

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts presents

Congregational Resource Day

Sharing Our Bounty: Best Resources for Being Church

Saturday, October 1, 2016

Faith Community Church, Hopkinton MA

9:00 – 9:50 AM – Session 1

□1A - Teens, Substance Abuse, and Addiction

Our culture is awash with substance abuse, and our kids' lives are no different. Most of our teens have experimented with alcohol and illegal drug use before they leave high school, and while not every user or abuser becomes an addict, many do. Come learn the facts about the prevalence of teen substance abuse and addiction, the nature of the disease, how to respond, and resources for parents, youthworkers, and teens themselves. Presenters: Elizabeth Graham, LICSW and Natasha David Hays, LICSW, LADC1

□1B - Congregational Financial Turnarounds that are Working

Learn how other congregations have come to grips with serious financial situations and are on the road to recovery. The workshop will include representatives of the churches and tips for how to make similar headway in your congregation. Led by Chris Meyer, diocesan Congregational Consultant.

□1C - Introduction to EFM

Education for Ministry (EfM) is a program of Christian formation under the coordination and oversight of the School of Theology in the University of the South (Sewanee), an Episcopal college and seminary. It is of international scope and open to Christian lay persons who wish to deepen their faith, understand scripture, pray, and participate in a small seminar group, guided by a trained mentor. There are 10 active groups in the diocese. EfM's main attraction, and its unique gift to Christian education, is the process of theological reflection. In this workshop you will hear details about the program and experience a sampling of the theological reflection process. Led by the Revd's Richard J. Simeone and Lyn G. Brakeman, Diocesan Coordinators of the Education for Ministry (EfM) program.

□1D - The Church's One Foundation: Your Church Property as Mission

This workshop will help you evaluate the condition and usage of your sacred spaces. Participants will hear many different parish stories that provide uses and ideas that may be appropriate for your own congregation. This workshop will also introduce the resource "Guide to Utilization of Church Property." Led by Jeff Brown, diocesan Congregational Consultant.

□1E - Part 1: Entertaining Angels: Hospitality and Church Growth

Developed from experiences of growth in different parishes as well as church growth research and best practices, this workshop will help you think about how to prepare your building to welcome strangers and entertain angels. It will also explore how you can be a better messenger of God's inclusive love that welcomes and invites all into relationship. Led by the Rev. Natasha Stewart, rector, Trinity, Bridgewater.

□1F - Complicating Mission: Road to Emmaus

Why have Christians over the centuries traveled to do mission work? What are our assumptions about what that work means? How might we shift our understanding of mission in ways that give greater space for the transforming work of the Spirit in our lives and the lives of others? Led by Diane D'Souza, Director of The Mission Institute; and the Rev. Sandra Dorsainvil, Associate Executive Minister for Mission & Stewardship of the American Baptist Church of Massachusetts.

□1G - A Contemporary Pastoral Guide for Parishioner Elder Care

This workshop is designed for clergy, pastoral care teams, lay Eucharistic visitors and parish leadership faced with the issues of aging, to provide a fundamental understanding of how to serve parishioners dealing with elder care challenges. Attendees will learn about the facts, resources and opportunities available to them to be of service to parishioners, including the children of seniors and spousal caregivers, who need elder care navigation. Subject matter covered includes homecare, assisted living, nursing homes and hospice. Led by Vic Kingsley, a parishioner from St. John's, Westwood with 25 years' experience in geriatric care management and healthcare services for the elderly with MGH, Partners Healthcare, Benchmark Senior Living, and other organizations.

□1H - Social Media for Beginners: Tool Overview

If you don't even know where to begin with social media, this workshop is for you. We'll survey Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest, with an emphasis on the purpose of each tool and ways churches are using them effectively. The workshop will conclude with a quick summary of what else is out there. No social media experience is required, though you may want to sign up for accounts in advance if you tend to be a hands-on learner. All three Social Media workshops led by the Rev. Kyle Matthew Oliver, a doctoral student in the Communications, Media and Learning Technologies Design Program at Columbia University, and an assistant priest at St. Michael's Church in Manhattan. Previously he served as digital missioner and instructor in the Center for the Ministry of Teaching at Virginia Theological Seminary and lead developer of the e-Formation Learning Community.

□1I - Reimagining Part-time Clergy—the Gifts and the Challenges

What are the roles and responsibilities of part-time clergy, factoring in clergy gifts and available time and resources? How do clergy and lay leadership set priorities and what does it mean to be a church with full-time ministry but part-time clergy leadership? Led by the Consultants for Tomorrow's Church, Today!

