

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT BETHESDA

THE ADULT FORUM

Sundays from 10:10 to 10:50 a.m.

PARISH HALL

The Adult Forum is an opportunity to learn about and discuss topics of interest in during the Sunday Christian Education hour. If you have an idea regarding a potential forum, please contact either The Rev. Perry Fuller, *Interim Rector*, at 655-4555, ext. 36, or by email at fuller@bbts.org, or to the Chair of the Forum and Adult Education Committee, Tom O'Brien, at 624-0175 or by email tgobrien@comcast.net.

NOVEMBER

- 29 **Advent Wreath Workshop** – This is the First Sunday of Advent which means it's time to make Advent wreaths! We supply the greens, candles, punch, cookies, and music while your family creates a centerpiece to take home in preparation for the Christmas Season.

DECEMBER

- 6 **Advent Spiritual Weekend** – Marcus Borg concludes the Advent Spiritual weekend.
- 13 **Share, Save, Spend** – In a world seemingly ruled by money, we often lament our lack of savings, or prolific need for “more stuff.” Yet, how do we change? How do we transform our relationship to money? How do we empower our youth and the next generation to live not simply for themselves, but for the good of others as well? Nathan Dungan, creator of the *Share, Save, Spend* program will be on hand to discuss this vital topic and provide families with tools to change the way we relate to our wealth.
- 20 **Town Hall Meetings: Transitions and Discernment** – We continue our Town Hall Meetings as an opportunity for conversation and to engage any questions that you may have regarding the parish of Bethesda-by-the-Sea. Fr. Fuller will conduct these forums and other leadership will be present to answer relevant questions and participate in discussion. The topics will be determined as needed and as the discernment process unfolds. Plan to join us for these open discussions, to ask your questions, and to learn more about Bethesda!
- 27 **New Year's Eve, Annual Wassail Celebration** – Today we celebrate the New Year with one of Christianity's most ancient and traditional customs – celebrating with Wassail. Join us in the Parish Hall for this inter-generational family celebration.

JANUARY

- 3 **Boar's Head Festival** – The Annual Boar's Head Festival will be held this afternoon. The Adult Forum will continue next week.
- 10 **What's Special about the Gospel of Luke?** – Advent begins a new Lectionary Year. This year, most of our Gospel readings come from the Gospel of Luke. Tom O'Brien will discuss the development of Luke's Gospel and what makes it different from the other three Gospels. By understanding these differences, we can listen with more discernment to the Gospel lessons throughout the Year.
- 17 **Living the Questions: The Prophetic Jesus** – Moderated by Tom O'Brien, we continue the *Living the Questions* series as we explore "The Prophetic Jesus."
- 24 **Annual Parish Meeting and Picnic** – The Annual Parish Meeting will be held for the election of Vestry Members, the presentation of the Parish Annual Report and Financial Statements, and for the conduct of other business, concluding with the celebration of Holy Eucharist at the 11 o'clock service. After the service the Annual Parish Picnic, including games for our children, will be held in the Garth.
- 31 **LEM: Lay Eucharistic Ministry** – Every Sunday hundreds of parishioners and visitors join us we celebrate Holy Eucharist. Little known to many, is that our celebration extends beyond the walls of Bethesda as Lay Eucharistic Ministers take Holy Communion to parishioners who are sick and homebound. At today's forum, Deacon Clay Waddell will share this wonderful ministry.

FEBRUARY

- 7 **Town Hall Meetings: Transitions and Discernment** – We continue our Town Hall Meetings as an opportunity for conversation and to engage any questions that you may have regarding the parish of Bethesda-by-the-Sea. Fr. Fuller will conduct these forums and other leadership will be present to answer relevant questions and participate in discussion. The topics will be determined as needed and as the discernment process unfolds. Plan to join us for these open discussions, to ask your questions, and to learn more about Bethesda!
- 14 **Living the Questions: Evil, Suffering, and a God of Love** – As experiences reveals, evil and suffering are endemic to life, yet we proclaim a God of Love. Today's forum, moderated by Tom O'Brien, continues the *Living the Questions* series as we explore the integration and relationship between God, evil and suffering, and the mystery of love.
- 21 **Jesus and Paul: Continuity or Discontinuity?** – 2010 Smaltz Fellow, Dr. John Dominic Crossan, will conclude the Smaltz Fellowship Weekend with a further exploration of the relationship between Jesus and Paul.
- 28 **Faith in Action** – Deacon Cecie Titcomb and others from the Faith in Action Committee will share our current ministries, including an update on our partnership with the Diocese of Matana (Burundi) to build homes for women and orphans of AIDS.

MARCH

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- 14 **Share, Save, Spend** – In a world seemingly ruled by money, we often lament our lack of savings, or prolific need for “more stuff.” Yet, how do we change? How do we transform our relationship to money? How do we empower our youth and the next generation to live not simply for themselves, but for the good of others as well? Nathan Dungan, creator of the *Share, Save, Spend* program will conclude our weekend workshop series with this forum as we discuss this vital topic and provide families with tools to change the way we relate to our wealth.
- 21 **Living the Questions: Practicing Resurrection** – As we look forward to Easter and our celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord, we are faced with a profound question: what does the Resurrection mean for our lives? Today’s forum, moderated by Tom O’Brien, continues the *Living the Questions* series as we explore how we make “resurrection” real—how we “practice resurrection”—in our lives and in our world.
- 28 **Palm Sunday** – The Coffee Hour Reception and the Palm Cross Workshop led by children and youth will be held in the Cluett Gardens.

APRIL

- 4 **The Sunday of the Resurrection** – The Easter Egg Hunt and Ladybug Release will be held in the Cluett Garden and Play Ground following the 7:30 a.m. service.
- 11 **TBD.**
- 18 **Living the Questions: The Myth of Redemptive Violence** – Tragically, violence abounds in the world about us, if not in our very lives. Often this violence, is portrayed as essential if not redemptive. Today’s forum, moderated by Tom O’Brien, continues the *Living the Questions* series as we explore the question of redemptive violence.
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MAY

- 2 **Living the Questions: Debunking the Rapture** – Since the publication of the *Left Behind Series* there has been increased interest in the “rapture.” What is it? What does the Book of Revelation really say and mean? Join us at today’s forum which continues the *Living the Questions* series, moderated by Tom O’Brien, as we explore how we understand the Rapture!
- 9 **Rogation Sunday**– In conjunction with Rogation Day, today’s forum will focus on our preservation and stewardship of the environment.
- 16 **Recognition Sunday**– We acknowledge the students, teachers, and other volunteers who participated in the Church School during the past year and recognize their special accomplishments.
- 23 **Pentecost Sunday and The Sacrament of Confirmation and the Bishop’s Spring Visitation** – Join us as we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost with a church picnic and games. Bishop Leo Frade will be on hand for his annual visit to preach and to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to Bethesda Confirmands of all ages. Following the service, everyone is invited to meet the Bishop and to join in our celebrations.

We are privileged to offer you these studies as opportunities to enrich and stimulate your intellect and to deepen your faith. If you have suggestions for additional courses related to Christian Education, spirituality, or ways we might improve these programs, please give them to The Rev. Perry Fuller, Interim Rector, at 655-4555, ext. 36, or by email at fuller@bbts.org, or to Tom O’Brien, Chair of the Forum and Adult Education Committee, at 624-0175 or tgobrien@comcast.net.