



Saturday, April 28
South Parish Congregational Church, Augusta

Workshop Session I: 9:30-11:00 a.m.

New Liturgical Expressions - led by Bishop Steve Lane

How can worship better reflect the local community? What options are there for Sunday and weekday worship? What resources are available for new work? Join Bishop Lane in a conversation about new ways to worship.

New Ideas for the Church of the Future - led by the Rev. Michael Ambler, Canon to the Ordinary

Most of us grew up in a church where each congregation was led by, and supported, a resident priest. Across the whole wide church, and certainly here in Maine, that's getting harder and harder to do. But our mission hasn't changed: to love God, preach the Gospel, and reach out to the neighborhood. How will we do that in the years to come? How will we start to re-imagine the ministries of priests, deacons, and lay people, so that we can be the church God calls us to be? In this session we'll look at some of the demographic trends that affect us, we'll see what ideas may lie in the church's past, and then we'll brainstorm together: how might the Episcopal congregations of Maine live vibrantly in a future where spirit will be deep but money and other resources will probably be stretched?

Christian Formation for Kids - led by Sherry Sivret, St. Anne's, Calais

With smaller numbers in our Sunday School and more highly scheduled families, we will look at how to: Provide Christian Formation for small groups of children of the same or different ages; Be supportive of families who do not attend church every week; Provide a meaningful Christian Formation experience when we see kids for a couple of hours each month; Get connected to incredible tools, curriculum and more for your ministry: Diocesan Youth Events, Faith Formation Connect, and inter-generational events; Build relationships with kids; Have a church community raise kids without Sunday School; and Use this time to connect with other youth leaders in this creative ministry and help to reunite your passion to take on what life has to offer in working with youth.

Pray Yin: Christian Yoga for Every Body - led by Leslie Lampert, Trinity Church, Saco

Come experience a short class and then learn about how to build a program in your area. Please bring your own yoga mat (there will be 15 available for those without a mat). This workshop does not require special training or extreme flexibility. This is truly a program designed to meet participants where they are today. Leslie Lampert is a RYT 200 yoga teacher with the Yoga Alliance®. She teaches both Yin Yoga and Ashtanga Yoga at Kusum Institute in Saco. A member of Trinity Church for almost 15 years, she is excited to integrate her love of Christ with her love of yoga.

In Their Shoes - led by Hamet Ly of Catholic Charities Refugee and Immigration Services

This interactive and immersive experience focuses on creating an environment that simulates common challenges associated with the journey of an immigrant seeking refuge. This presentation promotes compassion and understanding through knowledge about the difficult journey many immigrants face. Bishop Lane took part of this powerful exercise at an event last year and wants to give Maine Episcopalians the opportunity to take part.

Getting to know your congregation and community - led by Terry Reimer, Canon for Finance and Stewardship

Learn to use free tools available from the Episcopal Church's Office of Research and Statistics to learn more about the demographics and beliefs and practices in your community. The service, ExecutiveInsite, tells the "demographic story" of a defined study areas: a zip code, a county, or a custom-defined geographic area. The tool uses a number of different sources to provide insights into population, household trends, racial/ethnic trends, age trends, school-aged children trends, household income trends, charitable giving practices, religious program or ministry preferences and others.

This workshop will demonstrate how the tool works and offer a conversation on how the tool can be used to enhance congregation planning in the areas of congregational development, stewardship, and outreach.

Workshop session II: 12:30-1:45 pm

Faith in Action: Asset-Based Community Development Part 1 - led by John Hennessy, Maine Episcopal Network for Justice, and the Rev. Maria Hoecker, St. Columba's, Boothbay Harbor

An asset-based approach to engaging church and community is centered around the belief that individuals, groups, and communities have the gifts they need to address the needs they see around them. 1 Corinthians 12 tells us that each of us are given different gifts to serve the community and we are all a part of the body of Christ working together.

John Hennessy of the Maine Episcopal Network for Justice and the Rev. Maria Hoecker of St. Columba's, Boothbay Harbor, will offer an introduction to Asset-Based Community Development or ABCD and share examples of how to approach ministry in a neighborhood context.

Living Local: Joining God - led by the Guiding Team from St. Patrick's Brewer, Jane Hartwel, Canon for Spiritual Growth, Youth and Young Adults, and others

Participants in the diocese's big experiment with Living Local share their favorite practices and insights. You'll come away with practical tools, interesting ideas and stories of creative change to bring home to your church.

Everyday Theology - led by Merle Marie Troeger, St. Mary's, Falmouth

There are some words we only use in church. Why is that? Our Christian tradition passes along to us specialized language that no longer seems to have meaning in everyday speech: sin, salvation, grace, holiness, blessing. Yet we can't afford to get rid of them because they express essentials of the faith. In this workshop we'll spend some time translating words and formulas of doctrine into everyday language, investigating the human experience that gives vitality to those holy words, and embracing again the power of their meaning. Our goal will be to create a permeable membrane between the world we know every day and the tradition we love.

The Spirituality of Self Care - led by Katie Holicky, St. Alban's, Cape Elizabeth

What's on your to do list this week?

Is your calendar filling up by the second?

Feeling like there are never enough hours in the day to accomplish all that needs accomplishing?

Spend some time with Spiritual Director Katie Holicky wondering what it means, looks like, and feels like to take care of yourself by way of this life giving spiritual practice.

