

YEAR OF DISCERNMENT SCHEDULE

September 2018-April 2019

Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist, Aptos, CA

UPDATED October 10, 2018

FAITH LEADER PROGRAM

(Modified for Congregation-Wide Use)

Sundays from 9:15-10:15 a.m., September 2018 – February 2019

Sept. 9 – Kick-Off Workshop

Sept. 16 – Faith Leader (FL) Session 1: Beginning the Journey

To Do Before This Class:

- Read the edited “Session 1: Beginning the Journey” provided by Mother Tracy
- Reflect on the question, “Where have you experienced the presence of God at St. John’s?” Come with a short answer (words or phrases) and be ready to elaborate if asked.

Sept. 23 – Session 2: Biblical Models of Leadership (Old Testament):

Joseph, Shiprah & Pua, Moses, Deborah, Samuel

To Do Before This Class:

- Read Session 2 in Book I of the Faith Leader materials (p. 7-10, Book I)
- If your biblical leader will be talked about this week (see list above), come prepared to share your answers to the Profile of a Biblical Leader (p. 12, Book I)

Sept. 30 – Session 2: Biblical Models of Leadership (Old Testament):

Joshua, David, Ruth, Nehemiah, Esther

To Do Before This Class:

- If your biblical leader will be talked about this week (see list above), come prepared to share your answers to the Profile of a Biblical Leader (p. 12, Book I)

Oct. 7 – Session 3: Biblical Models of Leadership (New Testament):

John the Baptist, Mary, Peter, Paul, Stephen

To Do Before This Class:

- If your biblical leader will be talked about this week (see list above), come prepared to share your answers to the Profile of a Biblical Leader (p. 12, Book I)

Oct. 14 – Session 4: Overview of Spiritual Gifts

To Do Before This Class:

- Read the “Introduction” in Session 4 (p. 17-26, Book I). (Ignore mentions of a retreat. We will not be going on a retreat.)
- Complete the Faith Leader Spiritual Gifts Inventory (p. 27-29, Book I)

- Use the corrected pinkish-colored paper to score your inventory
- Email Mother Tracy (rector@st-john-aptos.org) your 3-5 highest-ranking spiritual gifts from the inventory.

**Oct. 21 – Session 4: Looking Closely at Spiritual Gifts:
Administration, Artistry, Apostleship, Assistance, Compassion,
Craftsmanship, Discernment, Encouragement, Evangelism**

To Do Before This Class:

- On p. 31-40 of Book I, Read the Spiritual Gifts Definitions for Administration, Artistry, Apostleship, Assistance, Compassion, Craftsmanship, Discernment, Encouragement, and Evangelism, and think of only biblical examples and **congregational** examples for each. (Leave out the historical examples and personal examples.) A “congregational example” is someone at St. John’s who exemplifies this gift. Also list some of what you think would be the **strengths** and **challenges** of having each gift.

**Oct. 28 – Session 4: Looking Closely at Spiritual Gifts:
Faith, Giving, Healing, Hospitality, Humor, Intercessory
Prayer, Interpretation of Tongues, Knowledge, Leadership**

To Do Before This Class:

- On p. 31-40 of Book I, Read the Spiritual Gifts Definitions for Faith, Giving, Healing, Hospitality, Humor, Intercessory Prayer, Interpretation of Tongues, Knowledge, and Leadership, and think of only biblical examples and **congregational** examples for each. (Leave out the historical examples and personal examples.) A “congregational example” is someone at St. John’s who exemplifies this gift. Also list some of what you think would be the **strengths** and **challenges** of having each gift.

**Nov. 4 – Session 4: Looking Closely at Spiritual Gifts:
Miracles, Music, Pastoring, Prophecy, Service, Teaching,
Tongues, Wisdom, Writing**

To Do Before This Class:

- On p. 31-40 of Book I, Read the Spiritual Gifts Definitions for Miracles, Music, Pastoring, Prophecy, Service, Teaching, Tongues, Wisdom, and Writing, and think of only biblical examples and **congregational** examples for each. (Leave out the historical examples and personal examples.) A “congregational example” is someone at St. John’s who exemplifies this gift. Also list some of what you think would be the **strengths** and **challenges** of having each gift.