□1J - Mission 101

How did Jesus define his mission? A look at what we can learn from the Gospels about how we are invited and commissioned into the Jesus Movement, and how Episcopalians articulate God's mission. You might find yourself asking, "If it's not about mission, why are we doing it?" Led by the Reverend Canon William C. Parnell, Canon to the Ordinary in the Diocese of Massachusetts.

□1K - Being the Church: Equipping Congregations for Reconciliation and Healing

This workshop will reorient participants to the Church's mission as a continuation of Jesus's ministry of healing and reconciliation within ourselves and in the world. Participants will self-define their congregation/community's local expression of this mission, self-evaluate how they're carrying that mission out, and learn what spiritual & organizational resources are available to reimagine, realign, or reinvigorate their missional work. Led by Natalie Finstad, Interim Executive Director of the Leadership Development Initiative.

□1L -Collaborative Church Work

Come hear the story of how 6 Merrimack Valley churches formed a Collaborative to share God's reconciling love and the work of ministry in our geographic region. Our churches are a little of everything: large, small, urban, suburban, and rural with part time and full time clergy. We've focused on shared learning, round table relationship building, enrichment in shared worship, leadership development and youth formation. (See "Joint Confirmation" on the youth track). Our work strengthens our individual parishes and parish leadership by utilizing the unique gifts among us, and working side by side so no one is sent alone. We stretch resources through shared venture, and eliminate duplicate efforts. We tell our story in hopes others may find new ways of being the Episcopal Church together in the 21st century as we breathe into God's dream of unity while celebrating our important differences. Led by members of the Lower Merrimack Valley Collaborative.

10:00 – 10:50 AM – Session 2

□2A - Youth Ministry Model that Works

In June, the Church Home Society recognized the youth programs at St. James' Church in Amesbury with its annual William V. Tripp III Award. St. James looks to their young members to set the pulse of their congregation, equipping young people as partners in ministry (rather than seeing them as a special interest group that needs to be "ministered to"). Come hear leaders from St. James share their story, their struggles, and the lessons they are learning along the way. Presenters: The Rev. John Satula, Rector; Jennifer Collins, Christian Ed Coordinator; Dawn Schmidt, youth leader; Jilleen Collins, youth vestry member, youth group member, and Diocesan Youth Council; Daniel Bennett, youth group member, and Diocesan Youth Council.

□2B - Setting Up a Planned Giving Program for Your Parish

Take the mystery out of planned giving for your parish. Learn in easy to understand terms how planned giving differs from annual stewardship and capital campaigns, and how your parish can build endowments through wills and life income and other planned gifts. After a review of the planned giving instruments, you will learn about the importance of a parish vision, protecting and growing your endowment, and how to invite others to remember your parish through estate and financial planning. You will leave the workshop with a plan of action. Led by Jim Murphy, Managing Program Director of Financial Resources at the Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF).

□2C - Living Compass: Wellness Resources for Parishes

"Living Compass" is a wellness program for churches that can be used both for formation and discipleship of church members as well as outreach to the community. This workshop introduces the wide variety of programs, including 6-week small groups, 4-week parish classes, Lenten and Advent programs, and online resources. Materials are flexible, inexpensive and well laid out, and are available for adults, parents and youth. This faith-filled approach to wellness helps churches become centers of wellness and healing in their communities. Led by Amy Cook and Marilee Comerford, "Certified Wellness Advocates" for Living Compass.

□2D - Accounting and QuickBooks Help Desk

An introduction to the on-line Treasurers' Handbook and a review of key accounting and QuickBooks principles that are commonly misunderstood at the parish level. Time will be allowed to respond to your questions and concerns. Led by Terry Robinson, diocesan Congregational Consultant.

□2E - Part 2: Only What is Useful for Building Up: Good Manners and Church Growth

This workshop is Part 2 of Entertaining Angels: Hospitality and Church Growth. It is a practical exploration of how to build up your church community through practicing basic good manners and therefore growing a culture of love and respect. Led by the Rev. Natasha Stewart, rector, Trinity, Bridgewater.

□2F - Planning for a Global Mission Trip- Heart, Mind, Body, and Soul

This workshop will deal with the many, often overlooked, ways in which a parish can best prepare a team for a mission trip, including physically, emotionally and spiritually. Geared for parishes that are new to global mission, but also may benefit those who are more experienced. Led by the Rev. Suzanne Wade and Sallie Craig Huber.

□2G - Spiritual Care for those with Alzheimer's and Dementia

Our Christian faith teaches us to care for the least of these and those imprisoned. Those living with dementia and their families often feel isolated and imprisoned and while dementia steals many things from people, it does not steal God or faith. Join this presentation to learn about spiritual care of those with dementia, why it works and why it matters. Presented by Rev. Colette Wood and based on her book "Do This, Remembering Me: The Spiritual Care of Those With Dementia." Attendees will also learn about creating dementia friendly congregations. Led by Colette Wood, rector, All Saints Church, Whitman.

