



Episcopal 101 returns Feb. 16

Liturgy Discussion of the Month
By The Rev. Steve Keplinger

The title really needs to go, because it is neither Episcopal nor 101. It is not just Episcopal, because we cover the entire span of Christianity through the ages. And it is certainly not a 101 level class, because we would venture to argue that you will learn more about Christianity and the church than you ever would in an entrance level study.

The six-week class is specifically designed for those who are relatively new to this tradition and those who are considering officially being Received into the church. However, many folks at GSP and beyond take this class for various reasons. Some take it as a refresher, some want to increase their knowledge in specific areas, some come to hear the Rector's own take on the history, liturgy, sacramental tradition and theology of the church, and many come to take part in the theological discussions that have become such an important part of the learning in this class. It remains one of the most popular classes we have ever offered.

Our first class will be on the history of the church from Jesus to the Protestant Reformation. (All of that in an hour and a half.) The second class will be history, part II, a look at the church as it developed in America. Class three will be everything you always wanted to know about the Book of Common Prayer and our liturgy, but were afraid to ask. Class four will be a discussion of Sacramental theology, and what we mean by Sacrament. Class five will be on Episcopal church polity, how we get things done and how we govern ourselves. This class is particularly important to us now as we consider American politics and also the fragile state of the Anglican Communion. The last class will be a comparison of the Episcopal tradition with other Christian denominations, a discussion of the issues facing the church today, our Presiding Bishop, and a discussion of being Episcopalian in what may be a post-religious age.

We are going to cover a bunch in a short time, but the classes will be informative for all and always fun, whether you have a doctorate in Anglican studies, (as I know some of you do) or you think that Episcopalian is something that only appears on spelling tests. And did I mention that there will be no papers due either!

Come join us every Sunday for six successive weeks in the Bloom Room at 11:45 AM. Classes will be 90 minutes long, and food will be provided. We will finish the week before Holy Week and each session will be video recorded in case you cannot make a class.

Episcopal 101 Class Schedule

(All classes will be on Sunday at 11:45 a.m. in the Bloom Room.)

Feb. 16—Church History to the Protestant Reformation

Feb. 23—Church History from the Henry VIII thing, the George III thing and in the United States

March 1—The Book of Common Prayer and the Liturgy

March 8—The Sacramental Tradition

March 15—American Church Polity

March 22—Bye week

March 29—A comparison of Christian denominations, present day challenges in T.E.C. and the Anglican Communion, and the new emphasis on Care of Creation in the Episcopal church.