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Scripture and Christian Ethics:  
How the Bible Informs our Decisions

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2018-2019  
Adult Forum  
Program

Christ Church  
Georgetown

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# Scripture and Christian Ethics

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**T**he 2018-2019 Adult Forum series focuses on how the Bible can and should help us live ethical Christian lives and make responsible decisions. For Episcopalians, Scripture is a key source of authority, but it is complex and can be used and interpreted in a wide variety of ways. We will begin the series by examining some key ways in which we read and understand Scripture. Next, we will consider several main themes in Christian ethics, including defining the neighbor, the role of scientific knowledge in religious and ethical reflection, the extent to which human beings are really “free” to make ethical choices, and how individuals and the Church make ethical decisions. The last several sessions will apply insights gained to a set of contemporary ethical issues. Each week throughout the series speakers will consider one Biblical passage in some detail to demonstrate the actual practice of engaging Biblical texts. Our hope is that this series will provide an opportunity to deepen our appreciation of the complexity of Christian ethical decisions, and to enliven the ways in which we can use and be formed by Scripture in our efforts to grow closer to God and to one another.

**Scripture and Christian Ethics:  
How the Bible Informs our Decisions**

**2018-2019  
Adult Forum Program**

Sept 16	<b>Introduction to the Bible and Ethics:</b> "The word is very near you" (Deuteronomy 30:11-14) by B. Seltser	Dec 9	<b>Scripture and the Scientific Age:</b> Moral Discernment, Human Technology, and Divine Image (Genesis 1:27-28; 3:8-12) by J. Farwell
Sept 23	<b>(Introduction cont'd)</b> How Do We Read Scripture: "Do you understand what you are reading?" (Acts 8:25-40) by B. Seltser	Dec 16	<b>Bicentennial Session: 1918-2018</b> by B. Pritchard
Sept 30	<b>(Introduction cont'd)</b> Empathy and Justice, A Deep Dive: "You are the man" (II Samuel 11-12) by B. Seltser	Dec 23	Christmas week - no session
Oct 7	<b>(Introduction cont'd)</b> Christian Ethics and Pluralism: "Wisdom cries aloud in the street" (Proverbs) by B. Seltser	Dec 30	New Years week – no session
Oct 14	<b>Bicentennial Session: 1818-1918</b> by B. Pritchard	Jan 6	Bicentennial Sunday – no session
Oct 21	<b>Who is Our Neighbor:</b> Covenant Relationships in Ancient Israel (Leviticus 19:1-18; 25: 8-17; 25-28; Ruth 1) by K. Staudt	Jan 13	<b>Justice, Divine and Human Ethics:</b> "Wilt thou indeed destroy the righteous with the wicked?" (Genesis 18:20-33) by B. Seltser
Oct 28	<b>Who is Our Neighbor:</b> Samaritans, Gentiles and Jesus (Luke 10:25-37; Mark 7:24-30) by K. Staudt	Jan 20	<b>Justice, Divine and Human Ethics:</b> The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5: 21-47) by K. Staudt
Nov 4	<b>Who is My Neighbor:</b> Jericho and the Tribal Limits of Moral Responsibility (Joshua 1-6) by F. Wade	Jan 27	<b>Justice, Divine and Human Ethics:</b> So Many to Love (Micah 6:1-8; Matthew 22:35-40) by J. Farwell
Nov 11	<b>Can We Kill the Neighbor, A Meditation on Veterans' Day:</b> "Love your enemies" (Matthew 5:38--48; Romans 13:1-7, Psalms 2, 46, 137, 147) by B. Seltser	Feb 3	Annual Parish Meeting – no session
Nov 18	<b>Scripture and the Scientific Age:</b> "Unless I see...I will not believe" (John 20:19-31) by B. Seltser	Feb 10	<b>Freedom:</b> Human Freedom and the Hardened Heart, "I will deliver you" (Exodus 5-11) by B. Seltser
Nov 25	Thanksgiving Weekend – no session	Feb 17	<b>Freedom:</b> The Exodus story and Liberation Theology (Exodus 3:7-12 and 14:10-14) by K. Staudt
Dec 2	<b>Scripture and the Scientific Age:</b> The Christmas Miracles Revisited (Luke 1-2) by F. Wade	Feb 24	<b>Freedom:</b> Paul, Luther and the freedom of the Christian (Galatians 5) by K. Staudt
		Mar 3	<b>Freedom:</b> Freedom and Sin in the Book of Jonah by F. Wade
		Mar 10	<b>How Does the Church Make Ethical Decisions:</b> Moral Reasoning, and an Anglican Approach (Philippians 2:5-11) by J. Farwell
		Mar 17	<b>Individual Decision Making:</b> Individual Autonomy and Christian Ethics: Euthanasia and Suicide: "We shall be changed" (I Corinthians 15) by B. Seltser

