

ADULT FORMATION

2025 - 2026 Catalog



Growing in Love | Maturing in Faith | Practicing Hope in Action



**ALL
SAINTS'**
EPISCOPAL + ATLANTA

Note from Jenny *Inviting Transformation*

Dear saints,

What a gift to be able to invite you into a wide array of formation offerings this year. Are you looking for community? Are you looking for spiritual conversations? Are you looking for Bible study and theological reflection? Are you looking for contemplative practices? Are you looking to join reflection with action? If so, there is something here for you.

Adult Formation at All Saints' invites the Holy Spirit's transformation in our lives, deepening our Christian faith for our own sake and for the sake of the world. Christian formation involves the whole of who we are. It is learning to love God, as Jesus says, "with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27). The Christian tradition has referred to this process as "sanctification," commonly defined as becoming holy, but as Trappist monk Thomas Merton said, sanctification is better understood as discovering one's true self — maturing into the persons God created us to be. In Merton's words, "To be a saint means to be myself."

Christian formation is an ongoing process of growing in relationship with God, self, others, and all of creation. This process leads to both personal and societal transformation. Markers of growth in Christian love include:

- Maturing as hearers of God's Word (pursuing biblical and theological understanding).
- Maturing in prayer and contemplative practices (that deepen our relationship with God).
- Maturing in service to God and one another (inside and outside parish walls).
- Maturing in solidarity with all God's children (befriending, accompanying, and learning from those who are directly impacted by injustice).
- Maturing in hope (envisioning God's new world and living into that creative vision).

Each of our formation opportunities facilitate growth in one or more of these areas. We hope you will join us on this amazing journey!

With joy, 

The Rev. Dr. Jennifer M. McBride



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Looking for a list of dates? Scan for the at-a-glance 2025-2026 Adult Formation Schedule.



Adult Formation at All Saints' seeks to invite the Holy Spirit's transformation in our lives, deepening our Christian faith for our own sake and for the sake of the world.



School of the Spirit

Wednesday Night Adult Formation at All Saints'

Parishioners can follow a sequence of learning or dive in at any point. The Inquirer's Class is an orientation to the parish; Christianity 101 is an orientation to Christian faith; and School of the Spirit 201 offers a range of opportunities to go deeper.

Inquirer's Class Fall 2025

***Wednesdays, October 29 & November 5, 12 & 19
6:30 - 8:00 p.m. | Mostly via Zoom***

The Inquirer's Class is a four-part introduction to the life of faith at All Saints' and is required for parishioners seeking to be confirmed, received into the Episcopal church from another denomination, or re-affirm their faith. All Saints' Rector, Simon Mainwaring, discusses leadership and the baptized life (exploring opportunities to exercise one's gifts for ministry in the church and city); Christian identity as rooted in justice and love (with focus on our core service ministries); spirituality and expressing our faith (exploring opportunities for worship and spiritual formation); and the church as community (focusing on opportunities for relationship and connection). To register for this or future dates, contact Tracey Sage at tsage@allsaintsatlanta.org.

Christianity 101: Faith Foundations

***Wednesdays, April 15, 22, 29 & May 6, 13, 20, 27
6:30 - 8:00 p.m. | Hybrid, In-Person & Via Zoom***

Are there things you think you should know about Christian faith but don't? Things you wish you could articulate but don't quite have the words for? Whether you are a new or longtime parishioner, this class is for you! This course is meant to be a bridge between the Adult Inquirer's Class and the School of the Spirit offerings. This seven-session course taught by Rev. Dr. Jenny McBride, is open to anyone who wants to learn — or relearn — the basic building blocks of the Christian tradition and their relevance for our life of faith.

School of the Spirit 201

Wednesdays, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. | Hybrid, In-Person & Via Zoom

School of the Spirit 201 consists of mini-courses, approximately three-to-five sessions each, often taught by clergy, that engage the Bible, theology, worship & liturgy, Christian practices, and Christian public engagement. No prerequisites required!

