



LIFELONG LEARNING

Virginia Theological Seminary

UPCOMING EVENTS AT VTS: FEBRUARY-MARCH 2022

Connect with us and access our offerings! To register for a program, class or webinar, visit the [VTS Eventbrite webpage](#). To hear of new offerings, subscribe to the [Continuing Education monthly newsletter](#) and [follow Lifelong Learning on Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). And, browse the [Lifelong Learning YouTube channel](#) for recordings of past events. Upcoming events include:

February 19 and 26 |

Prayer School – Lord, Teach Us to Pray

Two Saturday mornings, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (ET) via Zoom, \$0-20

[Click here to register](#)

Do you only pray when you need something from God? Do you wonder if prayer is working? Do you wonder if there might be more to prayer than you've learned before? Even lifelong Christians struggle with these questions. The Episcopal Church is a praying church. The Anglican tradition is blessed with many tools and techniques to equip individuals with a rich and vibrant prayer life. From liturgical prayer to contemplative prayer – there are different ways to pray for different people and personalities. Prayer School is a workshop that will help you form your own habit of prayer by drawing on liturgical disciplines like the Daily Office of Morning Prayer (from the Book of Common Prayer) and Contemplative practices (like centering prayer and the daily examen).

March 2 |

May She Flourish: Strategies for Fighting Everyday Sexism

Panelists: The Rev. Dr. Karoline Lewis & The Rt. Rev. Ruth Woodliff-Stanley

3:00-4:00 p.m. (ET) via Zoom, \$10

[Click here to register](#)

Everyday discrimination is recognized as one of the most pervasive problems affecting working women's physical and psychological wellbeing, professional performance, and career perspectives. It can be defined as commonplace comments, attitudes, and practices – intentional or not – that communicate hostile, derogatory, or negative racial, gender, sexual orientation slights and insults to a specific person or group. Most clergywomen report being an object of "everyday discrimination." What are the best strategies to respond? This is the fifth in a series of six conversations for women in ministry grounded in research from Wellbeing at Work.

March 5 |

Godly Play Commuter Core Training Module 3: Supporting the Circle of Children and Liturgical Action Lessons

Trainers: Sarah Bentley Allred ('19) and Rosemary Beales

8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (ET) in person

E mail lifelonglearning@vts.edu for more information.

This is part of a series of 3 commuter core training modules. Modules may be attended in any order or location. Participation in each of the 3 modules constitutes Core Training Certification. You must register separately for each module.

March 10-April 7 |

Walking the Way of Lent through Storytelling with Bishop Porter Taylor

Five Thursday evenings, 7:00-8:00 p.m. (ET) via Zoom, \$65-\$75

[Click here to register.](#)

Lent is less a season to observe and more a walk to walk. As the days get longer and the light more accessible, so are we invited to cast aside all that gets between us and resurrection. One theologian commented, “Everything that happens to Christ happens to us.” In that sense, the Bible is a road map for us to follow indicating the terrain of our journey with Christ and in Christ and to Christ. Therefore, these sessions are intended to help us discover how we can consciously walk the way of Lent. Each week we will focus on one of the readings from the Lenten lectionary from the previous Sunday. However, our intent is to discover how we are invited to live this Lenten journey in our own lives. This is not a Bible study; this is a community sharing how they have walked and are walking the Lenten pilgrimage by engaging a particular theme embedded in a scripture lesson for that Sunday.

April 6 |

May She Flourish: Developing Your Well-Being Toolkit

Panelists: The Rev. Danae Ashley & Matt Bloom

3:00-4:00 p.m. (ET) via Zoom, \$10

[Click here to register.](#)

Clergy face unique professional challenges that place their physical, emotional, and psychological wellbeing at risk. Unsurprisingly, recent research suggests that clergywomen experience greater occupational stress than their male counterparts. Despite this situation, however, female ministers also show greater resilience and lower rates of depression than male clergy. Why? What are the factors and practices that protect and nurture clergywomen’s wellbeing? The webinar will explore female ministers’ experiences and clergy flourishing science to provide women with tools to face work pressures and increase wellbeing. This is the last in a series of six conversations for women in ministry grounded in research from Wellbeing at Work on the experience of women clergy.

