



## Groups to Join!

**Some groups have more extensive descriptions on the next page.**

**Lectio Divina.** A group to discuss some scripture using a Lectio Divina format (re-reading a passage 2-3 times for personal influences/reactions).

**Convener:** Dennis Hendricks, [dennisjhendricks@gmail.com](mailto:dennisjhendricks@gmail.com)

**Study Group.** We will read excerpts from the abolitionist journal of Fanny Kemble, who was married at Christ Church in 1834 to Pierce Mease Butler, grandson of Major Pierce Butler, a wealthy slave owner from South Carolina and member of the church.

**Conveners:** Kaye Pyle and Liz Kimball, [ekimball99@gmail.com](mailto:ekimball99@gmail.com)

**Good Shepherds.** Reaching out to parishioners who may be lonely or struggling.

**Convener:** Kate Hall, [cyrus8018@verizon.net](mailto:cyrus8018@verizon.net)

**Sunday Bible Study.** Every Sunday at 9:00 a.m., online. **Convener:** The Rev. Palmer Hartl. USE THE LINK IN THE WEEKLY PARISH EMAIL.

**Tuesday Koin Group at 8:20 a.m.** Morning Prayer using the appointed readings from Holy Women, Holy Men. **Convener:** Cecilia Wagner, [cwagner@christchurchphila.org](mailto:cwagner@christchurchphila.org).

## Have a topic to suggest?

**Send your idea to Cheryl Beirne!**

Consider leading a group for one to four weeks.

Perhaps a book or podcast discussion, a film viewing/appreciation group, a drawing or writing exercise... *Cheryl Beirne, [cld331@gmail.com](mailto:cld331@gmail.com)*

## Christ Church Fellowship Groups

### Expanded Descriptions

*If you want further details, please contact the Convener.*

#### **Lectio Divina**

Lectio Divina (literally divine reading) is a personal reflection and sharing of a short Bible verse. The group will pray, reflect and share what resonates personally and spiritually. Perfect for Lent! We'll meet virtually for one hour.

**Convener:** Dennis Hendricks, [dennisjhendricks@gmail.com](mailto:dennisjhendricks@gmail.com)

#### **Study Group: "Where We Begin: The Butler Family Tomb"**

Fanny Kemble, an acclaimed British actor, was married at Christ Church to Pierce Mease Butler in 1834. Butler was the grandson of Major Pierce Butler, who was a South Carolina delegate to the Constitutional Convention, the owner of hundreds of slaves, and a member of Christ Church. Major Pierce Butler and grandson Pierce Mease Butler are buried in the Butler tomb in the church garden. In 1859 Pierce Mease Butler, who inherited his grandfather's plantations, held the largest slave auction in U.S. history; the African American community called it "the weeping time." The study group is part of a larger program within our congregation as we work toward a reconciling response to the history that the tomb represents. One of the entry points to that process is a journal that Fanny Kemble Butler published in 1863 about her visit to the plantations; the journal became an important abolitionist document.

**Timetable:** Online meetings every other Wednesday, starting April 7.

**Convener:** Liz Kimball and Kaye Pyle, [ekimball99@gmail.com](mailto:ekimball99@gmail.com)

The conveners will organize materials and lead the discussion. Participants are welcome to purchase or order these books from a library or bookstore if desired.

**Materials:** A reading packet will be assembled for each participant, to include the following:

- *Major Butler's Legacy:* Chapters 1 & 2, bio of Major Pierce Butler. 30 pages.
- *The Weeping Time:* C. 1, The Weeping Time (p 3 – 20); C. 2, The Auction and American History (p 21 – 33); C. 6, Faith on the Butler Estates (p 80-93). About 40 pages of text.
- *Fanny Kemble's Journal:* C. 4, Exploring Butler Island/ 54-73; C. 5, Further Explorations (the infirmary)/ 74-88; C. 6, Observations upon Mr. Butler's Slaves/ 89-105; C. 10, Psyche/ 132-140; C. 11, Shadrach's Death and Funeral/ 141-150; C. 19, Women in Slavery / 214-231; C. 29, Christ Church/ 307-315. Focus on Kemble's encounters with the enslaved people on the plantations. About 100 pages of text.

**Resources:** excerpts from three books; a short newspaper article about the 160th commemoration of the auction; a review of a memorial site; and an optional film.

- Malcolm Bell, Jr., *Major Butler's Legacy: Five Generations of a Slaveholding Family*
- Anne Bailey, *The Weeping Time: Memory and the Largest Slave Auction in American History.* Discussion of book, led by Anne Bailey.
- Frances Anne (Fanny) Kemble, *Journal of a Residence on a Georgian Plantation*

*(continued next page)*

**Small Groups build community! Send your ideas to Cheryl Beirne.**

*Cheryl Beirne, cld331@gmail.com*

*(Study Group, continued from previous page)*

*in 1838-1839.*

- "Savannah pays tribute to 'The Weeping Time' at 160th commemoration," *Savannah Morning News*, Mar 2, 2019.
- "Turning Grief For a Hidden past Into a Healing Space," *NYTimes* article, 8.16.20.
- *Daughters of the Dust*, by Julie Dash, a fictional film based on the history of the Gullah region, the Sea Islands off Georgia and S. Carolina where the Butler plantations were located. Copies available through the library and online streaming platforms.

**Know how to use Zoom? Can you be of service with Google Meet?**

Although we are beginning to resume some in-person activities, some in our community will need to remain remote. And a few folks are still struggling to connect via Zoom. Are you a confident user of Zoom or Google Meet? Would you be willing to be on a list of folks who can phone-talk them through getting on and off, muting and unmuting, etc.?

*Let Beth Wilson on the Parish Life team know at [eawilson8044@gmail.com](mailto:eawilson8044@gmail.com).*