This 2025-26 program year, the School of the Spirit will offer:

Encountering Scripture: Paul
with Rev. Dr. Simon Mainwaring
September 10, 17 & October 1

Abundance in Community: A Course on Faith and Money with parishioner Emilie Hill, Director of Stewardship Julie Lockhart, Rev. Dr. Jenny McBride, and Candler Foundry's Rev. Dr. Jennifer Quigley
October 8, 15, 22, 29

Encountering Scripture: The Prophets
with Rev. Naomi Tutu
November 5, 12, 19

Encountering Scripture: The Psalms
with Candler Foundry's Dr. Ryan Bonfiglio
January 14, 21, 28 & February 4

Practical Matters: Practicing Prayer
with Rev. Dr. Jenny McBride
February 25 & March 4, 11, 18, 25

The Meaning of Worship
with Rev. Dr. Andy Barnett
April 15, 22, 29



*Sundays
Mornings*

Sunday Formation Series

Rector's Forums

Sundays, 10:30 - 11:05 a.m. | Ellis Hall

Partners Across the World

September 21

Join Rev. Dr. Simon Mainwaring and members of the team who visited our partners in Tanzania this summer as they share what they experienced and saw, and hear how you can be part of the future of this and new partnerships around the world.

Fall 2025 Rector's Forum Series: What's the Big Idea?

October 26, November 9, December 14

Join us as our rector, Rev. Dr. Simon Mainwaring, explores the thinking that is shaping the first half of this century.

Spring 2026 Rector's Teaching Series

April 19 & 26

Mark your calendars to join our rector for his Spring Teaching Series.

Adult Forums

Sundays, 10:30 - 11:05 a.m. | Hybrid, In-Person & Via Zoom

Adult Forums are occasional offerings held throughout the program year during the Sunday morning formation period. They provide opportunities to hear from guest-speakers or to learn from parishioners on a specific topic of interest to the congregation.

Join us this 2025-2026 program year for:

**Growing as a Community of Care:
Mental Health 101 with Dr. Ben Hunter,
Skyland Trails Chief Medical Officer**

November 16

**The Great Music of Advent
with parishioner Bob Edge**

November 23

**Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Forum
with Iconographer Laura James**

January 18

**Core Ministry Forum
with Covenant Community**

May 3

**Bishop's Forum
with The Rt. Rev. Rob Wright**

May 10

The Vocation of Faith Series: Accepting God's Call ...

Sundays 10:30 - 11:05 am | Ellis Hall

The Sunday morning Vocation of Faith Series focuses on the various ways God calls us to be more fully human, as we accept God's call. Especially in times of crisis, it is vital that we connect with the deepest parts of our humanity. In the words of Toni Morrison, "That is how civilizations heal." In this series, parishioner-presenters will share their own call story into one of the topics, as well as specific insights they've gained from their own experience, with an eye toward its devotional or formative quality: How does the practice help us grow closer to God or help us be the people God intends us to be for our own good? While the first session will be lecture-style, the second session will consist of guided table conversations, with an aim toward showing the broader implications of the topic beyond the speaker's own story, so that parishioners may hear the call for themselves.

To Work, with Todd Bouldin
September 7 & 14

To See Beauty, with Andrew Westover
September 28 & October 5

To Plant, with Sam Martinez
January 4 & 11

To Sing, with Virginia Schenck
January 25 & February 1

To Dream, with Virginia Apperson
February 15 & 22

On-Going Classes

Classes that meet consistently throughout the year provide a special opportunity for participants to build deep and lasting community with one another:

Jesus on the Front Page with Ethel Ware Carter

Sundays, 10:30 - 11:05 a.m. | Parish Hall 307

In this weekly Sunday morning discussion of a current news story, participants reflect on how the world of that story calls us to live as faithful people. In a nonpartisan reflection, we explore how we might be called to pray differently, think differently, or act differently in our private and public lives. We ask where God might be found in this story, as we notice signs of grace, engage the scriptures, and learn to name our lament as well as our hope. Contact Clark Lemons at clemons@emory.edu.

Parenting with God with Kathy Roberts, Director of Children's Ministries

Sundays, September 14, October 19, November 16, December 14, January 11, February 22, March 8, March 22, May 3 | 10:30 - 11:05 a.m. | 3rd Floor Parish Hall

Gather with parents of children at any age or stage to share wisdom, questions, and concerns about the incredible journey of parenthood. Learn how to weave faith into each developmental stage and into your family's everyday life together. This class meets on Sunday mornings, approximately once a month, throughout the program year. Contact kroberts@allsaintsatlanta.org.

