

Doing God's Work

January – March
2018
Sundays 9:30 - 10:15

Christian Education Forums



*“Here I am Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.”*

January 21, 2018

Speaker: Robyn Koerselman, R.N.

Topic: Hospice

Every year Hospice helps more than a million people through their dying days. At a time of great physical and emotional pain, Hospice does all it can to ease that pain for dying people and for their families. Death comes to people of all ages, and it makes spiritual demands on all concerned, including Hospice nurses.

Bio: Robin graduated from Purdue University and began her career in nursing with experience in ICU, Outpatient, School Nursing, Home Health Care, Vascular surgery, and Hospice...end of life care. Robyn is married to Dan and they have raised five children, and are grandparents to two lovely toddlers, Harper and Penelope. Robyn and Dan reside on Sanibel Island and are members of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church.

January 28, 2018

Speaker: Stephen R. Brown, M.D.

Topic: A Calling Not a Profession

Since his early days as a doctor, Steve has always believed he was called to the ministry of medicine and that God has been leading and guiding him all these years. He knows that his strength and courage to do what he has done, and to continue to mentor people in this community, comes from one source only - God's powerful Spirit in Christ.

Bio: Known to so many of us here as a former Mayor of Sanibel, a committed member of the SanCap Kiwanis, and a loyal member of the Lee Health System Board of Directors, Steve had a long career in medicine. He practiced at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Mercy Hospital in Baltimore, and Anne Arundel General Hospital in Annapolis where he was Chief of Radiology. Steve and his wife Lena are parishioners of St. Michael's and always ready to assist someone who has been hospitalized.

February 4, 2018

Speaker: Abigail Nelson

Topic: Episcopal Relief & Development

Abigail Nelson will speak about her own formation as the child of parents steeped in the Civil Rights Movement. Growing up in a household where components of the daily office and justice conversations were regular practice, and emerging from an environment where both building bridges and listening deeply to "the other" was the required norm, she found a place for her own passion working in disaster response and international development. Abigail will reflect on the components that shaped her, the mentors and support networks she has found even in dark spaces, and how she structures herself for care and rest.

Bio: Abigail Nelson is the Senior Vice President for Programs at Episcopal Relief & Development. She is an economist who has worked for 18 years all over the globe designing strategies and implementing programs that help vulnerable communities recover from disasters, address extreme poverty, fight disease and reduce exposure to risk. Abigail earned an MSc from the London School of Economics and BA cum laude from Harvard College. The daughter of an Episcopal priest, Abigail lives in Brooklyn with her husband and 2 daughters where they are active members of Grace Church Brooklyn Heights.

February 11, 2018

Speaker: Kirk Gulledge

Topic: Empowering the Poor of Myanmar through Micro-Enterprise Development

The Asian country of Myanmar (formerly Burma) is one of the poorest countries in the world. However, recent developments toward democracy and increased international investment are opening new doors for economic development. We will take a look at some of the World Vision programs which are transforming lives there with a special emphasis on the microloan program which is helping thousands of people to start small business and achieve economic independence.

Bio: Kirk and Jan Gulledge are residents of Shell Point and long-time supporters of World Vision. They have visited World Vision projects in 15 countries, and have partnered with World Vision in a variety of programs to bring water, healthcare, education and economic development to some of the poorest areas of the world.

February 18, 2018

Speaker: Gerald H. Miller

Topic: Trailways Camp

Trailways Camp is “A Place Where You Are Something Special.” Trailways Camp follows Jesus statement in Matthew: “Truly I tell you just as you did not do to one of the least of these you did not do it to me.” Jerry will present the history and impact of Trailways Camps told through the eyes of campers, family members and volunteers who have participated.

Bio: Following an extensive career in the public sector including Budget Director and Welfare Director for the State of Michigan and Chief Fiscal Officer for the National Governor’s Association, Jerry started his own company providing workforce services to low income citizens – helping them get a job and keep a job. Jerry and Sharon are the parents of 4 children, including two with special needs (one who has died). They are Co-Founders of Trailways Camps serving adults with special needs and their families in the Ft. Myers area.

February 25, 2018 ANNUAL MEETING - NO FORUM

March 4, 2018

Speakers: Evelyn and Bruce Neill, Ph.D.

