

St. Mark's Lenten Suppers & Historical Talks: A Reflection on 250 years of Anglicanism in Botetourt County and Beyond

WITH FEATURED SPEAKERS

Wednesdays, March 4 - April 1 from 6:00 - 7:30pm

Speaker Schedule

March 4: "Anglicanism: Jamestown to Botetourt"

Dr. Hannah Matis teaches American Christianity at Virginia Theological Seminary and will be discussing *Anglicanism: Jamestown to Botetourt*. Her areas of expertise include early medieval biblical interpretation, late antiquity and medieval history, Reformation history, Anglican studies, and the history of spirituality. She teaches courses in Church History and Spirituality. She has a particular interest in the religious experience of women within the Christian tradition, and is currently at work on a book project she is tentatively entitling, *A Women's History of Christianity*. In addition to a master's degree and a doctorate in Medieval Studies from the University of Notre Dame, Dr. Matis also holds a master's degree in medieval history from the University of Durham. A convert to the Episcopal church and the Anglican tradition, she remains by choice a devout layperson. She has a longstanding love of film, knitting, cooking, period music, and fantasy literature.



March 11: "Stories"

The Rev. Dr. Robert A. McRae is currently editing information about Botetourt Churches during this 250th anniversary year and will be sharing some of his stories with us. After serving as pastor of Galatia Evangelical Presbyterian Church for thirty-two years, he retired in 2016 and was granted the honor of Pastor Emeritus. In June of 2019, he and his wife Jane celebrated fifty-five years of marriage. They are the parents of four adult children (three public school teachers and one deputy sheriff) and eight grandchildren. Receiving a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1963, he taught high school English and social studies for seven years. Receiving a Master's Degree in education from Mississippi State University in 1970, he served first as assistant principal, then principal of a middle school in his hometown of Waynesboro, Mississippi. After sensing a call to ministry, he moved with his family to Richmond to attend Union Theological Seminary, where he received a Doctor of Ministries Degree in 1984. He was then called to Galatia Church in Eagle Rock where he served as pastor until his retirement. He enjoys carpentry, cooking, hiking, biking, and camping. For the past dozen years or so, a favorite McRae family outing is camping for a week among the wild ponies at Assateague Island State Park in Maryland.



March 18:

The Rt. Rev. Heath Light studied at Hampden-Sydney College from where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in 1951. He also earned his Master of Divinity in 1954 at the Virginia Theological Seminary. He married Sarah Ann Jones on June 12, 1954 and together had four children. In 1979 he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity by the Virginia Theological Seminary. Light was ordained deacon on June 11, 1954 and priest on June 24, 1955 in Christ and St. Luke's Church by Bishop George P. Gunn of Southern Virginia. He has served many churches in Virginia and North Carolina and also has served as deputy to the General Conventions of 1969, 1970, and 1973 from the Diocese of Virginia. Light was elected Bishop of Southwestern Virginia in 1979 and was consecrated on June 2, 1979 in the Salem Civic Center in Salem, Virginia. He was consecrated by Presiding Bishop John Allin. Throughout his tenure, Light was a prominent supported of the ordination of women and appointed numerous women to different positions in the diocese. He retired in 1996.



March 25: "Reflections"

The Rev. Dr. Helen Beasley has been Rector of three Diocese of Southwestern Virginia parishes, and was Rector of a parish in the Diocese of New York before returning to this area in 1999. She is a former Hospice Chaplain and did hospice work in Manhattan and in the other boroughs. She was endorsed by the Bishop of the Diocese of New York as Chaplain of that diocese, and was endorsed by the national Bishop of the Armed Forces as a Department of Veterans Affairs Chaplain. She has founded four HIV/AIDS outreach programs in Manhattan and in counties north of New York City and has also designed and directed a 240-member HIV/AIDS outreach center for women, men, and children. Helen has been a spiritual director since 1983 and was on the staff of The General Seminary's Center for Christian Spirituality in New York where she gave spiritual direction to both students and visitors to the seminary. She received her Master's of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary, Manhattan, where her thesis received "distinction." She received her Doctor of Ministry degree from Virginia Theological Seminary, in Alexandria. Helen led a two-year doctoral level healing prayer instruction program for laypeople at Good Shepherd Episcopal/Lutheran Church, Galax, which was followed by healing prayer services open to the public of Galax and church members, and has also started a county-wide healing prayer ministry in Highland County, VA. Her two adult daughters live in Westchester County, NY, and North Bergen, New Jersey.



April 1: "Show and Share"

The Rev. Willis Logan will share research of early Anglicanism and Botetourt County, specifically. He will share a little family biography that overlaps with the history of St. Mark's. Part of the talk will focus on the Protestant Roots of Virginia and our legacy. The 250th Anniversary Committee will share some pictures, videos and other research and preparations for our big family reunion on May 2nd. More surprises this night, so come and enjoy some April Fool's fun!

