



**Adult Forum: Sunday mornings at 10 am in Norton Hall
September 18th – May 14th**

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.

Speakers and themes for this forum year include:

2022:

September 18th – Rector’s Forum – “Lessons Learned (and Still Learning)”

The Rev. Oran Warder will offer reflections from his summer sabbatical as they relate to the past, present, and future of St. Paul's. Topics will include his research on William Holland Wilmer (St. Paul's second rector); life in a post-pandemic world and post-pandemic church; and an update on the Damascus Project (micro-lending outreach effort in Alexandria).

September 25th –The Rev. A. Katherine Grieb, Ph.D. “Parable and Paradox”

Dr. Grieb is an affiliated faculty member and director of the Center for Anglican Communion Studies at Virginia Theological Seminary. Her expertise includes Greek language, New Testament interpretation, social justice, Biblical storytelling, and theater.

October 2nd – Dyer Lecture: Dr. Ellen Davis - “The Eros of Faith: Reading the Song of Songs”

Ellen F. Davis is Amos Ragan Kearns Distinguished Professor of Bible and Practical Theology at Duke Divinity School. The author of eleven books and many articles, her research interests focus on how biblical interpretation bears on the life of faith communities and their response to urgent public issues, particularly the ecological crisis and interfaith relations. While serving on the faculty of Virginia Theological Seminary, Dr. Davis and Bishop Mark Dyer co-taught a course on Song of Songs.

October 9th – Canon Sarah Snyder “The Habits of a Reconciler”

Canon Snyder is the Archbishop of Canterbury’s Advisor for Reconciliation and the Founding Director of the Rose Castle Foundation, an international center of reconciliation based in Northern England working to equip people for the work of restoring and rehumanizing relationships and becoming people of peace.

October 16th – Owning our Faith series (October 16, 23; November 6, 13, 20)

This 5-week series will explore the foundations of our Christian faith and practice, designed for those new to St. Paul's and for long-time parishioners wanting to reengage their faith and learn more about what it means to be Episcopalian. Presenters will include St. Paul's clergy team and the Very Rev. Ian S. Markham, Ph.D., Dean of Virginia Theological Seminary.

October 30 – Latrobe Lecture: John Peters "Cemeteries for the Living, Not Just the Dead."

John O. Peters has written extensively about courts, judges, and lawyers over a period of more than 40 years. He has written or done the photography for eight books, including the award-winning Virginia’s Historic Courthouses (University Press of Virginia 1995) written with his wife Margaret. That book, considered a classic on historic courthouses and their architecture, established his reputation as an architectural photographer as well. A graduate of VMI and the University of Virginia School of Law, John practiced law in Richmond for thirty years as a commercial litigator, involved with cases throughout Virginia and in a number of federal jurisdictions.

December 4 – Deck the Halls: Prepare for Advent

Laura Francis, beloved St. Paul's parishioner and member of the Hunting Creek Garden Club, returns with her popular holiday floral workshop

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 Revolution: 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 5 - The Rev. Jenni Ovenstone, "The Book of Forgiving: The Fourfold Path for Healing Ourselves and Our World"

Archbishop Desmond Tutu and his daughter the Rev. Mpo Tutu co-authored this honest, hopeful, and accessible guide to the "why" and "how's" of the journey of forgiveness. "With each act of forgiveness ...we move towards wholeness," they write. "Forgiveness is how we bring peace to ourselves and our world." Jenni will offer an introductory look into the book's "fourfold path" for healing that also will serve as the guiding framework for the Lenten Quiet Day retreat morning on February 25th.

Feb. 12th -- John Taylor Chapman, “Resistance”

City Council member and founder of Manumission Tours John Taylor Chapman will lead a discussion on the 2023 Black History month theme of “Resistance,” with examples of resistance in Alexandria’s African American history.

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.

March 12 – Lenten Series: “What in the Hell is Wrong with Us?” (March 12, 19, 26)

While Episcopalians tend to shy away from talking about sin, we know full well that the world we observe, and our own selves, fall short of the goodness and flourishing that God desires for us. Join the parish clergy for this three–part exploration of sin, how it distorts all facets of our lives, and how God frees us from it. We will use the baptismal liturgy’s renunciations of evil - cosmic, systemic, and personal - as our starting point.

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.