Come prepared to take some time to reflect on your daily life in ways that inspire and encourage you to spend time caring yourself so that you may better sustain the fullness of life.

Loving All Our Neighbors: Fulfilling Our Baptismal Covenant with the Original Peoples Living in Maine - led by John Dieffenbacher-Krall, St. James', Old Town and Chair of the Committee on Indian Relations

How does the invisibility of Wabanaki Peoples; pre-settlement, post-settler contact, and contemporary history; culture; and current political challenges affect all of us and our stewardship of what we today call Maine? How would knowledge of our shared history and joint challenges, Wabanaki and settler, affect our very spirituality? We will share some aspects of the invisibility of Wabanaki Peoples and their culture here in Maine, discuss the work of the Committee on Indian Relations, ask participants some questions to open awareness, and present concrete things individuals and parishes can do to “strive for justice and peace” with our Wabanaki neighbors.

No-cost and low-cost ways to collaborate and communicate - led by Heidi Shott, Canon for Communication and Advocacy

This workshop will demonstrate a number of online services that are available to Maine churches and ministries to meet online, share information, and collaborate. We'll walk through Zoom for online meetings, Basecamp for project collaboration, Survey Monkey for information gathering, and Constant Contact for event registration. Most of these programs offer a free version that may be perfect for local churches. Others are available through the diocesan account. As time allows, we'll cover other church communications of interest to participants.

Church Finances 101 - led by Terry Reimer, Canon for Finance and Stewardship

This winter's Church Finances Workshop was a four hour in-depth coverage of congregations' financial functions. It covered the place of church finances in the polity of the church, details of completing the annual Parochial Report, Diocesan Assessments, insurance coverage at the congregation level, the do's and don'ts of donations, congregation audits, payroll, employee benefits, clergy compensation and the duties and responsibilities of nonprofit status. This workshop will enable people who were not able to attend the longer Workshop to choose among the topics offered this winter and explore them as a group.

Workshop session III: 2:00 - 3:15 pm

Faith in Action: Asset-Based Community Development Part 2 - led by John Hennessy, Maine Episcopal Network for Justice, and the Rev. Maria Hoecker, St. Columba's, Boothbay Harbor

An asset-based approach to engaging church and community is centered around the belief that individuals, groups, and communities have the gifts they need to address the needs they see around them. 1 Corinthians 12 tells us that each of us are given different gifts to serve the community and we are all a part of the body of Christ working together.

John Hennessy of the Maine Episcopal Network for Justice and the Rev. Maria Hoecker of St. Columba's, Boothbay Harbor, will offer an introduction to Asset-Based Community Development or ABCD and share examples of how to approach ministry in a neighborhood context.

Wisdom for Vestries - led by the Rev. Michael Ambler, Canon to the Ordinary

Vestries and Bishop's Committees work hard to lead their congregations, support their clergy, and build connections with the larger church and the world. Along the way, they often develop great ideas which could be helpful to other congregations. Canon Michael Ambler will lead an open forum for sharing good ideas, helpful practices, and other sorts of wisdom. What has *your* experience serving on Vestry or as a Warden been like, and what do *you* have to teach? As they say, "the wisdom is in the room."

Ministry for Lay People - led by Bishop Steve Lane

The era of one priest/one parish is over. What are the opportunities for lay ministry in a time when priestly ministry is sometimes harder to come by? What are the possibilities for a new partnership between ordained and lay ministries? Let's talk about the ministry of the people of God.

Theological reflection using provocative word - led by Emily Rotch and Emily Jenks, St. John Baptist, Thomaston

Ministry, Calling, Community - what do these words mean in your life? How do you relate your life to scripture? The practice of Theological Reflection developed by the University of the South for their EFM program offers diverse groups a chance to discuss difficult/complex ideas in a comfortable framework. Here's a chance to try it and see how it brings scripture alive for you in relation to your own life experiences. You may be surprised at the different ways others in the group may hear the same word.

Songs for the World That is Coming - led by Thew Elliott, Trinity Church, Portland

Bishop Lane has asked each of us to "think how you can live according to the standard of the world that is coming; how you can be kinder, more hospitable, more compassionate, more just." Especially in these days of Easter moving toward Pentecost, how can the songs we sing strengthen our vision and encourage us toward that coming world? Come to learn and sing songs from a variety of sources about hope, hospitality and prophetic vision, and to talk about music's vital role in helping us articulate and carry our vision.

Eucharistic Visitor Training - led by Abby Pettee, St. Thomas', Camden

Many congregations have Eucharistic Visitors, who go after church each week to take communion to those who (usually for health reasons) can't join in the gathering at church. Local clergy, as well as experienced Eucharistic Visitors, can and do offer training for this ministry in their own congregations. We also offer such training from time to time as a diocese, and in this session we will do just that. We'll talk about the theology of the eucharist, and what it means to take communion to people in their homes. We'll go over some good practices, and we'll talk about the specifics of administering home communions. And we'll share stories of where those of us who do this ministry have encountered Christ along the way. This is meant for both experienced Eucharistic Visitors looking to share learning and experiences, as well as those who want to become a Eucharistic Visitor and want an introduction to this ministry.

Our Story in God's Story - led by the Rev. Nancy Moore, Christ Church, Norway

How do you talk about your faith journey--to yourself, friends and family, and strangers? Consider how your own story reflects God's activity in the world, and explore ways to talk about it that invites others to discover this for themselves.