□2H - Social Media in Church Communications Planning

Intended particularly for church communicators and other leaders who work with them, this session will combine big-picture communication strategy exercises and practical guidance for using social media tools to share their churches' messages. Expect to come away with a framework for planning social media outreach and some new tricks for executing it effectively. Led by the Rev. Kyle Matthew Oliver

□2I - Reimagining Lay Leadership

How do we use the gifts and ministries of the people in the parish which may mean simplifying what they do, and expect, in a small parish, even letting go of things in order to help leadership make decisions based on the mission of the church, and not a tradition or expectation without theological merit. Led by the Consultants for Tomorrow's Church, Today!

□2J - Messy Church: Creative Worship for Busy Families

Come learn how two Massachusetts churches have partnered to offer an innovative inter-generational way of being church for all ages and stages. Messy Church, part of the Fresh Expressions movement in the U.K. and a growing model for worship and formation in the U.S., is a monthly gathering for creative play, celebration and dinner around a Christ-centered theme. We'll share experiences and resources from our successful first year of Messy fun and faith. Led by the Rev. Laura Goodwin, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, North Grafton; and the Rev. Lisa Green, St. John's Episcopal Church, Sutton.

□2K - Overcoming Fears of Talking Across Difference

These are challenging times in our nation and communities. Powerful forces are making it more and more difficult to be in community with each other and with God. In an atmosphere of honest and respectful engagement, participants will be invited to share phobias they are aware of in addressing the "isms" that cause the brokenness of the world - sexism, racism, ageism, ableism, etc. Participants will be able to explore approaches, tools, and resources to overcome those phobias and take actions in their everyday life to strengthen the Jesus Movement bringing peace and justice to all they encounter. Led by the Rev. Karen Montagno, Director of Congregational Resources & Training; and James McKim, the Province I Antiracism Representative to Executive Council.

□2L - What are we learning in and from the Mission Hubs?

There are eight Mission Hubs with the vision for collaborative ministry by 3 or more Episcopal parishes in their local contexts: South Coast; Plymouth, Cape and Islands; Merrimack Valley; MetroWest; South Shore; Roxbury-Dorchester; and Boston-Cambridge. During this workshop, we will be sharing what we are learning about patterns of opportunities and challenges that are emerging as a result of the Mission Hub Initiative. Led by various members of the different Mission Hubs.

11:00 AM – 11:50 AM – Session 3

□3A - Joint Confirmation Class: Better Together

Leaders from three Merrimack Valley congregations who successfully collaborated on a yearlong joint confirmation preparation program in 2015-2016 share the benefits and blessings of this adventure, as well its challenges. They will also share what it required in order for it to be a meaningful experience for the congregations and the young people. Presenters: parish leaders from St. James, Groveland; St. Paul's, Newburyport; St. Paul's, North Andover.

□3B - Creating a Legacy Society and using Planned Giving Resources for Your Parish

Join us to learn how to use the resources provided by ECF to encourage new gifts to support your parish's future through estate and financial planning. We will also review how to create and sustain a Legacy Society to encourage giving to your parish for decades to come. Led by Jim Murphy, Managing Program Director of Financial Resources at the Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF).

□3C - Lay Ministry Discernment in Parishes

All Christians are empowered through baptism to represent Christ in the world through their daily work. This workshop will offer resources for discerning calls to lay ministries both within and beyond congregations, finding appropriate training for those vocations and commissioning ministers for their work of Christian witness. These resources include gift assessment tools for individuals and groups; discernment exercises for children, youth and young adults; crafting covenants of ministry for lay leaders in congregations; and suggestions for seasonal celebration of ministries in our liturgies. Led by the Rev. Dr. Edith W. Dolnikowski, Canon for Ordained Vocations; and Amy Cook, Missioner for Education, Formation & Discipleship.

□3D - Best Practices toward Sustainable and Effective Ministries

This workshop delves into a few practical strategies and considerations for lay and clergy leaders interested in birthing new or strengthening existing ministries. Key topics covered will be effective program design, engaging with evaluation, and funding management and procurement. Jin Min brings over 10 years of experience in providing nonprofit consulting, direct service provision and nonprofit management in faith-based contexts. Led by Jin Min Lee, Program Director of the Mission Hub Initiative.