The Journey Bible Study with Rev. Karen Evans

Mondays, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Via Zoom

This priest-led Bible Study over Zoom focuses on one book of the Bible at a time, exploring the history, context, genre, and uniqueness of each book. Participants discuss how each passage speaks to them personally and what it has to say to the church today. The Bible Study meets during the program year, between Labor Day and Pentecost, on Monday mornings. Contact kevans@allsaintsatlanta.org.



Seasonal Offerings *Advent & Lent*

One Parish, One Book

Sunday Mornings During Advent & Lent | 3rd Floor Parish Hall or Tuesday Evenings During Advent & Lent | Via Zoom

During the seasons of Advent and Lent, the entire parish will read one book together and gather over four weeks for small group discussion, in person during the Sunday morning formation period or over Zoom on Tuesday evenings.

Migrant God: A Christian Vision for Immigrant Justice **Isaac Samuel Villegas**

Books chosen for the Advent season help us anticipate, and start to live into, the coming kingdom of God, by turning our attention outward toward Christian social ethics and the church's public witness. (Mark your calendars also for a Faith & Justice Luncheon with our Advent author on November 9.)

Learning to Pray: A Guide for Everyone **James Martin, SJ**

Books chosen during Lent focus on our interior lives, offering opportunities for growth in practices of prayer and self-reflection.

Holy Week Speaker Series

*Monday March 30, Tuesday March 31, and Wednesday April 1
12:00 - 1:00 p.m. | Ellis Hall*

Holy Week is a time of wonder and reflection. Join fellow parishioners for this annual tradition of a three-part lunch and learn series where through dialogue we deepen our appreciation of the great mystery of faith.



Women's Ministry

Women's Spirituality & Health Series

When asked what commandment of the law is the greatest, Jesus replied “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment” (Matthew 22:37-38). How do we love God with our whole selves? How do we live into this love with minds buffeted by stressors from within and without? How do we live into this love with earthly bodies that are ever changing across our lifespan? We welcome women of all ages and stages of life to join us for a two-part luncheon series this fall followed by an overnight retreat in January. Together we will ponder these questions and explore the relationship between health and spirituality in our lives. Bring your questions, curiosity, and lived experience to share! **Participants are welcome to attend any combination of these events:**

Women's Spirituality & Health Luncheons

Sunday, September 21 & November 16 | 12:30 - 2:00 p.m., Ellis Hall

The Sunday afternoon lunch sessions will be led by parishioner, physician, and seminary student Wendy Little. The first session will be an overview of the intersection of spiritual, physical, and mental health. During the second session parishioners and women's health specialists Jenny Lyman MD and Amy Gaynor WHNP will help us explore the mysteries and changes of our bodies throughout our lives.

Women's Spirituality & Health Overnight Retreat

Overnight Retreat: Friday, January 30 - Sunday, February 1, Location TBD

Our January retreat will be led by nutritionist and parishioner Karen Riggs and Rev. Natosha Reid Rice. It will explore food at the intersection of spiritual, physical, and mental health.

Advent Women's Retreat

Sponsored by the Women's Intergenerational Group

Saturday, December 6 | 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Join fellow parishioners for a meditative, partial day, Advent retreat led by Rev. Dr. Jenny McBride as we reflect on “All the Marys”: Mary the Mother of Jesus, Mary of Bethany, and Mary Magdalene — each of whom defy expectations of patriarchy and offer compelling examples of courageous faith. We will gather in the chapel and prepare ourselves for the season through song, biblical reflection, icons, film clips, and a labyrinth walk.



Small Groups *Adult Formation*

Parishioner-led small groups range from All Saints' participation with national & denominational programs to parishioner-created groups. The groups vary in nature.

Adult Formation Small Groups

Prayer in Motion

Wednesdays, 5:30 - 6:20 p.m. | 3rd Floor Pritchett Center, The Attic

Christians believe that God chose to dwell fully in human flesh through Jesus and lives in us through the Holy Spirit. Prayer in Motion is a 50-minute spiritual exercise that helps participants become more aware of God's presence in our bodies, particularly as we move with intention. Accessible to all ages and abilities, this form of prayer integrates guided meditation, visualization, and breathing exercises with stretching, shaking, and strengthening exercises. Through Prayer in Motion, we reclaim the body as central to our spiritual formation, the site where we may encounter the divine. Contact parishioner-instructor, Erik Thurmond at e.marcel.thurmond@gmail.com.

