

SEPTEMBER 2022

THE LION'S TALE

The Seasonal Magazine of St. Mark's, Mystic



Betsy shares a story time at St. Mark's about ocean pollution as part of her Girl Scouts Gold Award.

BACK TO SCHOOL

THE CHURCH CRACKED OPEN

A Book Study Taking Place On Certain Wednesdays This Fall

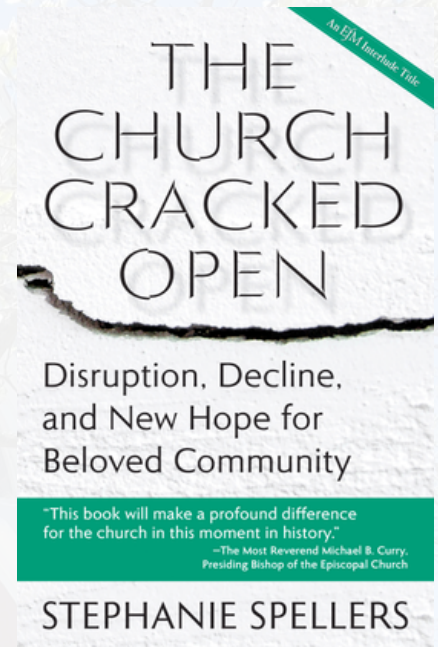
By Pastor Adam

This fall, we are joining friends from Calvary Stonington and St. James New London and going on a journey into the past, present, and future of the church. With the Rev. Stephanie Spellers as our guide, we will look at how the Church became entangled with Empire, and then practice the ways God is calling us to let go of that identity going forward. Spellers contends that we are in a special moment where we as the church can choose our path. She says, “Decades of disruption and decline – culminating in the crises of pandemic, economic collapse, and racial reckoning – might be the shove we need to recenter away from empire and onto God and God’s dream.”

Spellers frames *The Church Cracked Open* with the gospel story of the woman anointing Jesus with the contents of her alabaster jar. Jesus admires this woman after her profoundly disruptive appearance. Spellers says, “[Jesus] must have valued her ability to discern what’s important. Some disciples obsessed over the container, but what good is an exquisite jar if the ointment it holds can’t get out? Others were anxious about losing the expensive nard, but what good is life-giving ointment if you don’t share it with people in their time of need? She broke the jar. She poured out the oil. God blesses her for it.”

Over the eight sessions of our time together, we will work our way through *The Church Cracked Open*. We will look at the reality of the church in its past and present context – the gore and the glory. And then we will talk about the practices of kenosis (that is, emptying of power and privilege), solidarity, and discipleship. Along the way, Spellers will provide modern examples of Christians who revealed the dream of God during the time of imperial entanglement.

A book of revelations, *The Church Cracked Open* will crack our hearts open so the authentic dream of God can filter in and escape out. Join us on site at St. Mark’s or on Zoom certain Wednesdays this fall from 7-8:15pm (Join Zoom with this link – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/95616082345>). Order the book online or pick up a copy at Bank Square Books in Mystic.



Study Dates

All sessions will be held from 7:00-8:15pm

- September 14th
- September 28th
- October 5th
- October 19th
- November 2nd
- November 16th
- November 30th
- December 14th

How To Purchase A Book

Online - <https://bit.ly/sm-buy-book>

Locally - Bank Square Books in Mystic

Attend Online or On-site

Online - <https://bit.ly/cracked-open-zoom-link>

On-site at St. Mark’s

YOUTH MINISTRY

STORY QUEST RETURNS

By Pastor Adam

Our middle and high schoolers will once again return to StoryQuest, sharing stories and growing together this fall. By telling a story together they learn the soft skills of collaboration, improvisation, flexibility, and creativity, all the while practicing the main thing that separates humans from other animals – our ability to make meaning through stories. After all, that’s what makes the Bible so special. The Bible is a collection of stories about God’s relationship with the created world, as told through the specific experiences of many, many

people in the ancient world. Taking their cue, we are practicing our ability to make meaning and share stories in StoryQuest.

Last year in their story, the teens saved a little girl from a deathly illness and chose the path of nonviolence when confronting a dragon. This year, they find themselves in the realm of faeries, where they will have to decide how to stand up to tyrannical regime. We will learn together, have fun, and pray this year as we practice being “storied” people.

Do you remember Driving with Miss Daisy? What a great relationship Daisy had with her driver. Well this is the time for you to experience that relationship by driving our own Miss Daisy to the Ten o’ Clock Mass. Our Miss Daisy lives in Groton by the Spot Café. I have been driving her and would like to share the experience with others. If you can help drive her one Sunday a month please call me or email.

Many Thanks,
Ken Knott

917-301-2602 or KNOTTK@aol.com



THE FORUM HOUR

Fall 2022 (9am on Sundays)

The Way of Love

For the bulk of the semester, we will engage the Episcopal Church's discipleship curriculum known as the WAY OF LOVE. We'll explore seven practices that support the life of faith.



