

At the Table with the World – A Season of Intentional Discipleship, The Way of Love, and Global Mission - Rev. Dr. Grace Burton-Edwards and Jenny Grant

When we gather at the Table in our local congregations, Episcopalians are automatically gathering with a global church community. The Episcopal Church is international itself, and we are blessed to be part of a wider worldwide family of Christians through the Anglican Communion. Families often struggle, and our global Anglican family is no exception, but by walking in love together we grow as disciples of Jesus. Come hear about best practices in building hospitable and mutual global mission relationships, resources for supporting these partnerships, and a curriculum developed by the Global Episcopal Mission Network to deepen awareness and competency in global mission work.

Authentic Stories through Podcasting – Lisa Brown

When people gather around a table, it is not only bread, but stories that are shared. Stories orient and inform us. Through stories we get to know each other better; through shared stories we hone our own sense of identity. But how can we reach people who can't always be physically present at our tables? How can we extend our stories to their listening ears? The incredible popularity of story-based podcasting offers a fantastic example of how to extend our living stories to a new audience. Join Lisa Brown as she shares suggestions for how to start, structure and sustain a story-based podcast.

Building Faith Brick by Brick: Engaging Our Sacred Stories through Imagination and Play – Emily Given

Entering into a place of holy play can create a space for our sacred stories to come alive in a whole new way. The pairing of Lego bricks with the Bible has proven to be a meaningful way to engage Scripture with people of all ages. Come learn, play, build, and grow, then dream about how you might use this imaginative way of theological reflection in the places you serve. Led by Emily Given, author of two volumes of Building Faith Brick by Brick (Church Publishing).

Liturgical Celebrations – Ralph Wimberly

Ralph Wimberly believes that the celebration of the liturgy is the work of the entire People of God. All of us together, in our diverse ministries accomplish the great task of celebrating the liturgy which has been entrusted to us by Christ himself. Watch as Ralph brings seasons of the church year to life to help give us a way to experience how this can be celebrated in your spaces of worship. Seasons provide opportunities to observe, commemorate, and celebrate certain events or occasions. The sequence of celebrations from Advent to Resurrection Sunday becomes an annual spiritual journey for worshippers as they kneel at the manger, listen on a hillside, walk the streets of Jerusalem, hear the roar of the mob, stand beneath the cross, and witness the resurrection! The rest of the church year provides time to reflect on the meaning of the coming of Jesus and his commission to his people to be a light to the world. Join Ralph

Wimberly as he inspires you to create a loving environment where our liturgical celebrations are respected, shared and celebrated and our common goals are strengthened through Christ Our Lord.

Contemplative Vision: Photography as a Spiritual Practice - Dirk deVries

The digital revolution has put affordable, high-quality photography into everyone's hands. From smart phones to cameras to tablets...from software to apps to social media...we've all become photographers, documenting our daily lives (and those of friends, family members, and pets) with unprecedented ease and versatility. But for how many of us do these same tools also serve as tools for meditation, awareness, and insight, a "lens" through which we more deeply encounter the world, ourselves, and the sacred? Photography is all about seeing, and in this workshop we learn how to develop our own, unique *Contemplative Vision*, embracing photography as the practice of mindfulness, slowing down, observing, connecting, being, and making space for God.

Designed for Sabbath – Rev. Ruth Pattison

From cat naps to the Faure' Requiem, from Jesus asleep in the boat to God putting his feet up after 6 days of creating, the rhythm of work is in our bones. We are designed for Sabbath. We are designed for rest whether in Sabbath moments, or whole days as prescribed in the Torah, or in the 7th year sabbatical when the 'field lies fallow', but rest can be surprisingly hard to find. Take a Pastoral Arts pause and come to the Cottage for a mixed media retreat and spa-like sabbatical moment.