Lifelong Learning's Weekly Open Office Hours

Have questions? Need a sounding board? Drop in our open office hours!

Thursday afternoons from 1 to 2:30 p.m. (ET). [Click here to register.](#)

The 1730 Project from TryTank

Out of almost 6,000 Episcopal congregations, some 1,730 have 29 or fewer people on a given Sunday. To help small parishes gain momentum and thrive in their communities, TryTank is launching a set of experiments: a virtual preaching series in coordination with the Society of St. John the Evangelist, Momentum Cohort peer learning opportunities (utilizing some of the work of VTS' Thriving in Ministry initiative) and a stewardship on-demand planning course designed for small church leadership. *Click [here](#) to find out more.*

NEW! ON-DEMAND OFFERINGS FROM VTS

Lifelong Learning is now offering on-demand workshops, classes, and curricula on Teachable, including past live events. Visit the [Lifelong Learning school at Teachable](#) to learn more.

Lent Planning Workshop

The Rev. Mark Jefferson, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Homiletics at Virginia Theological Seminary provides a reflection on the season of Lent. Sarah Bentley Allred ('19), editor of Building Faith, facilitates this seasonal planning workshop, providing a planning template, a list of helpful resources and a space to inspire intentional, creative planning for Lent 2022 in individual parish contexts. \$15-\$35. *Click [here](#) to access.*

Intro to Formation Theory: How is Faith Formed?

Lisa Kimball and Sarah Bentley Allred ('19) will discuss the basics of how faith is formed, drawing on the work of John Westerhoff and other leaders in the field. This is a great way to get started learning about formation or to brush up on the basics. \$15-\$35. *Click [here](#) to access.*

eFormation's Dwelling Places for God

After over a year of forced migration to all-digital platforms and programming, do we see the work of digital ministry differently? Where is God dwelling among us during this time? Based on conversations with three thought-leaders, Lifelong Learning has created these courses as a tool to facilitate conversations within parishes (in an adult forum or small group setting) to reflect on and identify lessons learned from the pandemic. The three courses include:

Lessons from the Pandemic with Dr. Heidi Campbell

The Theology of 'being with' each other and God in Digital Formats

with the Rev. Dr. Sam Wells

Finding God and Common Ground in the Pandemic, Politics, and Ministry

with the Rev. Kim Jackson

Variable pricing for individuals and groups. Click [here](#) to access.

Symposium on the Spirituality of Children

This online symposium focuses the latest research in the field of children's spirituality, including a keynote address by Jerome Berryman, founder of Godly Play, a responding panel discussion, and nine scholarly presentations by authors in the field on topics including Biblical storytelling, family spirituality, prophetic wonder, race, gender and moral development. Learn more about the latest research in the field through more than 8 hours of video content and links to resources.

\$45-\$75. Click [here](#) to access.

Faith in the Future: Conversations

What is the church of the future? Will church – as we know it – even exist? Author and noted futurist Bob Johansen, a distinguished fellow with the Institute for the Future, will join a small audience from around the church to look at current trends, future trends, possible disruptions, and why a new way of thinking is required for leaders of the church. *Free. Click [here](#) to access.*

Advent Planning Workshop

Sarah Bentley Allred (VTS '19), editor of Building Faith, facilitates this seasonal planning workshop, providing a planning template to use during the session, a list of resources and a space to inspire intentional, creative planning for Advent in individual parish contexts. Cole Arthur Riley, founder and writer of Black Liturgies, provides a reflection. *\$5-\$15. Click [here](#) to access.*

How to be a Top-Notch Hybrid Church

A four-part masterclass in doing church on- and offline by exploring four questions: Where is God calling us in this work? How do we build digital community? How do we fundraise? How do we produce for the digital medium? The masterclass, taught by gifted and experienced instructors, will include practical tips, small-church perspectives, small group ministry and preaching. *\$29. Click [here](#) to access.*