

# Discerning Hearts

The Newsletter of The Episcopal Community  
Volume: 2021 Issue: Fall

## In Our Own Words:



### Sylvia James

My parents and my church family were wonderful models as I began my life's journey. I loved to learn, to read, to be alone with God and to help people in need;

Music and being in the midst of God's creation nourish my soul. I love to teach, to hunt for seashells on a sandy beach and be with my family, my soulmate and husband of 51 years, my 2 beautiful children and 4 precious grandchildren.

I am a lifetime Episcopalian. I attended Whitaker School of Theology along with my husband in the priesthood study. I am passionate about loving and serving all of God's people, the Episcopal Church and about equity within the whole human family. My life as a priest's wife has been an incredible gift from God and has opened doors to ministry that I would never have dreamed of, from going on medical mission trips to Guatemala to encouraging me to use my God given talents. I have been a hospital chaplain and also worked in Milan Federal Prison. In 1997 I became National President of the Daughters of the King. I have served on the boards of the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer, of SPCK/USA, and of local youth organizations. I also served as the Arch Diocese of Detroit Cursillo Secretariat. At the request of several Bishop's, I worked with two past DOK Presidents, to begin The Episcopal Community, in 2009.

The beautiful people who have enriched this journey I will be forever grateful for. My precious therapy dog who taught me about unconditional love and the women at Tutwiler prison who taught me about the power of forgiveness and changing lives. EFM nurtured my early years and now Celtic spirituality is showing me new paths to Christian living.

I give thanks to God for giving us The Episcopal Community to enrich the spiritual life of our church, and I am committed to doing whatever I can to help it to flourish. This wonderful community of Christian women encourages, supports and loves me as I am. They challenge me to reach deeper within myself and to walk closer with my Lord.

*Each month we will offer "In Our Own Words," and looking for submissions to our Poet's Corner.*

*Please submit your "bio" or your poetry to [barbara.a.harris@outlook.com](mailto:barbara.a.harris@outlook.com)*

## Spiritual Growth

*Click on any of the links below for information about online opportunities for spiritual growth.*

### Monastery of the Heart

September 13-October 1 – [Beauty and the Monastic Heart with Brother Mickey McGrath](#)

### Abbey of the Arts

September 17, 2021 – [Hildegard of Bingen and the Greening Power of God](#)

September 22, 2021 – [Yoga with Melinda: Equinox](#)

September 25, 2021 – [Writing into Autumn](#)

### Rolling Ridge Retreat Center

Radical Spirit by Joan Chittister  
[Radical Spirit Book Study \(brtapp.com\)](#)

## Weekly Compline

Sundays on Zoom at:

7:00 PM Eastern

6:00 PM Central

5:00 PM Mountain

4:00 PM Pacific

email [covenant@theepiscopalcommunity.org](mailto:covenant@theepiscopalcommunity.org)  
for Zoom information.

## Calendar

- November 28 – Advent book study???
- GC80, Baltimore MD July 7-14, 2022

## Poet's Corner

Rain came down in  
torrents

Whirlwinds encircle trees  
Felling tender branches  
and acorns

From the ancient oak  
groves

I bow and kneel  
Under a beloved oak  
Basket full of branches and acorns

A circle to honor life  
Oaks stability and wisdom  
Mushroom womb of Earth  
Acorns offering new beginnings

Recreating with Earth  
Sunlight illuminates dark  
Nature

Knowledge

Truth

Circling around and around

Earth receiving

(Written after Ida passed through)



Patti Joy Posan © pjp 9.5.2021