Digital Storytelling through Visual Images – Lisa Brown

As we consider a new vision of forming faith that welcomes people from all walks of life to gather at our tables, we need to think about the actual images that substantiate that vision. These images, shared digitally on our church websites and social media, are often the first glimpse we give others of our community. We begin to build relationships by offering images that intrigue, inspire, and invite them to want to find out more, to want to become a part of our communities and to transform our communities with their gifts. So what makes a great image? Join Lisa Brown as she shares insight, examples and best practices for crafting images to tell your church's story in the digital space.

Finding Home: How We Welcome, Worship, and Communicate Matters – Emily Given

Each of us is longing for connection. Faith communities have the responsibility to provide a safe, accessible, and open invitation to all God's people. Finding pathways of engagement is not always easy. Learn proven methods of how to make your church a place of hospitality, meaning, and community. Led by Emily Given, Director of Engagement and Communications at St. Thomas' Church, Whitemarsh (suburban Philadelphia).

Gathering at the Table - Cookie Cantwell

Each week our Youth Group gathers around a table for Bible Study and for sharing. It is a sacred time. It is a fun time. In this workshop, we will gather around a table and we will share the joys and the challenges of Youth Ministries. Join us as we journey together into the environment where our young people are exploring independence and where they are discovering ways to navigate within our world. We will highlight some of the realities that are shaping the ways that our young people are making decisions.

Made in the Image of God – Celebrating Neurodiversity and Divergent Learning Styles with Children – Kristin and Roger Hutchison

It is important that we, as Christian Educators and clergy, provide an environment where children know that they are welcomed, supported, and valued members of our parishes. In this workshop, Kristin and Roger will explore neurodiversity and what it means for our churches. We will explore ways to honor the strengths of our children while also understanding their limitations. We will look for the advantages of the “out of the box” thinking in our ADD/ADHD children. For those along the autism spectrum, we will celebrate their attention to detail, problem solving abilities, determination, and exceptional memory. For our children with dyslexia, we will explore ways to honor their interpersonal and verbal skills, strengths in the arts and in sports, and their auditory memory. For ALL of our children, we will explore ways to recognize, appreciate, and honor these differences as these characteristics are what makes our faith communities so richly diverse.

Mr. Rogers, God, and You: Simple Faith – Dr. Westina Matthews

Part A and Part B

Fred Rogers was the much-loved host of the public television show Mister Rogers' Neighborhood which ran on PBS from 1968-2001. During this workshop, we will explore Rogers' wisdom and spiritual insights through journaling, reflection, music, and interactive sharing.

Neighbors Breaking Bread – Missy Harrison

Neighbors come together around the table for casual service that joins the mysticism of Holy Communion with the fellowship of a dinner party. This workshop allows participants to experience the spirituality and fellowship of breaking bread together with our neighbors. We will gather around the table, sing simple songs, light candles, pray, share in the bread and the wine, enjoy a meal together as we hear scripture, discuss what we heard, and give thanks to God. Be prepared to listen, learn, and laugh together.

On Worship and Intersectionality - Isiah Harper

A lay approach to acknowledging our biases, finding commonality, and working toward a common understanding for the betterment of our church community.

LGBT, women, ethnic minorities, and majority culture all intersect at the church. How can the church work to be both active listeners as well as agents of change in a world of political divide?

Praying with Children and Finding God in Our Lives – Rev. Ruth Pattison

To pray with children doesn't necessarily require us to learn an altogether new way of praying, as adults. We simply immerse ourselves in the elements of creation and allow ourselves to sing a narration of our day, much the way a 4 year old might, if left unchecked. Ruth likes to think of it as a return to an inner way of being and spiritual inclination that might have gotten weighed down over the years by leaning on the cerebral and analytic, and our want to choreograph God, through prayer. To learn to pray with children, we take our cues for prayer from Celtic Spirituality, which is to say: We connect to the elements of fire, water, air, and earth; keep the rhythm of prayer simple and immediate, and oriented to the tasks and movements of our day; name the sacred as present, in everything; nurture a mindfulness that holds the present moment as rich and fertile, because the moment we have, right now, is all we have, and it is all we need, because God is in it; celebrate that the physical and the spiritual are inseparable, heaven is intertwined with earth, and Jesus is the Incarnate Holy One. Praying with children can return us to a living practice for discovering and declaring these realities and holding them as soul treasures.

