

## ALL SAINTS ADULT EDUCATION -- FALL - 2011

“Come and be Fed” is part of All Saints’ mission statement. **The** question is: how can we humans change the choices we make to nourish ourselves so that we protect the Earth and the Creatures who inhabit it? The Adult Education Program at All Saints this fall will **explore our human responsibility to God and earth!**

The Education Committee selected FOOD--nutritional and spiritual--as the theme because we found that conversations centered upon food, faith, and wisdom offer a springboard for us to think more deeply about the inter-connectedness of all God-created life. We concluded the following: that

- Creation is good--a blessing to be faithfully appreciated and preserved.
- Our beloved Earth is under increasing distress, and the current food system has significantly contributed to the problem.
- It is evident that we are on a path that is not sustainable for future generations.
- The established food system from farm to fork needs redirection.

We will seek insight into the questions of **spirit and body nourishment partly by looking to three creation-centered spiritual traditions: Hebrew, Celtic, and Eastern Orthodox.** At **Sunday Forums** in the Library following Coffee Hour, we will emphasize the mystical, imaginative and artistic sides of these traditions--the food for soul. **Wednesday Classes** at 7 p.m. will also give attention to the creative and sacred; our special focus will be on fairness, ethics, and accountability in relation to nourishment. Once each month before the Wednesday Class we will provide the parish a special adult communal meal using the talents of parish gourmet cooks and presenters reflective of the particular tradition we are studying.

Jewish Influenced Meal - 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 21

Celtic Meal - 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 19

Greek Meal - 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 30

**SUNDAY FORUMS** in the Library at 11:30 a.m.

### **WISDOM LITERATURE from HEBREW SCRIPTURES**

**September 18** - Chaplain Sarah Midzalkowski will lead a panel, including David Wisner, Mary Sharp, and Father Andrew, which will introduce us to the Wisdom Literature (Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs).

**September 25** - Parish member/actress Jean Lepard will be featured in a play about the Book of Job as adapted by author turned playwright, member Vic Rauch. Other members and attendees, including Sue Kamens, Janet Chegwiddden, Gina Lee, and Melissa DeRosia, will bless us with their acting skills.

**October 2** - The wonderfully colorful and wise Gordon Rohman will demonstrate his professorial/ poetic skills in a lecture about the provocatively erotic Song of Songs.

**October 9** - Along with another who is more familiar with Jungian psychology, I will review Archetypes and Proverbs.

**October 16** - We conclude our exploration of the Wisdom Literature with a presentation by Nell Corkin and David Wisner. They will guide us into the eccentricity of Ecclesiastes from an artistic and a theological perspective; specifically, **Songs** through the ages inspired by the text.

### **CELTIC – CHRISTIAN**

**October 23** - Carrie Euler and another person well versed in the subject will conduct an overview of the Celtic Tradition from a historical standpoint.

**October 30** - Long time All Saints member Tom Cox and I will take you into the imaginative inner landscape of beauty and belonging (Celtic Style) through the eyes the late Irish poet/philosopher and former priest John O'Donohue

**November 6** - Dottie Hoopingarner (with assistance) will offer a celebration of, and appreciation for, Celtic Music.

**November 20** - Jenifer Banks and Howard Anderson review the aliveness of nature in the Celtic tradition through its poetry, prayers and blessings.

### **EASTERN ORTHODOX**

**November 27** - A Capella group Ad Hominem will offer an introductory course on chanting.

**December 4** - Pastor Kit will provide her take on the mystery of the infinite becoming finite, the immortal becoming mortal, God in fundamental solidarity with humanity.

**December 11** - Chris Thomas will see that we understand the unique view of the Incarnation from works of the visionary Rudolph Steiner.

**December 18** - Parish members will take us into a world of Cathedrals reviewing some famous paintings and choral works

### **WEDNESDAY EVENING CLASSES**

in the Lounge at 7 p.m.; DINNERS at 6:30 p.m. in the Undercroft

Martha Lynch developed this summary of our approach to our Wednesday evening classes, which **begin September 14**: “Come and be nourished-share, celebrate, learn, and imagine! They will be a banquet of offerings for us. As a community of faith, we will explore the relationship between spirituality and food. This smorgasbord will satisfy a variety of tastes, including one delicious, specialty meal celebration each month!

Pastor Kit will begin the conversation by talking about the relationship between foods, the Earth, and our Creator. Over the course of the next four months, we will host an author, an organic farmer, local restaurateurs, and a member of a local community garden project, a representative of the Greater Lansing Area Food Bank, several members of the parish who have made

intentional choices about food, and members of the parish whose professional work relates to food.

Our time together will involve a variety of sensory experiences: eating, film, discussion, listening to experienced voices, poetry, and prayer. Though we encourage you to attend as many sessions as you are able, each one will be independent of the others, so if you miss one, come along to the next one! Every one of your voices, concerns, hopes, and prayers are an important part of this formation journey. Please save Wednesday evenings this fall and join the conversation-and the celebration-around food.

**September 14** - Pastor Kit returns us to the primordial Garden of Eden, where she asserts “our story of relationship with God, one another, the world and our sustenance begins.” Kit will look at how the Hebrew words and ancient understandings of humanity’s relation to Creator and Creation, found in Genesis, “can inform our upcoming investigations of our relationship with food, the earth and our Maker”

### **September 21 – A Jewish Feast**

**September 28** - A panel will discuss hunger in our community. What do those with less eat, and where do they find nourishment? Are there new solutions to the age old hunger question?

**October 5** - We will watch and discuss a documentary about two farmers from different generations. How can the past teach us and how can we bring back beauty and health to a damaged Earth?

**October 12** - Our own John Thurber is an assistant attorney general for the State of Michigan. Among his duties is to defend Michigan in lawsuits brought by prisoners concerning, among other things, their federal right to foods consistent with their religious practice. John and Doug Powell (also an assistant a.g.) will give us insight into feeding the least of our brothers and sisters. Louis Burgess will provide us an update on state school lunch programs.

### **October 19 –A Celtic Feast**

**October 26** - Local restaurant owners who prepare and serve food which is grown locally will talk with us about how locally grown food consumption is good for the local economy, our bodies and the Earth.

**November 9** - Film-Either *Sustainable Faith: God, the Environment and Human Responsibility* (Krista Tippett, Speaking of Faith) or *Urban Roots*-a film about urban farming in Detroit.

**November 16** - A conversation with Wildflower Eco farmer Phil Throop

**November 23** – As you prepare for your Thanksgiving meal, think about applying what you’ve learned.

### **November 30 – A Greek Feast**

**December 7** - Panel discussion with parish members who participate in Community Share Agriculture, grow edible gardens, and raise livestock.

**December 14** - Martha Lynch reviews the poetry and insight of Wendell Berry-Love Incarnate in the Agrarian Way.