



Unlocking God's
grace & hope

September 24-26, 2021

We've prayed for it

We've
experienced it

We know it

How do we help
others find it?

Come and see.

ST.MARY'S



IN THE MOUNTAINS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

In person in
Wilmington, VT
and on Zoom

Zoom or in Wilmington, VT St. Mary's in the Mountains Episcopal Church

As we emerge from the global pandemic,

- How will we offer God's grace and hope to our neighbors?
- How will we extend the Gospels' invitation to "come and see?"

Join us for a weekend of inspiration as we bring together some of the Episcopal Church's most innovative and inspiring leaders in evangelism. Come celebrate how we can extend God's grace and hope through music.



Workshops and Events



Friday, Sept. 24
Welcome and gathering to celebrate with Evening Prayer

Led by our conference chaplain, the **Rev. Canon Walter Brownridge**, Canon to the Ordinary for Cultural Transformation (*Diocese of Vermont*).

Saturday, Sept. 25
Learning to share God's Grace & Hope

Afternoon sessions are concurrent. All workshops will be recorded for viewing on demand.

Morning plenary session and workshops:
Opening Hearts and Doors: Evangelism 101
9:00 am - 11:00 am

Featuring Jerusalem Greer (*staff office for evangelism, Presiding Bishop's office*), the Rev. Marcus G. Halley (*Dean of Formation, Episcopal Church in Connecticut*), Rev. Titus Presler and the Green Mountain Witness Team (*Diocese of Vermont*).

After our opening discussion, all attendees (Zoom and in person) will have an opportunity to practice and observe sharing the Good News in small groups. This will include suggestions and feedback, and stories of shared experiences. Afterwards, we will reassemble in a plenary session to share what we have learned, and how we can use the insights we've gained.

Afternoon spoken sessions:
God's Grace & Hope in New Spaces and Places
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Discovering the Stirrings of the Spirit at the Pub and at the Laundromat:
We will explore unconventional forms of "church" with the Rev. Susan Ohlidal (*Pub Theology, St Johnsbury, VT*) and the Rev. Meredyth Wessman-Ward (*Diocesan Missioner, Worcester, MA*).

Engaging Young People in God's Mission: Sharing tips on connecting with an engaging young people with the Rev. Dr. Paul Carling (*former chaplain, Episcopal Church at Yale*) and the Rev. Matt Lindeman (*St Peters, Milford, CT*). This will be divided into two sessions: teens and young adults.

Letting Go of our Fear of Failure: Being fearless about new ways of messaging, ministry and worship, with the Rev. Lorenzo Lebrija, founder of TryTank, and author of "How to Try; Design Thinking and Church Innovation" (*Diocese of Los Angeles, CA*) and David Zahl, founder of Mockingbird (*Christ Church, Charlottesville, VA*).

Tackling the Roots of Reluctance: Episcopalians are shy about evangelism, largely thanks to negative stereotypes. The reality of evangelism is that it is really a spiritual practice, a prayerful orientation to God and the world, rather than an aggressive program, explains the Rev. Titus Presler (*vicar of St. Matthew's Church Enosburg Falls, VT is convener of Green Mountain Witness*).

Music-focused afternoon sessions:

Music—A Gateway to God's Grace, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
(with video, audio, and live illustrations)

Faculty: **Dent Davidson** (*Trinity Church, Santa Barbara, CA*), **Rev. Dr. Rick Bauer** (*St. Edwards, Lancaster, PA*), and **Joe & Holly Fortner** (*St Mary's in the Mountains, Wilmington, VT*).

Teaching the Bones to Sing: Making church music "swing" to reach more hearts. Finding unfamiliar ways to use familiar hymns to enliven services.

Finding and Tapping Your Resources: Inviting the hidden talents within your community with a wide range of musical skills and styles to make meaningful music in a sacred setting.

Finding the Sublime Where You Least Expect It: Unlocking messages of faith, hope, and God in popular music to both engage others in conversations and broaden the scope of your musical offerings.

