

Adult Forum – Sunday mornings at 10 am in Norton Hall, January 2023 – May 7, 2023

Grab a cup of coffee and gather with others as we hear from notable speakers on a range of engaging topics at the intersection of faith and life. Come listen, learn, and ask questions. For more information, contact the Rev. Jenni Ovenstone Smith (jenni@stpaulsalexandria.com)

Speakers and themes for the forum year include:

2023:

January 8 – The Rev. Amy Shimonkevitz, “Thy Perfect Light: An Epiphany Exploration of Stars, Science, and Faith.”

The Rev. Amy Shimonkevitz is an Episcopal deacon currently serving at St. Andrew’s in Glenwood, Maryland. A science enthusiast, she has worked for 15 years supporting the work of both Earth and Sun Scientists at the NASA Goddard Flight Center where, through her pastoral presence and collegial conversations, she enjoys glimpses into how the workings of the physical world shape and strengthen wonder, humility, awe, and even faith.

January 29 –The Rev. Pamela Conrad, “Catastrophe, Resilience and Rvolution: Redemption in the Material Universe”

Rector of St. Alban’s in Glen Burnie, Maryland, The Rev. Pamela Conrad is an Episcopal priest and astrobiologist. Long drawn to the interconnections between God, faith and science, Rev. Pamela (Pan) has worked on multiple NASA projects, most recently the Mars Perseverance rover. Her presentation will draw upon the focus of her recent sabbatical work and upcoming book.

February 12 – Horne Lecture: The Rev. Judy Fentress-Williams, Ph.D.

The Rev. Judy Fentress-Williams, Ph.D., is Professor of Old Testament. Her fields of expertise include Hebrew Bible, dialogic interpretation, religious studies, Afro-American studies, and literary criticism.

February 26 -- Margaret Gardner , “God in the Garden”

Margaret Gardner is a floral artist and educator in the DC area. She serves as the associate for adult discipleship and small group ministry at National Presbyterian Church. The season of “Lent” is named from an old English word meaning “spring.” Even as we turn inwardly this season to tend to reflection and spiritual growth, Margaret Gardner will help us look for God in the signs of life preparing to bloom outwardly all around us.

May 7 – The Rev. Dr. Thomas C. Hummel, “Patterns of the Sacred”

Dr. Hummel is a priest associate at St. Paul’s and chaplain and theology teacher at Episcopal High School. His presentation will draw upon insights and images from the book with this title he co-authored with his wife Ruth, exploring the experiences of 19th Century English Protestant and Russian Orthodox pilgrims in Jerusalem