

## Adult Spiritual Formation and Education at Grace



Christian Education is a life-long journey. Grace Episcopal Church is committed to providing education that is stimulating and challenging for all ages, nurturing our faith as we continue on our spiritual journey. On Sunday mornings and during the week, the people of Grace Church are engaged in learning to live more fully as Christians. The Adult Education program is designed to instruct and inspire us in the following areas:

- ▶ Bible study – scripture and writings of noted theologians;
- ▶ support for daily living;
- ▶ parenting, grief and caring for others;
- ▶ ethical decisions and political issues facing the church in the world.

The questions considered are:

Where is God in the midst of this?

What have I learned?

What are the implications for my life?

The Adult Education Committee has planned an intellectually stimulating and diverse series of topics for this fall and Advent. Please make the time to attend as many of these as you can. If there is a topic that is not on this list and you would like to see covered in a future forum, please contact Clif Stroud at [clifstroud@earthlink.net](mailto:clifstroud@earthlink.net).

The focus of this year's program of education and spiritual development at Grace is "Our Story – Our Story as a Congregation, Our Story as Anglicans, Our Story as a Biblical People."

## Sunday Forums for the Fall 10:15 in the Parish Hall

### Our Story as a Congregation

October 4 – Using the Book of Common Prayer – Rev. Caroline Parkinson

October 11 – Navajo Mission Trip Report – Keith Stroud, Meg Dalton, Rev. Matt Johnson

October 18 – Grace Church Operating Budget: Where Does It All Go?

October 25 – Mission Statement and Grace Stewardship – Richer Asher

### Our Story as Anglicans: Worship and Anglican Music

November 8, 15 and 22

November 29 – First Sunday of Advent Service of Advent Lessons and Carols at 10:00 am

### Our Story as Biblical People – The Nativity Story According to Luke

December 6, 13 and 20

Introduction to the Gospel of Luke

Rev. Matt Johnson

## **Additional Opportunities For Learning**

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### **Tuesday Book Study**

In the library beginning September 22 at 10:30 am. The first book for 2009-2010 will be Phyllis Tickle's *The Great Emergence: How Christianity is Changing and Why*.

### **Sunday Evening Bible Study**

New this year, following the 5:00 pm service we will gather in the Parish Hall at 6:15 pm for study and reflection on the lessons for the day. This new Bible Study will be led by members of the clergy and is open to all ages.

### **Life@Grace**

**An introduction to the Episcopal Church and to Grace Church.** Offered several times a year. This is an opportunity for those new to Grace Church or new to the Episcopal Church to learn more about how we worship and what we believe.

Sundays 12:45 – 2:00 pm

October 18, January 31, March 21 and May 16

### **Advent Quiet Day**

December 5 – Rev. Matt Johnson

### **Adult Confirmation and Inquirers' Class**

A short course for all who wish to reaffirm their baptismal vows through the service of Confirmation or Reaffirmation or who wish to be received into the Episcopal Church, or who wish to learn more about the Episcopal Church through:

Greater familiarity with Scripture, the Book of Common Prayer and the Hymnal as tools to deepen their faith;

Deeper understanding and commitment to the promises made at Baptism;

Development of a sense of community within the parish and particularly within the larger church;

Deeper understanding of the Episcopal Church within the Anglican Communion, its structure, its worship and its traditions. Dates TBA.

### **Wednesday Evenings in Advent and Lent**

A simple evening service with Taize music and a shared meal followed by a program. A gift of time, fellowship and spiritual renewal.

**Program – Telling Our Personal Stories**

December 2, 9 and 16 at 6:30 pm

Rev. Caroline Parkinson

### **Education for Ministry**

**Study of the Old and New Testament, church history, theology and ethics.** Every Monday evening the EFM group meets for dinner, worship and theological reflection on the materials of the week. Those who have completed the four-year program continue to gather for the evening to share their reflections on the book they have chosen. Contact Rev. Caroline Parkinson. Cost for the year: \$340—scholarships available.

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**Grace Episcopal Church**  
**The Plains, Virginia**  
[www.gracechurch.net](http://www.gracechurch.net)

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