If We Can Learn to Do It, You Can Learn to Do It, too: Enabling smaller parishes with limited resources to expand your parish's ability to share God's word.

Saturday evening:

Red Door Concert: "C'mon, Get Happy!" 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm



Sunday, Sept. 26
Morning Eucharist Celebration 11 am

Led by the **Rt. Rev. Dr. Shannon MacVean-Brown**, Bishop of Vermont, who will preach and preside.

Conference Faculty



The Rev. Dr. Rick Bauer—Before Father Rick landed as Rector of St. Edwards in Lancaster, PA, he rocked the world with the Rick Bauer Band, developing and composing his own songs of faith under the artist name Mr the Invisible, producing 9 CDs. Father Rick recently completed a Doctor of Ministry in Christian Leadership from Duke Divinity School, having obtained his Master of Divinity from Virginia Theological Seminary; a Master of Arts in Religious Studies from Florida International University; and a B.S. in Legal Studies from Nova Southeastern University. Father Rick can share his journey from creating and performing music of faith that reached large audiences, to Rector, charged with finding and utilizing available resources to lead a congregation, including its music, in a way that can inspire a faith community. Rick sings, plays bass and guitar, drums, and keyboards and continues to write and record with original material freely available at www.mrtheinvisible.com.



The Rev. Dr. Paul Carling—currently on sabbatical, completed 7 years as Chaplain of the Episcopal Church at Yale where he shared ministry with undergrad, grad and professional students, built a network of young adult Episcopalians (21-35), and equipped many seminarians to work with young adults. A clinical and developmental psychologist, he has served in a variety of parishes, and has enjoyed a distinguished academic career focused on the potential of people challenged by serious psychiatric disabilities and homelessness. He has also provided counseling services for college and university students. He has held appointments at the University of Pennsylvania, Boston University, and the University of Vermont as well as Birmingham University in the UK, St. Joseph's College in Philadelphia and Trinity College of Vermont.



Dent Davidson—Over forty-five years of professional lay ministry, Dent Davidson has felt called to continual examination and re-imagining of church music and liturgy: embracing the best of received tradition and expanding it. He has served in leadership roles in several parishes, two cathedrals, and as diocesan staff: each position focused on vitality in worship. Having earned a degree in Composition and Vocal Jazz, he travels widely as a workshop clinician & consultant in music and worship, and also serves as Chaplain and Musician to the House of Bishops. He currently serves Trinity Parish in Santa Barbara as Animateur: one who imagines, teaches and leads new ways of expressing ourselves in liturgy and music. (In other words: a Church that swings!)

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Holly and Joe Fortner—are members of St. Mary's in the Mountains. Holly is a vocalist, and "Music Liaison" for St. Mary's in the Mountains, Wilmington, VT, coordinating music in conjunction with the SMM Worship Team, using a talented assemblage of amateur parishioners. Joe is a guitarist, member of the St. Mary's Vestry, and for the past six years has organized and produced St. Mary's Red Door Concert Series, offering an eclectic mix of music to the Deerfield Valley

community while raising money for area charities. Together, they perform (including at the Red Door Concerts and during services at St. Mary's) as the vocal/guitar duo "Blind Date," offering a diverse mix of music ranging from jazz standards to folk to blues to country to gospel.



Jerusalem Greer—is the Staff Officer for Evangelism for the Episcopal Church, and member of the Way of Love creation and leadership team. She is often sought out as a speaker and contributor around the topics of evangelism, discipleship, welcoming former evangelicals, and ministry with families and children.



The Rev. Marcus G. Halley—has served the Episcopal Church in Connecticut as the Dean of Formation since October 2019 after serving as Rector of Saint Paul's Church on Lake of the Isles in Minneapolis and Missioner for Evangelism for the Episcopal Church in Minnesota. In addition to serving as Dean of Formation, the Rev. Halley serves as Missional Priest-in-Charge of Church of the Holy Spirit in West Haven, CT. Marcus is also the primary staff contact for the Commission on Ministry.