Nov. 11 – Session 4: God In My Life

To Do Before This Class:

- Nothing!

Nov. 18 – Session 5: Spiritual Types

To Do Before This Class:

- Read Session 5 (p. 47-50, Book I).
- Complete the Spirituality Wheel questionnaire (handout) twice – once marking the answers that resonate with you as an individual, and once marking the answers that you think reflect St. John’s as a whole. Bring these completed surveys to class.

Nov. 25 (Sun after Thanksgiving) – NO CLASS

Dec. 2 – Session 6: Intro to Spiritual Practices

To Do Before This Class:

- Read Session 6 (p. 1-5, Book II).
- Skim the more detailed handouts on the six “streams” of Christianity
- Complete the Spiritual Practice Profile (p. 6, Book II)
- Pick the 2 streams in which you feel you need to grow the most (circle them)

Dec. 9 – Sessions 7-12: Spiritual Practices

To Do Before This Class:

- Read the session corresponding to one of your areas in which you need to grow
- Try out one of the spiritual practices from that tradition during the week

Dec. 16 – Sessions 7-12: Spiritual Practices

To Do Before This Class:

- Read the session corresponding to the other areas in which you most need to grow
- Try out one of the spiritual practices from that tradition during the week

Dec. 23 – Session 13: A Guide for Living

To Do Before This Class:

- Read Session 13 (p. 61-65, Book II)
- Complete the updated Spiritual Practice Profile (p. 68-69, Book II), noting that the first column, “Eight Weeks Ago,” will actually be “Three Weeks Ago” (in other words, as of December 2), since we’re not doing the full eight weeks.
- Complete the Guide for Living Worksheet on p. 71

Dec. 30 (Sunday after Christmas) – NO CLASS

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Jan. 6 – Session 14: Introduction to Discernment

To Do Before This Class:

- Read Session 14 (p. 1-7, Book III)
- Complete the reflection questions on p. 7-8 (titled “For the Next Group Session,” starting at the bottom of p. 7)

Jan. 13 – Session 15: “When I Changed My Mind”

To Do Before This Class:

- Read Session 15 (p. 11-15, Book III)
- Write a 250-word essay on “When I Changed My Mind.” See instructions and sample beginning on the bottom of p. 15, “For the Next Session.” Even though the instructions say “You will be encouraged to read your essay at the next session,” due to the size of our group, not everyone will have time to share.

Jan. 20 – Session 16: “I Was Called To...”

To Do Before This Class:

- Read Session 16 (p. 19-23, Book III) (*If your book skips from p. 18 to p.21, there was an error in ordering of pages -- you'll find pages 19-20 after page 48.*)
- Write a brief essay on “I Was Called To...” See instructions at the bottom of p. 23. Even though the instructions say “You will share your essay at the next session,” due to the size of our group, not everyone will have time to share.

Jan. 27 – Session 17: Personal Guiding Scriptures

To Do Before This Class:

- Read Session 17 (p. 27-31, Book III)
- Do the “Assignment for Next Session” on p. 31-32.

Feb. 3 – NO CLASS – Annual Parish Meeting

Feb. 10 – Session 18: Five Values that Characterize My Church

To Do Before This Class:

- Read Session 18 (p. 37-40, Book III)
- Do the “Assignment for Next Session” on p. 41-43.
- Write your five words from the assignment on p. 41-43 on index cards, one word on each card, and bring those cards with you to class

Feb. 17 – NO CLASS (Helpful Shop grants luncheon after 10:30 service)

Feb. 24 – Session 19: “My Church is Called To...”

To Do Before This Class:

- Read Session 19 (p. 45-48, Book III)
- Do the “Assignment for Next Session” on p. 48.

March 3 – Session 20: Congregational Guiding Scriptures

To Do Before This Class:

- Read Session 20 (p. 51-54, Book III)
- Do the “Assignment for Next Session” on p. 54.

VISIONING & ACTION PLANNING

Sometime during Lent, we will reflect on everything we’ve learned about ourselves and about God’s call to us in the Faith Leader program and to collectively set a vision/mission statement and goals or areas of focus for the parish’s life for the next several years. Specific details to come closer to Lent.