

ST. THOMAS'S CHURCH

A Parish of the Episcopal Church in New Haven

Doing Justice + Loving Kindness + Walking Humbly with God

Fall Semester Sunday Forums

Sundays, 9:00 – 9:50 a.m., in the Lounge

As members of the Church, we regularly renew our baptismal covenant, promising to:

- continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers;
- persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever we fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord;
- proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ;
- seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves; and
- strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.

The Sunday Forum program at St. Thomas's is designed to help each of us take steps to fulfill those promises through readings and discussion about our life together in this community of faith. The program includes the study of Scripture, which in Cranmer's words, we will "read, mark, learn and inwardly digest." But it also includes topics as diverse as Christian parenting; healthcare and education in Africa; the legacy of racism, America's "original sin;" Christian hope at the end of life; Advent scripture, poetry and music; and a "progressive" view of Jesus during Epiphany. We urge you to calendar these dates and join us on Sunday mornings "in the apostles' teaching and fellowship."

TALKING TO CHILDREN (AND GRANDCHILDREN AND GODCHILDREN AND EACH OTHER!) ABOUT GOD, JESUS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

September 10 – Denise Terry, Laura Bower-Phipps, Keri Aubert

Children and adults (**those with or without children**) will meet together in the Lounge for registration, a sample Sunday School lesson and the first part of a conversation about talking to children about God. There will be music and poetry, arts and crafts, and inspiration. Denise Terry is a retired middle school English teacher whose positions included 13 years at the Sidwell Friends School in Washington, D.C. Laura Bower-Phipps, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor in the Department of Education at Southern Connecticut State University.

September 17 – Laura Bower-Phipps and Keri Aubert

What does our baptismal promise to "do all in our power to support these persons in their life in Christ" mean in practice? What's our responsibility as parents (and grandparents and godparents)? What's our responsibility as members of the church?

SPIRITUALITY, HEALTHCARE, AND EDUCATION IN THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF NORTHERN MALAWI

September 24 – Derek Stefanovsky and Katherine Vaillancourt

How can we form relationships with other Anglicans who are different from us? How do we share of our time, talent, and treasure appropriately? How is God calling St. Thomas and us as individuals to partner with our brothers and sisters far and near? Derek Stefanovsky is a second-year seminarian at Yale Divinity School, and Katherine Vaillancourt is a second-year medical student at Quinnipiac. They were married last May.

October 1 – Blessing of the Animals (with St. Thomas's Day School) – NO FORUM

No forum, but come early with your pets for fun and treats!

LEARNING ABOUT RACE: SUMMER READING REVIEW (*no quiz*)

October 8 – Tracey Meares

Tracey Meares is the Walton Hale Hamilton Professor of Law at Yale and Director of the Center for Studies in Criminal Justice at the University of Chicago. She will lead a discussion of Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* and Yale poet Claudia Rankine's *Citizen: An American Lyric*.

October 15 – Martha Deeds Hogan and Kevin Johnson

The Vestry leaders of our Justice & Service Ministry will moderate a discussion of the NYTimes bestseller, Colson Whitehead's *The Underground Railroad*. Martha Deeds Hogan is the Senior Policy Analyst for the Connecticut School Finance Project. Kevin Johnson, M.D., is a third-year Resident in Psychiatry at Yale New Haven Hospital.

October 22 – Harlon Dalton

A conversation with our Wooster Square neighbor, Harlon Dalton: Professor *Emeritus* at Yale Law School, Episcopal priest, and author of *Racial Healing: Confronting the Fear Between Blacks and Whites*.

October 29 – STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY: CULTIVATING AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

Our Stewardship Team will help us ask: What are we grateful for? How do we give thanks? What does it mean to set aside the first fruits of the harvest in a post-agrarian world?

CHRISTIAN HOPE AND THE END OF LIFE: *Three Conversations with Two Chaplains*

Jakki Flanagan is the Emergency Department Attending Chaplain at Yale New Haven Hospital. **Sally Edwards** is a retired hospice chaplain who has taught end-of-life issues at the Yale Summer Institute in Bioethics.

November 5 (All Saints)

BEING MORTAL: In the challenging realities of aging and death, what medicine can do often runs counter to what it should. Atul Gawande, a surgeon, reveals the suffering this dynamic has produced for patients, families, and medical staff. We will see excerpts from this Frontline episode and through discussion begin to explore how to have the hard conversations to help individuals and their loved ones understand what is most important to them when approaching end-of-life care.

November 12

VOICE YOUR CHOICE: Articulating goals, values and relationships for making decisions in end-of-life care. A document to ease into and document those decisions.

November 19

HELPING NOT HURTING: Learning to talk with the sick and the bereaved. What to say, what is best left unsaid, and a helpful graphic to remember both.

November 26 (Christ the King) – NO FORUM

ADVENT

December 3 – Julie and David Kelsey

ADVENT LESSONS: ANTICIPATING THE “SON OF MAN COMING IN CLOUDS.” Julie (former Rector of Grace & St. Peter’s, Hamden) and David (retired professor of theology at Yale) will help us think about the Scriptures that prepare us for Christmas.

December 10

POETRY POTLUCK. How does God come to you through poetry? How are poetry and spirituality related? Bring your favorite Advent or Christmas (or any!) poem(s) to share and discuss.

December 17 - Carolyn Sharp

THE MAGNIFICAT. What does Mary’s “song of reversals” tell us about humility and power? The Rev. Carolyn Sharp, Ph.D., is a professor at Yale Divinity School who teaches the poetics and theology of Hebrew Scripture texts as resources for preaching. She will lead a discussion of this beloved New Testament text, which has its roots in the Song of Hannah. Afterwards, worship will *twice* include the *Magnificat*: a choral setting and a hymnodized setting.

EPIPHANY

January 7 – Keri Aubert

EPISCOPAL CHURCH 101, PART I: HISTORY AND POLITY. Our Priest-in-Charge will offer the first of a three-session series on what it means to be an Episcopalian. Designed for beginning and advanced students!

January 14 and 21 – David Kelsey

MEETING JESUS AGAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME: Looking for an understanding of Jesus that can help you make sense of today’s world? Marcus Borg, author of several books including the popular and influential *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*, is one of the most influential voices in progressive Christianity and a major figure in historical Jesus scholarship. David Kelsey, Ph.D., the Luther A. Weigle Professor *Emeritus* of Theology at YDS, will lead a discussion of excerpts from his writings. You need not have read Borg to participate or benefit.