

Sunday, October 27th, 2019 – Dr. Diana Benet

Chaucer and Pilgrimage: Spiritual and Secular Journeys

In *The Canterbury Tales*, Chaucer specifies or hints at the motives his pilgrims are traveling to Canterbury. As the reader progresses through the tales, it becomes evident that the reasons for visiting a spiritually-significant place were as varied in the medieval era as they are today. Our consideration of topics such as pilgrims, miracles, saints, and images will begin in Canterbury, but will end in Grace parishioner Diana Benet's second home, San Juan, Texas, the location of a popular Roman Catholic pilgrimage destination, The Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe.

Sunday, November 3, 2019 – Dr. Nicholas Birns

Thessalonians 1 & 2 an introduction

The two epistles to the Thessalonians were most likely the first written of the New Testament, here, Saint Paul tells us how to live a truly Christian life, when to expect the Antichrist and what the signs to predict his manifestation, and how to balance the daily and the cosmic in our spiritual journey. Join Nicholas Birns to discuss some of the key founding documents of Christian faith.

Sunday, November 10, 2019 – The Rev. Chase Danford

Thessalonians and “The Rapture”

From the “Left Behind” books of the 1990s to the more recent book and HBO series “The Leftovers,” the Rapture has captured the imaginations of a large segment of American (and now global) Christianity. Where does it all come from? In 1 Thessalonians, St. Paul writes, “Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever.” In this session, the Rev. Chase Danford will explore how these words and other passages from 1 and 2 Thessalonians have been understood and misunderstood through the ages.

GRACE CHURCH in NEW YORK

The Sunday Forum

Early Fall 2019



802 Broadway, New York, NY
www.gracechurchnyc.org

The Sunday Forum

Adult Education classes offer spiritual nourishment, fellowship, and in-depth discussion for everyone – whether newcomers or long-time members of the parish – on topics that are central to Christians today. All classes start at 10 am on Sundays. Each presentation will include time for questions and answers. Coffee and refreshments will be served.

Pilgrimage is a way to seek out God through physical and spiritual journeying. This fall the Sunday Forum will open with a series of sessions that examine the pilgrim's way in story and experience. Following will be a three-part study of Paul's two epistles to the Thessalonians.

Sunday, September 15th, 2019 – The Rev. Julia Offinger

Telling the Pilgrim's Story

The Rev. Julia Offinger will trace the path of her recent pilgrimage to important civil rights sites in Alabama. Walking on the ground where slave ships docked in Montgomery, up the hill to the capital building and Martin Luther King, Jr.'s church, over to Selma where the marches began, with stops at the Equal Justice Initiative's Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, what is our spiritual connection to the stories of the Civil Rights Movement that began over 50 years ago? As Christians, how are we connected in this age to Jesus' followers who wrote the Gospel accounts around 50 years after Jesus' crucifixion?

Sunday, September 22th, 2019 – Dr. Warren Pettine

Summiting Mount Rainier with Fortitude and Folly

At 14,411 feet, Mount Rainier is the highest glaciated peak in the lower 48'. June of 2019, parishioner Warren Pettine and two fellow mountaineers pursued a technical route to the summit. Along the way, personal limits were exceeded, friendships were tested, and a roll of the dice determined whether they would return. Join us for a humbling story of hubris on the mountain.

Sunday, September 29, 2019 – The Rev. Benjamin Thomas

Being a Monday through Friday Church

The Rev Benjamin Thomas will speak about his ministry since serving at Grace Church while a ThD student at General Seminary. Now the Director of Social Justice at St. Francis Ministries, working with children and families in crisis. Thomas describes the discernment guiding his life journey: "learning to follow God's lead" ... to see the "Holy Spirit moments" in life is a way of understanding the journey that God has in mind for every person's spiritual vocation. A big part of the spiritual journey in his eyes, has been coming to see God's work through the lens of Monday through Friday instead of the Sunday morning routine."

Sunday, October 6th, 2019 – Mr. Jason Slibeck

A Walk in the Woods: The Extended Edition

In 2009, Jason Slibeck, a parishioner at Grace, and his family agreed that the time was ripe for him to take a leap of faith and embark on an adventure that started as a dream when the world still had a Soviet Union. Nearly 2,200 miles and 10 years later, he will share his reflections on hiking the Appalachian Trail. Solitude, humility, compassion, community, majesty! Also bears, blisters, rattlesnakes, mosquitoes, and lots of rain. Jason will explore how God spoke while journeying along one of the world's most famous wilderness footpaths.

Sunday, October 23rd, 2016 – Dr. Nicholas Birns

Women of Spirit: The Contrasting Lives Of Margery Kempe and Julian of Norwich

Margery Kempe and Julian of Norwich were two women who were the foremost figures in English spirituality in the time of Chaucer and the decades after. Though they knew each other (Margery was briefly spiritually counseled by Julian), they followed different paths: Margery public, Julian private; Julian ethereal, Margery, all too human; Julian a nun, Margery a sometime brewer of beer. Join parishioner Nicholas Birns to discuss these two remarkable women writers and mystics.