

CHRISTIAN FORMATION COMMISSION

The third in a series of articles about Vestry Commissions at St. Martin's:

Richard Ambler and Carol Bright are Vestry Liaisons to Christian Formation. Carol defines that commission in three words: ***Seek and Serve***.

"We seek how to experience our faith in a very personal way," she said, "and we serve others in how to use their faith."

Under the direction of Ann Meyer, now in her 12th year at St. Martin's, that servitude encompasses every group in the parish.

The Adult Forum is an approximate one-hour presentation Sundays in Miles Hall that runs between the end of the 9:15 and the start of the 11 a.m. service. David Boyd recently delivered one on the Episcopal Prayer Book.

There are a host of programs geared to youth. J2A stands for Journey to Adulthood, Rite 13 is aimed at the spiritual education of middle school children, Sunday School is for children of all ages, including teens, Vacation Bible School and YAC round out the offerings.

EFM (Education for Ministry) is an intense, four-year program that educates people in ministry issues, and includes Bible Study and education on current religious trends and events.

There is a chapter of Episcopal Church Women, and there is the now-annual Lenten Devotional, in which parishioners submit their perspective on the gospels from Ash Wednesday to Easter.

As Ann Meyer said, "It is the job of Christian Formation to offer 'information' in as many ways as possible to capture the interest of as many people as possible so that the experiences of those who participate will lead them to more questions than answers. There is always more to learn in life and in church about God, His Son and the Holy Spirit."

Some examples of ways parishioners can be a part of this commission are by Participating in outreach, feeling the beauty of liturgy, receiving or giving pastoral care, planning and attending fellowship dinners and events, ushering, greeting, acolyting, joining the alter guild, or singing in the choir.

If any of these speak to you, contact Carol Bright at 757-645-2938 Richard Ambler at 757-220-3297 mr.richard.ambler@gmail.com or Emily Pease at 757-220-0948, or email them at lcbright@yahoo.com or ewpease@wm.edu.