Education for Ministry (EfM)

***Weekly | Mondays, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m., off-campus or
Wednesdays, 6:15 - 8:45 p.m., All Saints' Library***

EFM is a four-year program developed by Sewanee's School of Theology that covers the basics of theological education: Biblical studies, Church history, liturgical studies, theology, and Christian ethics. The hallmark of EfM is the weekly, structured, group theological reflection that brings what participants are learning and the faith they profess into conversation with the lives they are living. Participants meet regularly for a weekly seminar, from Labor Day Weekend to Memorial Day Weekend, under the guidance of trained mentors. All Saints' has had at least 400 graduates since the program began in the 1980s. Contact Steve Hines at jobguru@aol.com.

Sacred Ground

2nd and 4th Mondays, Starting October 13, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. | Via Zoom

Sacred Ground is a film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Small groups are invited to walk through chapters of America's history of racism and learn about the social construction of race, while weaving in threads of one's own family story, economic class, and political and regional identity. This curriculum is part of Becoming Beloved Community, the Episcopal Church's long-term commitment to strive for racial healing and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society. The eleven-session curriculum takes approximately six months to complete, meeting every other week. Contact: Ann Stuart Pearce, at sacredground@allsaintsatlanta.org.

Contemplative Prayer

Weekly | Wednesdays, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Join fellow parishioners for contemplative prayer. Participants, ranging from new to seasoned practitioners, read aloud from and discuss contemplative writers in the first half hour, then practice silent centering prayer in the second half hour. Contact Gretchen Chateau at jetteyeknight@hotmail.com.



Parish Life Small Groups

Adult Formation Small Groups, Cont.

Labyrinth Ministry

All Saints' invites you into the spiritual practice of walking a labyrinth with facilitators, who host these special gatherings. This embodied prayer practice can be added to any All Saints' gathering or retreat to enrich the experience. All Saints' also sees the labyrinth as a vehicle for public ministry and seeks opportunities to take this practice into the broader community. Look for opportunities to walk the labyrinth during the Women's Advent Retreat, Holy Week, and on World Labyrinth Day, May 2. Contact Barrie Gibby at bargibby@gmail.com.

Men's Spirituality Group

Thursdays, 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. | Via Zoom

The Men's Spirituality Group invites anyone wanting to grow in faith and male friendship to join them by Zoom weekly for Thursday morning prayer. Contact Stan Hitron at shitron@gmail.com.

Sports and Spirituality

3rd Thursday of the month, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. | Via Zoom

This small group comprised of sports lovers, discusses the intersection of sports and Christian spirituality, often through humor. Participants bring a favorite sports story to begin the conversation. Contact Paul Terlemezian at pault@fivealliances.com.

Parish Life Small Groups

Novel Theology

Third Wednesday of the Month, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m., 3rd Floor Parish House

Parishioners discuss a novel they have read in advance and engage in theological reflection on the story. Discussion leaders rotate among the participants. Contact Laura Trott at lmtrrott@gmail.com.

Jezebels Women's Book Study

Wednesdays, September through May, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m., In-Person & Zoom

Jezebels Women's Book Study is a reading and discussion group for women of all ages and interests. Meeting for more than twenty years, Jezebels has explored a wide variety of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, plays, religious writings, occasional films, and has even gone on an occasional field trip or two. Participants meet in person at the church for the initial discussion of each new book, and the rest of the discussions meet over Zoom. Participants take turns leading the weekly discussion of a portion of the current book under exploration. Contact Mimi Spang at mimispang@comcast.net.

Foyer Groups

Meet Monthly on Saturday or Sundays

Broaden your circle of friends by getting to know those familiar faces of All Saints'! Foyer Groups include 10-12 people selected randomly who fellowship monthly on a Saturday or Sunday over dinner in a parishioner's homes. The host for the month provides the main course, with the rest of the group providing the fixings. Sign-up by emailing Barbara Blender at bblender@bellsouth.net.



Faith & Justice

The Faith & Justice Collective offers opportunities to mature in Christian love through a life of action and reflection, offering opportunities to practice our faith and then reflect on that practice.