Radical Hospitality in the Midst of White Privilege - Dr. Catherine Meeks

This workshop will explore the nature of white privilege and the internalized oppression that is caused by it in people of color and the challenge that this presents to radical hospitality efforts in the faith community. Where can we find reasons to be hopeful, what are the major challenges and pitfalls that must be navigated in order to build spaces for radical hospitality to be realized? These will be among the questions addressed as we explore how to find a path to radical hospitality across the racial divide.

Speaking about Self Invention and Radical Hospitality: - Dr. Catherine Meeks

The stories of Ida B. Wells, Mary McCleod Bethune and Malissa A. Jackson Meeks

This workshop explores three historical examples of self-invention and how the task of doing one's inner work fosters the possibility for the expression of radical hospitality though none of them would have imagined radical hospitality would ever being extended to them during their life time.

The Spiritual Power of Story - Dirk deVries

What makes a story a sacred story? Is sacredness inherent in the story or found in the storyteller? Or, perhaps, is it primarily a function of the hearer? And how can we use sacred story to explore and deepen our own faith and the faith of those with whom we minister? Come explore what gives story its spiritual power and how to harness that power for insight and transformation, for connection and freedom.

There is Plenty of Room at the Table - Michael Lyons

Changing demographics provided an opportunity to add a Spanish language service. This parish is working toward building unity between the English language services and a Spanish service. The ongoing goal has been to build personal relationships between parishioners with mutual respect to their cultures. Various strategies will be discussed including bilingual services; Christian formation; EYC, English classes for Spanish speakers; Church wide projects and multiple social opportunities.

Total Praise: Cultural Inclusivity, Not as Tokenism, but Holistic Worship. - Isiah Harper

America has two last beacons of segregation: the school lunch room and Sunday mornings. What are some of the causes of this phenomenon? What do they have in common? How can we as church body work on integrating our worship, our traditions and reconcile our history in the 21st century

Welcoming Ourselves: An Invitation into Health and Wholeness - Roger Hutchison and Emily Given.

Often the focus of ministry is creating a sense of welcome for others. Join Roger and Emily as they engage in a conversation about the essential spiritual practice of offering love and welcome to ourselves as beloved Children of God. Their willingness to share openly about coming home to themselves in the midst of experiences with mental health, addiction, and other struggles provides a place where each of our stories can be acknowledged and redeemed. This time will include story sharing, resource suggestions, and helpful practices for your own path in life and ministry.

What is Messy Church? – Missy Harrison

Messy Church embodies Radical Hospitality. The Five Core Values of Messy Church are Hospitality, Creativity, Celebration, All Age, and Christ Centered. Come experience a mini-version of this all age worship experience that explores God's love in an accessible way.

Where Should I Sit at the Table? - Cookie Cantwell

Youth - Have you ever walked up to a table and wondered, "Where should I sit?" It can be a time filled with joy or it can be a time filled with uncertainty or anxiety. In this workshop, we will explore ways that we can create a safe and meaningful environment where the Holy Spirit can do the work of creating an authentic community. Come to this workshop and explore this amazing period of time when our young people are shaping ideas, making decisions and forming beliefs. Searching for their place at The Table is an exciting and meaningful adventure where we can invite and accompany our young people deeper into the heart of God.

Where the Wild Things Are – Parenting in an Ever-changing World – Kristin and Roger Hutchison

Join Kristin and Roger for Where the Wild Things Are – Parenting in an Ever-changing World. Through the sharing of classic and modern children's picture books, children's literature, and Holy Scripture, the Hutchison's have designed a parenting class that explores themes that touch, challenge, and inspire our lives as parents, grandparents, Christian educators and clergy. Examples of themes covered – communication, fostering responsibility, instilling self-confidence, addressing childhood fears and anxiety, understanding child's temperament (and yours!), and many more.