

April 2, 2017

Speaker: Professor Anne-Marie Bouché

Topic: Visions of Christianity through Medieval Art

Christian art is designed to engage viewers in an authentic spiritual experience through the act of interpretation. This interactive workshop gives hands-on experience “reading” and interpreting some selected masterworks of the Christian visual tradition. Bring your reading glasses, your knowledge of Scripture and common sense; we will work from handouts.

**Bio:** Anne-Marie is Associate Professor of Art History at Florida Gulf Coast University, where she teaches Art History and Art Appreciation. She received her PhD in 1997 from Columbia University, specializing in Medieval Art History. She taught for nine years at Princeton University before moving to Sanibel in 2008.

April 9, 2017

Palm Sunday

April 16, 2017

Easter



Saint Michael and  
All Angels Episcopal Church  
The Rev. Dr. Ellen M. Sloan, Rector  
2304 Periwinkle Way  
Sanibel, FL 33957  
239-472-2173  
www.saintmichaels-sanibel.org

## Thinking About God: How We Are Inspired, Shaped and Challenged

November - April  
2016 – 2017  
Sundays, 9:30 - 10:15

### Adult Christian Education Forums



Wm. Blake

*In his first surviving letter to the congregation he had founded at Corinth, Paul wrote: “For now we see through a glass darkly, but then face to face. Then shall I know even as I am known.” Until then our thoughts about God are as fragile as our lives and as vital. Jesus continues to ask, “Who do you say that I am?” In our search for a better understanding of God, we are helped not only by our Bible but also by more recent thinkers, composers, and artists. In this year’s forums, our speakers will share the fruit of their encounters with great minds, great hearts and great souls.*

November 12 & 13, 2016

Topic: Ministry Fair

The Vestry invites you to join this first parish “event” of the season to explore the many ministry groups at St. Michael’s. Parishioners from every parish ministry will be on hand after the Saturday service and after the two Sunday services to help you think about using your marvelous gifts – whether it’s a gift/skill you continue to offer OR you try something new this year.

November 20 & 27, 2016 No Forum - Thanksgiving

December 4, 2016

Speakers: Professor Arthur Stephen McGrade

Topic: Richard Hooker

Hooker’s defense of the Elizabethan Settlement of the late 16<sup>th</sup> century English church will be discussed in relation to its own unsettled times, its role in forming Anglican identity, its importance for the speaker’s return to the church, and its significance for our church and world today.

**Bio:** Stephen, Professor of Philosophy Emeritus, University of Connecticut, has written extensively on medieval and early modern political thought. His three-volume edition of Richard Hooker’s *Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity* was published by Oxford University Press in 2013. Steve and his wife Jo have been part of joined St. Michael and All Angels since 2009.

December 11, 18 & 25, 2016 & January 1, 2017

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR - NO FORUMS

January 15, 2017

Topic: Outreach Mission Fair

Saint Michael and All Angels provides financial support to about 25 local and global charitable organizations through the efforts of the Outreach Ministry and the Episcopal Church Women (ECW). The Mission Fair is an opportunity for parishioners to learn more about the local and global charitable organizations that Saint Michael and All Angels currently supports or could potentially support in the future. It is also an opportunity for parishioners to learn more about these organizations and explore where they could assist these organizations as volunteers. The Mission Fair is sponsored and organized by the Saint Michael and All Angels Outreach Ministry.

January 22, 2017

Speaker: Dr. Wayne Thompson

Topic: Karl Barth

Karl Barth (1886-1968) was a Swiss theologian who opposed the evil embodied in Adolf Hitler while continuing to hope for the salvation of everyone, even Hitler. This forum will consider how Barth’s study of the Bible stimulated his faith and can stimulate ours.

**Bio:** Wayne is a military historian who was employed by the U.S. Air Force in war planning groups and after-action study groups in the Pentagon. His book *To Hanoi and Back: The U.S. Air Force and North Vietnam* has been declassified and published by the Smithsonian Press. He and his wife Gerry joined this church two years ago.

**January 29, 2017**

**Speaker: Claudia Upper**

**Topic: Prophets of Israel**

How can we hear the word of God spoken to us through the prophets? This forum will concentrate on Israel's prophets of the eighth to the sixth centuries BC. We will endeavor to become better acquainted with Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel among others.

**Bio:** Claudia's BA in Biblical History from Wellesley College and her AM in Near Eastern Studies from the University of Michigan launched her lifelong study of the Bible. She taught ancient history at the American University, and since joining St. Michael and All Angels, four years ago with her husband Jack, she has often led our Thursday summer Bible study group.

**February 5, 2017**

**Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Randall Niehoff**

**Topic: Alfred North Whitehead and Process Theology**

Interpreting the "New Physics" of our current scientific revolution, Whitehead's Process Theology represents the culminating unification of the entire Western tradition. Here God is the chief exemplification of final metaphysical truth. "[God] saves the world as it passes into the immediacy of his own life. It is the judgment of a tenderness which loses nothing that can be saved...which uses what in the temporal world is mere wreckage...he is the poet of the world, with tender patience leading it by his vision of truth, beauty, and goodness." --Whitehead, *Process and Reality*, pp. 525-526

**Bio:** Ran earned a BA in Philosophy from Washington University, an M.Div and D.Min from Eden Theological Seminary. Ordained in the United Church of Christ, he served as a full-time minister in four congregations (retiring from the Sanibel Cong'l UCC in 2008). He engaged in sabbatical studies in Israel, Greece, Rome, and Cambridge (England), and he has planned and led four Study Tours to Israel.