□3E - Reversing Decline: Strategies for Thriving as an Episcopal Parish

These are challenging times for the Episcopal Church with its declining numbers and diminishing influence. Local parishes, however, can thrive in this situation but need to be smart about it. Come for an invigorating conversation about maximizing the possibilities of our present. Led by the Rev. Dr. Paul Kolbet, Lecturer in Early Christian Studies, Berkeley Divinity School at Yale.

□3F- Next Steps on your Global Mission Journey

What is global mission? Where does it happen? What is the difference between relational, service, witness, and pilgrimage mission? How does our Diocese support global mission? How do you get a grant? Get the answers to these and any other questions you might have as we introduce the vast array of opportunities and resources to support your congregation as it seeks to follow God's call into a global mission journey. Small churches and those not currently involved in a mission relationship are especially invited to participate. Led by Laura Walta, Director of Global Mission, and Natalie Finstad, Jubilee Global Mission member, and co-founder of Tatua Kenya.

□3G - Addiction and Pastoral Response

Addiction has taken its toll on our communities. This workshop will focus on pastoral care and response to those struggling with addiction. We will examine how to support people to move in to recovery, how to support those in recovery and to support families who are dealing with a member that may be in need of addiction services. We will also examine the use of 12 step programs/groups as supports to our ministry of care. Led by the Rev. Dr. Michael Melendez and Susan Shaw, MSW.

□3H - Social Media as Both Context and Content in Faith Formation Ministries

It's often said that social media are both tools that people use to communicate and places where that interaction occurs. This workshop will consider both aspects. How can we turn online spaces into lively venues for connected learning and reflection? How can we take advantage of free or inexpensive media resources to help shape these faith formation activities? Leaders who guide others on their faith journey or are on one themselves will come away with practical ideas for everyday spiritual practice. Led by the Rev. Kyle Matthew Oliver

□3I - Reimagining God's Crazy Dream for the Small Church of Today

What is the Christian mission and how can we do God's work in the community as a small parish, with limited time and limited resources? Mission does not have to be on the other side of the world and certainly Jesus was reaching out to people who were around him. How can we serve and reach out to our neighbors who then become engaged and a part of serving God's mission in the neighborhood? Led by the Consultants for Tomorrow's Church, Today!

□3J - Raising "Feral" Children in Church

Small churches struggle to put together a traditional Christian education program. The days when there are plenty of Sunday school teachers, and plenty of families willing to participate in a traditional classroom /lecture style type of education, seem to have passed. Come hear the story of how one small church, Christ Episcopal Church in Medway, tried a different approach. Beginning with the goal of giving children touchstones within their parish life to more firmly anchor them in their church's community, Christ Church began changing their approach to formation. You'll take home copies of the materials they used to turn from classroom style Christian formation to holistic every-moment teaching of Christian worship, belief, and path of life. Led by Rebecca A. White, M.Ed, and the Rev. Rebecca Black, Priest-in-Charge at Christ Church, Medway.

□3K - Building Courageous Community and Dismantling Racism: Stories at the Messy Edges

Living in the United States, we are all swimming in racism, no matter the color of our skin. How are local congregations engaging the crucial spiritual challenge of dismantling racism and building beloved community? What are the difficulties? What shows promise? What fruit do we see so far? Join lay and clergy leaders in a Mission Institute facilitated conversation about how congregations in Massachusetts are building authentic community and working to dismantle the racism that affects us all. Led by Diane D'Souza, Director; and Katie Ernst, Program Manager, The Mission Institute.

□3L - Watching for the Holy: Building and Maintaining a Practice of Prayer

Moving through daily life as a faithful person is difficult. The many demands on our time and energy keep us from being in relationship with the Divine. Join Christi Humphrey MDiv, a spiritual director and colleague at Bethany House of Prayer, for a look at how to build and maintain personal practices which feed the soul and support a deep spiritual life.

1:10 – 2:00 PM – Session 4

□4A - Why I Stayed: Youth Involvement After Confirmation

Don't assume that young people will leave your congregations once they are confirmed. While some do, many do not. In this session a panel of young people who have stayed active in their congregations after confirmation answer your questions about what continues to draw them to church (or not), what distractions and pressures make it difficult for young people to participate, and what they and their peers long for and hope for from their involvement in the church. Presenters: panel of young people from Trinity Church, Bridgewater and other parishes.

□4B - Stewardship in a Digital World: Venturing into Electronic Giving

Technology continues to shape all aspects of our daily lives, including the ways philanthropic gifts are made. This workshop will present an introduction to electronic giving, including a rationale for getting started, as well as a survey of the tools available—all designed to offer more options for donors and increase philanthropic support. Led by Lynd Matt, diocesan Director of Development.

