

## St. Thomas' Rector's Forum Series: January 2010

### January 3 – An Old Fashioned Bible Study: Reading Luke with Fresh Eyes – Part I

Have you ever wanted to read the Bible on your own, or tried and struggled? **Our Rector, Marek Zabriskie**, will lead us in a study of Luke's Gospel, best known for its unique stories and parables. Following a twenty minute presentation each Sunday, our Rector will encourage discussion around the tables based on specific biblical passages.

### January 10 – An Old Fashioned Bible Study – Part II

### January 17 – An Old Fashioned Bible Study – Part III

### January 24 – An Old Fashioned Bible Study – Part IV

### January 31 – The Future of Episcopal Theological Education



The Very Rev. Joe Britton, Dean of the Berkeley Divinity School at Yale, will speak about changes taking place in Episcopal seminaries and the life of persons preparing to become Episcopal priests. Does the Episcopal Church have a

bright future or not?

## Adult Small Group Opportunities for Winter 2010

The mission of Adult Spiritual Formation Commission is to foster spiritual and personal growth through Christian study and fellowship. We believe that Small Groups are a wonderful way to do this! Our Winter 2010 offerings cover a

variety of topics. We welcome & encourage your participation.

### *The Shack* by William P. Young

"Mackenzie Allen Phillips' youngest daughter, Missy, has been abducted during a family vacation and evidence that she may have been brutally murdered is found in an abandoned shack deep in the Oregon wilderness. Four years later in the midst of his Great Sadness, Mack receives a suspicious note, apparently from God, inviting him back to that shack for a weekend. Against his better judgment he arrives at the shack on a wintry afternoon and walks back into his darkest nightmare. What he finds there will change Mack's world forever. In a world where religion seems to grow increasingly irrelevant, "The Shack" wrestles with the timeless question, "Where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain?" The answers Mack gets will astound you and perhaps transform you as much as it did him." (from the book's cover). **January 10, 17, 24, 2010, 10:45-11:45am, Facilitator: Carl Jameson**

## Barbara Crafton Workshop Save the Date!

**Saturday, February 6, 2010 – Praying When It's  
Hard to Pray (9:00 a.m. to noon)**

When you're too scared to speak – or too sad. When a situation is so complex that you honestly don't know what to hope for. When you're not even sure what you want, or what's best. At such times, words fail us. There are ways through these uncertainties.



We'll look at some concrete ideas about kinds of prayer that might fit. One thing is certain: God does not leave us without a way to get

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

in touch. This program will be led by **the Rev. Barbara Crafton**, an Episcopal priest and spiritual director. She is author of many books, including *Jesus Wept: When Faith and Depression Meet*. Cost \$20.

**Saturday, February 6, 2010 – What Might it Mean to Do Without? (A Christian Responds to Hard Times) 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

We talk all the time about it – tightening our belts, shrinking our carbon footprint, living with less. We talk about it as individuals and as a nation – are we moving into a new era that won't automatically put us on top every time? And if we are, can we find a blessing in it? We'll look at the world and the church and at the response of a thoughtful individual to hard times. This program will be led by the Rev. Barbara Crafton, an Episcopal priest and spiritual director. She is author of many books, including *Jesus Wept: When Faith and Depression Meet*. Cost \$20.

To register, please contact the receptionist at the church office at 215-233-3970 or email Anita Burke at [aburke@stthomaswhitemarsh.org](mailto:aburke@stthomaswhitemarsh.org). Participants may attend both conferences for \$30. Attendance at both conferences is limited to 40 persons.

## St. Thomas' Photo Album:



Stewardship Sunday's Breakfast was a huge success!



Making Advent Wreaths on Sunday, Nov. 29, 2009



St. Nicholas brought treats to St. Thomas' children on Sunday, Dec. 6, 2009.



Cindy DeDakis and Alle<sup>g</sup>ro practicing in Groton House.