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**The Adult Forum takes place on Sundays from 10:05 to 11:00 a.m. in Keith Hall.**  
**All parishioners, guests, and visitors are welcome.**

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- Mar 24 **How Does the Church Make Ethical Decisions? Case Study:**  
An Investment Screen for Palestine  
(Luke 4:14-20; James 3:17-18) by J. Farwell
- Mar 31 **Individual Decision Making:**  
Individual Ethics: Sharing Possessions  
Luke 12:15-34; Luke 18:18-30) by B. Seltser
- Apr 7 **Individual Decision Making:**  
The Mind of Judas Iscariot by F. Wade
- Apr 14 Palm Sunday – no session
- Apr 21 Easter Day – no session
- Apr 28 Art Show – no session
- May 5 **Individual Decision Making:**  
Seeking Signs, Recognizing  
Temptations, Ignatian Spirituality and  
Scripture (Judges 6:36-40;  
Matthew 4:1-11) by K. Staudt
- May 12 **Collective Decision Making:**  
Welcoming the Stranger:  
“For you were strangers in the land of Egypt”  
(Leviticus 19:33-34; Luke 10:29-37;  
Matthew 25:31-46) by B. Seltser
- May 19 **Summary Session:**  
Scripture and Christian Ethics by B. Seltser and  
K. Staudt
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### Speakers

Continuity for the 2018-19 series is provided by the return of four very popular speakers:

Dr. Barry Seltser (B.A., Ph.D. Yale) taught religious studies at two universities, and has offered adult education courses at churches for more than 25 years. Dr. Seltser was a member of the Senior Executive Service at the U.S Government Accountability Office.

Dr. Kathleen H. Staudt (A.B. Smith; Ph.D. Yale) teaches theology, spirituality, and literature at Virginia Theological Seminary and Wesley Theological Seminary, and is active as a leader of retreats and education programs. She is the author of three books of poetry as well as a scholarly study of poet and artist David Jones.

The Rev. James Farwell (B.A. Catholic University; M.Div. General Theological Seminary; Ph.D. Emory University) is the Professor of Theology and Liturgy at Virginia Theological Seminary. Previously he taught at both General Seminary and Bethany College. He served for 20 years as a parish priest and is the author of two books on Episcopal Church liturgy.

The Rev. Dr. Francis H. Wade (graduate The Citadel, M. Div. Virginia Theological Seminary) was ordained in 1966 and served as Rector of St. Alban's and Interim Dean of the Washington National Cathedral. His sermons have been widely published and his meditations as Chaplain to the House of Deputies at the 2000 General Convention of the Episcopal Church were published by Forward Movement Press and recorded by The Episcopal Media Center under the title Jubilee People, Jubilee Lives. He is also the author The Art of Being Together: Common Sense About Life Long Relationships. He is currently is an adjunct professor at Virginia Theological Seminary.

### Adult Education Committee

The committee members for 2018-2019 are: Thomas Gibson (committee chair), William Burns, Margaret Costan, Timothy Carrington, Taylor Cortwright, Missy Daniel, Linda Gill, Boyden Gray, William Nitze, Mac Norton, Corky Stone, Sally Squires Wilhelm, and the Rev. Tim Cole and the Rev. Elizabeth Keeler (ex officio).

### Adult Education and Formation

Adult Education and Formation at Christ Church, Georgetown comes in many forms and primarily engages our Christian formation and spiritual growth through study, reflection, and discussion. With other believers and seekers, we use the gifts of faith and reason in seeking a deeper knowledge of God in our own lives, as encountered in the Risen Christ.

The Sunday Adult Forum Program is complimented by many additional opportunities for exploration and learning including: Wednesday Morning Bible Study, Women's Bible Study, The Men's Ministry Group, Seasonal Series, The Summer Education Series, The Inquirer's Class, Quiet Mornings, and Contemplative Life . Information concerning Adult Education and Formation offerings is offered in weekly service leaflets, the weekly Christ Church email, and on the Christ Church, Georgetown, website: [www.christchurchgeorgetown.org](http://www.christchurchgeorgetown.org).

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