□4C - Pop Culture and Theology: Reading Cultural Signs around Religion

What can the popularity of Game of Thrones, The Walking Dead, and Hunger Games tell us about religion in America? What are the religious influences (or lack of influence) on young people? Do we understand the characteristics of Generations Y and Z (those under age 18) and how that plays out in pop culture? Come join a discussion on how to recognize generational motivators and engage culture to contextualize the Gospel. Led by Amy Cook, Missioner for Education, Formation & Discipleship; and Andrew Del Pilar, diocesan Congregational Development Team.

□4D - Wellness Program: Best Practices in Caring for Clergy and Lay Employees

Wellness is more than a "feel-good" perk. It saves employers significant healthcare costs. The focus of this session will be to present wellness programs that will improve the physical and mental health of all Clergy and lay staff. This session will review wellness trends that have proven to work in small and large employers. A review of wellness services that are not well known but are already included in current Medical Trust healthcare plans will be presented. For those who are not covered by the Medical Trust, have no fear, wellness program opportunities for those not covered will also be included. Finally a round table discussion of the wellness and healthcare needs of parishes will conclude the session. Led by Cindy Cushman, HR Director for the diocese.

□4E - Visioning: Tales (Tails) and Yarns on how to be a Follower of Jesus

Visioning is a spiritual exercise! What are the stories which animate your life and give you vision? How does one fall more deeply into the vision of being a follower of Jesus? This workshop explores a visioning process which you can explore in your personal and church life. Led by Steve Pierce, Coordinator for Congregational Support.

□4F - Doing Good...Says Who?

How do you know when you're really "doing good"? Who's to say? So much is written these days about unintended outcomes from goodwill deeds. This workshop explores 5 principles that can serve as guidelines for evaluating current mission activities and future direction. The principles come from over 400 interviews in Guatemala with volunteers, donors, nonprofits and those they wanted to help. They are as applicable at home as abroad. Participants will have the opportunity to share successes, concerns, hopes based on their experience in their congregations. Led by Fran Early, Co-author with Connie Newton of "Doing Good. . . Says Who?"

□4G - Supporting Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence in Our Congregations

In Massachusetts, 1 in 3 women and 1 in 5 men have experienced some form of physical or sexual violence or stalking at the hands of an intimate partner. For people of faith in our congregations, this violence and trauma precipitate significant questions about faith, forgiveness, grace, and healing. As faith communities, we (as clergy and lay leaders) have a crucial and unique role to play in supporting victims and promoting healthy relationships in our congregations. Come learn some of the complexities in dealing with situations of domestic and sexual violence and how to respond safely and effectively in your faith community. Presenters: Dr. Nancy Nienhuis & Carol Kopelman, MPH, MBA, of Safe Havens Interfaith Partnership Against Domestic Violence.

□4I - Reimagining Possibilities: The Small Church as a Laboratory of Innovation

A sharing of resources, stories, and strategies from a small church which was resourced by the diocese and the national church to be a "laboratory for mission." Participants will be introduced to practical resources to take and use in their own parishes. Led by clergy and laity of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Watertown.

□4J - From Church to Home: Resources for Household Worship

The first Book of Common Prayer brought the daily office from the monastery to the common home, but how many of us manage to sustain a rhythm of household worship? The Boston/Cambridge Mission Hub presents musical and liturgical resources drawn from over a dozen intentional communities in eastern Massachusetts, with a particular emphasis on elements that work in both congregational and household contexts. Come ready to sing and pray! Led by the Rev. Leslie Sterling and the Rev. Isaac Everett.

□4K - Episcopal Church Resolutions: What does the Baptismal Covenant have to do with Justice and Reconciliation

The Church is called to the challenging work of mission. The Church in the form of the General Convention passed several resolutions dealing with justice and reconciliation. We, as individuals, are sworn to a baptismal covenant where we are called to be the Church. This session will engage participants in a discussion of those General Convention resolutions. It will provide examples of and explore possibilities for how parishes can implement the resolutions striving for dignity and justice of all people. Led by the Rev. Karen Montagno, Director of Congregational Resources & Training; and James McKim, the Province I Antiracism Representative to Executive Council.

□4L - Indaba: An Invitation to Listen and Understand

Indaba is a southern African (Zulu) term which means gathering for purposeful discussion. It is a method of engaging one another in a way that we listen and learn about the opportunities and challenges that we face in our different communities of faith. The work of the church is carried out in a variety of contexts – urban, suburban, rural, for example – and among people with a great variety of talents and interests. Come and discover more about who God has called into mission with you. Led by the Reverend Canon William C. Parnell, Canon to the Ordinary in the Diocese of Massachusetts.