The Rev. Lorenzo Lebrija—is the founding director of the TryTank, the experimental Lab for church growth and innovation. Prior to this, Lorenzo was the Chief Development Officer for the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles. He also served as the Pastor on behalf of the Bishop at St. John's Episcopal Church in San Bernardino, CA, and as priest associate at St. Athanasius Episcopal Church at the Cathedral Center of St. Paul in Los Angeles. Before entering seminary

Lorenzo was president and CEO of Seraphic Fire & Firebird Chamber Orchestra,

Miami's professional choral and orchestral ensemble. He was also the Miami Program Director for the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation responsible for a substantial grant portfolio and the launch of the Knight Arts Challenge. Having been General Manager for RadioActiva Hispanic Radio, as well as Editor/Director of Operations for Miami's Community Newspapers, Lorenzo has vast experience in media and marketing.



The Rev. Matt Lindeman—has a strong passion for formation for all people, and has an extensive background in working with children and youth and using asset mapping techniques in order to make the most of any community's resources. Since being ordained in 2015 Matt has served in the capacity of Assistant and Associate Rector at Trinity Southport and is currently the Rector of St Peter's, Milford CT.



The Rev. Susan Ohlidal—is Canon Missioner for Local Ministry in the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont, Priest-in-Charge of St Andrew's Church in St. Johnsbury and the co-pastor of Convivia StJ, an Episcopal community in the Northeast Kingdom that offers worship and a pub theology program. She is a past Executive Director of Province One.



The Rev. Titus Pressler—convenes the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont's Green Mountain Witness Team, serves on the Commission on Ministry and was a 2018 General Convention deputy. He is president of the Global Episcopal Mission Network and has taught at EDS, Harvard, General and Seminary of the Southwest, where he was president. Among many publications are *Horizons of Mission* in the New Church's Teaching Series and *Going Global with God: Reconciling Mission in a World of Difference*.

Reconciling Mission in a World of Difference.



The Rev. Meredith Wessman-Ward—was appointed as Urban Missioner for Worcester, in the Diocese of Western Massachusetts in 2014 and began "Walking Together: A Ministry of Presence in South Main" with the help of a grant from The Episcopal Church. The storefront ministry is a non-judgmental place of welcome, a warming site, a place for mothers and children and a hub for 12-Step groups. "Walking Together" is a sponsor of Laundry Love—

a monthly free laundry ministry at Suds Up Laundromat.



David Zahl—is the College and Adult Education Minister and a Licensed Lay Preacher at Christ Church, Charlottesville, VA. After graduating from Georgetown University, David served for five years as a para-church youth minister in New England before starting Mockingbird Ministries in 2007, an organization devoted to connecting the Christian faith with the realities of everyday life in fresh and down-to-earth ways. He remains its executive director today. David is also the author of *A Mess of*

Help: From the Crucified Soul of Rock N Roll, and co-author of *Law And Gospel: A Theology for Sinners (and Saints)*.

**For the most up-to-date information
on all conference people and events,
and to register, visit**

smmvt.org/evan-conf-2021

Full conference details and registration will be available online as of May 24, 2021 at:
smmvt.org/evan-conf-2021

Advance registration before Sept. 1:

\$20 remote (Zoom)/\$35 in person per individual.

Accommodations

The parishioners and friends of St Mary's in the Mountains are offering a limited number of billeting opportunities in private homes. There are a number of inns and motels in and around Wilmington that cater to all budgets.

Meals

The in-person registration fee includes coffee, refreshments and snacks, as well as a light lunch and dinner on Saturday. Wilmington offers a number of dining opportunities that cater to all budgets.

Accessibility

If you would like to participate in person but have individual transportation or accessibility needs in order to make this possible, please contact the church to see how we can accommodate you.

For more information and to ask about overnight accommodations if you are planning to attend in person, email John Terauds, conference coordinator, at: graceandhopevt@gmail.com

Location



From:

Albany, NY
Boston, MA
Burlington, VT
Concord, NH
Hartford, CT
New York City
Providence, RI
Springfield, MA

Distance

60 miles
125 miles
169 miles
88 miles
91 miles
210 miles
145 miles
65 miles