September 18 and 25
October 2, 9, 16, and 30
November 6, 13 and 20

October 23
Stewardship Meal Packing Event

Luke's Songs

During Advent, we will study three of the four songs that appear at the beginning of the Gospel of Luke: The Songs of Zechariah, the Song of Mary, and the Song of Simeon.

November 27
December 4 and 11

SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

— Mystic, Connecticut —

TEAM-CENTERED MINISTRY AT ST. MARK'S

Over the last year plus, the St. Mark's vestry has been exploring the organizational structure of the parish, and in doing so one thing became abundantly clear. There is A LOT going on at St. Mark's, and very few folks know about all of the opportunities to serve God that this complicated entity called St. Mark's offers. Add that to the fact that we have many new members who have joined us first via the livestream and have now started coming to worship on-site. And add that for nearly two years of pandemic time, some of our ministries were out of commission and others morphed due to the exigencies of the crisis...and...and...and...

You can see why we thought this fall would be a good idea to focus our energy on introducing or re-introducing our members to the myriad ways that we can match our passions with our service in God's mission here at St. Mark's.

INTRODUCING Team-Centered Ministry:

- No member serves alone
- We are all part of a team (or multiple teams!)
- Each team is ready to welcome new members
- Team contacts are available to describe their ministries
- We link members' gifts and passions with service
- New members have easy access to information about teams

WORSHIP TEAM

ALTAR GUILD

The dedicated members of the altar guild prepare our sanctuary for services each week. They set up the altar, change candles, polish brass, change the readings in the lectionary book, change the hymn numbers on the hymn board, wash the dishes after services, among other duties.

TEAM CONTACT

TERESA NORRIS
ALTAR GUILD CHAIR

FOR MORE INFO OR TO SIGN UP FOR THIS TEAM, PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE OR EMAIL:

VOLUNTEER@STMARKSMYSTIC.ORG

AND THE TEAM CONTACT WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU SOON

TIME COMMITMENT
2-4 Sundays every quarter, 15-30 minutes before and after the service.

Check out the new bulletin board in the Undercroft with flyers detailing all (or almost all) of the ministry opportunities at St. Mark's. Then if you want more information, email "volunteer@stmarksmystic.org" and the team contact will get back to you soon. We are so excited to make all the wonderful ministries at St. Mark's more accessible to more people.

Which team do you feel called to join?

UPDATE FROM ST. LUC'S SCHOOL IN HAITI

September 1st, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Administration of Saint-Luc School sends its greetings to you in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I have the honor to write you a few lines as a sign of gratitude and recognition.

Since my arrival at the Parish of Saint-Croix as priest in charge, your parish of Saint Mark has always responded positively to our requests and needs at St. Luc's school. Thank you very much for having asked my opinions and presented to me the different projects of the school. On behalf of the administration staff of this school and on my behalf I thank you for all you do. Your efforts do not go unnoticed. Thanks for your help and support. I want to inform you that your help is a large factor in the success of this institution both religiously and academically. This year the students have a high level of success. I really believe without you this would not have been possible. Thanks to your parish for not forgetting our Lord. The academic year was held in optimal conditions and success was guaranteed.

Your help will allow us to carry out our mission. You are a source of inspiration for Saint Luc. Your exceptional support has increased the school's income to its highest level. Your hard work turns into tangible benefits for our school. You play a crucial role in the success of this institution. Thank you for being someone we can count on and thank you for bringing a smile to all the administrative members of this school. Thank you for being the only one to give us a hand even in the most difficult times. Frankly, we could not do anything without you.

I am at your disposal if wish to know more about the school. May God continue to protect you. Our hands are open again for this new academic year.

Fr. Seme





BALLOON
Sunday

Sunday, September 11th

Join us for our *Balloon Sunday* celebration between the 8:00am and 10:00am services this Sunday, September 11th, as we celebrate the new program year at St. Mark's!

U P C O M I N G



Sunday, September 11th - Balloon Sunday

Godly Play begins
Nursery begins
Children's Choir begins

Tuesday, September 13th

Choir rehearsals begins (7:00-8:30pm)

Wednesday, September 14th

"The Church Cracked
Open Study Group" begins (7:00-8:15pm)

Sunday, September 18th

Adult Forum begins
Confirmation Class begins

THE LION'S TALE

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

15 Pearl Street

Mystic, CT 06355

Return Service Requested

First Class Mail

VESTRY

Lynn Batcho

Christian Cloutier

Maura D'Agostino

Mon Dickinson

Arlene Johnson

Bill Merrill

Teresa Norris

Celina Ortiz

Brae Rafferty

Katy Roberts

Jackie Stoltz

Fred Ziegler

MINISTERS

All members of the congregation

The Rev. Adam Thomas, Rector

David Tubbs, Music Director

Faithe Emerich, Communications

Bev Olsen, Senior Warden

Rob Christian, Junior Warden

Eric Bookmiller, Clerk

Dave Cruthers, Treasurer



SAINT MARK'S
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15 Pearl Street • Mystic, CT 06355

(860) 572-9549 • www.stmarksmystic.org