The Collective is comprised of groups seeking to live out our Baptismal Covenant to love our neighbors and strive for justice and peace. We believe that God's commands spoken through the prophets and embodied in the life and teachings of Jesus requires a threefold commitment — to the works of mercy in Matthew 25; to the struggle for justice; and to a posture of humility that necessitates we learn from people directly impacted by injustice (see Micah 6:8). We want our struggle for justice to be energized not by partisan politics but by friendship with real human beings.

While some groups in the Collective focus on education, some on friendship across difference, and some on advocacy in its variety of forms, we all work together in overlapping and mutually supportive ways. Many parishioners in the Collective are also active in our Core Ministries (Threads, Refugee Ministries, Covenant Community, and Midtown Assistance Center).

Faithful Advocates

Faithful Advocates works in collaboration with other faith communities and local organizations to promote justice, peace, and human dignity by participating in the democratic process. We focus on policies that deeply impact the people we love and serve in our Core Ministries and our larger parish community. We work in a nonpartisan manner raising awareness and focusing primarily on the state-level by connecting with legislators through various communication channels, including annual Lobby Days. Contact Suzanne Wakefield at faithfullocals@gmail.com.

Freedom Writers

Freedom Writers is a pen-pal ministry with individuals incarcerated at a women's facility in Georgia. Prepared through a letter writing training, parishioners initiate friendship and participate in a monthly time of reflective processing over Zoom with other All Saints' letter writers. During our monthly meetings, we pray for our new friends and discuss what we are learning from our pen pals about the prison system and about ourselves. Contact Rev. Dr. Jenny McBride at jmcbride@allsaintsatlanta.org.

Sacred Ground

Sacred Ground is a film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. This curriculum is part of Becoming Beloved Community, a curriculum of the Episcopal Church. Contact Ann Stuart Pearce, at sacredground@allsaintsatlanta.org. (See the longer description above, found under Parishioner-Led Small Groups).

The Micah Project

The Micah Project facilitates educational opportunities and honest conversations about the intersecting realities of race, class, gender & sexuality. These conversations help us discern ways we may be proactively justice-oriented in our interpersonal relationships and public witness. We gather to study, attend programs, and embark on an occasional domestic pilgrimage, centering our reflections on our responsibilities as Christians. Contact Rev. Dr. Jenny McBride at jmcbride@allsaintsatlanta.org.



Faith & Justice

The Faith & Justice Collective Luncheon Series

Sundays, September 7, November 9, January 11, March 8, April 26
12:30 - 2:15 p.m. | Ellis Hall

Throughout the program year, the Collective hosts a series of luncheons in Ellis Hall following the 11:15 a.m. service. The luncheons provide opportunities for justice-minded parishioners to get to know one another, hear about the upcoming work of the various F&J groups, and learn from a variety of guest speakers doing inspiring work in the world. Contact Rev. Dr. Jenny McBride at jmcbride@allsaintsatlanta.org.

The Gospel at Stake? A South African Theological Story

September 7

South African theologian Robert Vosloo will reflect on his experience as a white theological student during the 1980s and 90s, when the struggle against the injustices of Apartheid reshaped his faith. Vosloo will speak to how themes of memory, hospitality, and recognition can be guiding concepts as we grapple with what it means to witness to the gospel in disturbing times.

Migrant God: A Christian Vision for Immigrant Justice

November 9

Mennonite pastor Isaac Villegas weaves together his lived experience as a pastor, organizer, and activist with biblical, theological, and political reflection. We will be reading his book, *Migrant God*, for our Advent One Parish One Book discussion, so come get to know the author first!

Rule of Life Small Groups

At the conclusion of a Faith & Justice Collective Luncheon, days after the November 2024 election, a group of parishioners began asking, “How can we live a better way?” — where we aren’t reacting but discerning, where our outward life of action and our inward life of prayer strengthen each other? How can we live more intentionally, guided by God’s Spirit? What emerged was a rule of life that includes a monthly communal meal, daily personal prayer, and faithful action. Parishioners join with each other in small groups and commit to forming intentional community, living contemplatively, and discerning (together or as individuals) regular acts of service, solidarity, or advocacy. To join a small group, contact Rev. Dr. Jenny McBride at jmcbride@allsaintsatlanta.org.





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