Topic: You Never Know God’s Plan

Parishioners Evelyn and Bruce are deeply spiritual in their lives and work. They bring their sense of obligation and dedication to every aspect of their careers, and to the spirit of Sanibel Sea School. The couple will discuss how their spiritual beliefs and guidelines influence their work.

Bio: A biology groupie and the daughter of a science teacher, Evelyn spent years pursuing an interest in marine science before falling into a career in advertising. She has been a creative director for Nike, Microsoft, Coke, Visa and Glass Is Life among other brands and has overseen communications throughout the world – in Pakistan, India, Europe, and Latin America. Advertising itself is a lesson in the staggering power of communication. That power comes from the blending narratives of how we live our lives and what we incorporate into our stories. It is Evelyn's deep desire to make the ocean and ocean conservation a vital part of everyone's life story.

Growing up in Miami, Bruce explored the diverse ecosystems of southern Florida and the Bahamas, and developed an appreciation for the ocean early on. This fascination eventually led him to study zoology at the University of Georgia, earn a MA. in coral reef biology and sea urchin behavior on Guam, and later complete a Ph.D. in conservation biology at Montana State University. Bruce has held academic positions at colleges and field schools, as well as at elementary schools and the American Museum of Natural History. His true passion is teaching, and it is his hope that by sharing the wonders of the sea, he will be able to provide his students with a lifetime of discovery and ocean stewardship.

Together, Evelyn and her partner in life, Doc Bruce, have devoted themselves to creating a school where people can come to learn about the ocean. The rest of the story is what they will build with, they hope, your involvement.

Match 11, 2018

Speaker: Rachel Schnabel

Topic: Episcopal Young Adult Service Corps

Rachel served as a long term missionary with the Anglican Church in Brazil through a program of The Episcopal Church called the Young Adult Service Corp (YASC). Her year of service was spent working with and learning from programs already in place in her assigned Diocese of Brasilia. Specifically, the local diocese was already running a no-cost extended school program in the poorest neighborhood in the capital region, and requested her assistance in starting a computer program to supplement the course offerings.

Bio: Rachel started attending the Episcopal Church before she was born! The daughter of an organist/choir director, and granddaughter of a priest, she grew up in various churches and dioceses across the U.S. She started personal service work at the age of 5 as a Lenten discipline, and went on to participate and/or lead 10 different short-term mission trips before serving a full year of international service. Her varied educational background is in economics, business administration, engineering, and early childhood education, and she has a work background in information technologies and youth ministry. She has worked at parish, deanery, diocesan, and national levels for the Episcopal Church and is part of the Diocese of SW Florida.

Match 18, 2018

Speaker: Allen Speer

Topic: Doing God's Work - Agape Flights

According to one survey reported in Business Week magazine, only one out of six Americans is content with his or her job, which means nearly 83 percent are dissatisfied! How can we find much needed peace? Many people will find peace when they come to grips with the fact that doing what God has equipped and enabled them to do is most important, regardless of what or where that might be. For me, work and ministry are the same. Nowhere in Scripture does it say that God differentiates between work and ministry, secular and sacred. Instead, it says, "Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus." (Colossians 3:17)

Bio: Ministry has been his life. Allen was blessed to be born a preacher's kid, saved at an early age, and called to ministry as a teenager. For forty years he has faithfully served Christ in a variety of ministry roles, primarily as a Senior Pastor. For the last 30 years as a pastor he has been closely involved with mission endeavors around the globe. From Jamaica to Mexico, Cuba and Belarus, his life has been impacted by missionaries and national pastors. As Agape's CEO, his passion for serving missionaries is clear and contagious. He is honored that God has called him to Serve Christ by Serving His Missionaries. Married to Jennifer Mathewson Speer, with five children, one son-in-law, and two daughter-in-laws. Laura and Christopher, Robby and Meredith, Daniel and Jenna, and sons Micah and David; and three grandchildren. Allen enjoys golf, fishing, and his grandchildren!

March 25, 2018

PALM SUNDAY

April 1, 2018

EASTER SUNDAY

Saint Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church

The Rev. Dr. Ellen M. Sloan, Rector

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