**February 12, 2017**

**Speaker: The Rev. Walter H. Schuman**

**Topic: Marcus Borg**

Marcus Borg was Canon Theologian at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland, Oregon and Professor of Religion and Culture at Oregon State University before his death in 2015. The New York Times called him, "a leading figure in his generation of Jesus scholars." As a theologian, he was considered one of the distinguished leaders of "Progressive Theology." For me, he has presented a persuasive and compelling vision of the Christian life,

one not based on correct beliefs but on a way of life rooted in a deepening relationship with God.

**Bio:** Walter earned a ThM from Princeton Theological Seminary, is an ordained E.L.C.A. Lutheran Minister and a retired professor and Chairman of the Religion Department at Ashland University where he taught courses in Theology and Ethics from 1971-2002. He has written and published articles on end of life issues, and is now working on a book *A Spirituality for the Third Trimester of Life*.

**February 19, 2017**

**Speaker: The Very Rev. Dr. Ellen Sloan**

**Topic: Thomas Merton – From Solitude to Strength**

Thomas Merton's long journey back to Christ had a profound impact on my life - in mind, body and spirit. His tragic death in 1968 - my senior year in high school - shocked me into a new place in my emotional and spiritual journey. Merton's passionate love of Christ and compassionate spirit for humanity continues to sustain me as I reach out to others.

**Bio:** Ellen is the Rector of St. Michael and All Angels Church. Ellen graduated from St. Michael's Elementary School in 1964.

**February 26, 2017 ANNUAL MEETING - NO FORUM**

**March 5, 2017**

**Speaker: Professor Phillip Cary**

**Topic: Martin Luther**

Five hundred years ago in 1517, Martin Luther's *Ninety-Five Theses* launched the Reformation. Yet Luther's aim was not to start a new church but to teach the Gospel that is at the heart of Christian faith. He is famous for contrasting Law and Gospel. What did he mean by "Gospel" and why does it make such a big difference?

**Bio:** Phillip teaches philosophy at Eastern University (near Philadelphia) where he is also scholar-in-residence at the Templeton Honors College. His specialty is the history of Christian thought. He is perhaps best known for his lecture series published by The Great Courses (on Luther, on Augustine, and on the history of Christian theology) and for his three books on Augustine published by Oxford University Press.

**March 12, 2017**

**Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Douglass Lind**

**Topic: How Apologetic Theology, Existentialism and Professor Paul Tillich Brought a Wayward College Student Back to the Faith**

Doug will describe his encounters with Paul Tillich, both in Tillich's writings and the course Doug took with Professor Tillich in college. He will describe the context of the time - the fifties and the sixties- and how Tillich's influence continues to manifest itself in the present day.

**Bio:** Doug is an Episcopal priest. In addition to a long career as a psychoanalyst, he has been a general management consultant and an individual coach to senior executives in corporations of all sizes and in a broad spectrum of industry categories.

**March 19, 2017**

**Speaker: The Rev. Alan Kelmereit**

**Topic: John Keble and the Oxford Movement**

In 1833 a sermon "National Apostasy" by Anglican clergyman and poet John Keble launched the Oxford Movement. The resulting Anglo-Catholicism in theology and liturgy eventually led to many of our Episcopal practices. This forum will explore an important part of our denomination's past that affects us still.

**Bio:** Alan retired following a 21 year career in the U.S. Air Force as a teacher and administrator. After five years establishing a life / health insurance agency, he entered Trinity School for the Ministry and was ordained priest in 1996. He has served churches in Beaver Falls, PA, and LaBelle and North Fort Myers, FL. After retiring in January 2013, he began to assist at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Fort Myers, and as part-time Assisting Rector at St. Michael and All Angels.

**March 26, 2017**

**Speaker: Dr. Jan Holly**

**Topic: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and the Requiem**

Some of Christendom's most important thinkers are not writers, but composers who speak in the language of music. One of the greatest of these was Mozart, a prodigy whose musical achievements will never be surpassed. *The Requiem*, left unfinished at his death, is the culminating masterwork of Mozart's extraordinary life. In this deeply personal composition, he struggles to accept his own mortality. In so doing, he shares with us his grace and courage, as he confronts the abyss that in the fullness of time we must all face. By learning his musical language, especially the symbols by which he transmits meaning, we can access fully the challenge and inspiration of his struggle and his wisdom.

**Bio:** Jan holds a BA, in piano performance, and a MA and PhD in musicology. She devoted her prior professional life, in college and university settings, to the training of musicians and aspiring writers on music. The summer organist for St. Michael's, she has over 20 years experience as a collaborative pianist and accompanist for soloists and college and community choirs. For decades she has taught piano to adults and children using the Taubman/Golandsky technique. A freelance writer for The Santiva Chronicle, she covers "soft" news and music and arts events. She continues her career in academe, teaching online courses in music appreciation, world music and American popular music. Her missions at St. Michael and All Angels include public relations and music.