 - ◆ November 21 – “How Forty Plus Faith pays it forward”
- For more information, contact Leslie Sterling at ammaleslie@earthlink.net or call Jane Ross at 617-713-0303.

Women of Wisdom, Thursdays, 9:30 am—1:00 pm, September 11 and 25, October 9 and 23, November 6 and 20, December 11, 2008, January 8 and 22, 2009. Presented by The Ruah Spirituality Institute. A peer-led group for women of all faith backgrounds who wish to come together to reflect and what we have learned in our life journeys, the spiritual transformations we have experienced, and the special rewards and trials of aging. Cost: \$10. Please bring your own lunch; hot water for coffee and tea will be provided. Information: www.ruahspirit.org or ruahspirit@gmail.com, 617-277-0036.