

DOCUMENTING OUR MINISTRIES

MINISTRY: BOOK/BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUPS

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MINISTRY DESCRIPTION:

Discussion groups focusing on various topics are offered periodically at St. Michael's and generally are scheduled for Wednesday mornings or weeknight evenings. The topic may be thematic, or focus on the Bible (or a portion of it), or on a particular book. In the fall of 2007 we offered a workshop on Journaling; in the fall of 2008, we offered a discussion series titled, "Tricksters, Subversives and Faith Holders: Women of the Old and New Testament." Books which have been the focus of discussion over the past several years have included *Welcome to the Bible*, by Vicki Black and Peter Wenner, *Let Your Life Speak: Listening to the Voice of Vocation*, by Parker Palmer, *God has a Dream: A Vision of Hope for Our Time*, by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and *Things Seen and Unseen*, Nora Gallagher, *Conversations with Scripture: Revelation*, by Frederick Schmidt, *Mary Magdalene: Beyond the Myth*, by Esther de Boer, and *Things Hidden: Scripture as Spirituality*, by Richard Rohr. Additionally, groups have discussed several volumes from the *New Church's Teaching Series*.

Gifts which are helpful in leading a discussion group include listening, teaching, organization, and flexibility. It is also, of course, important to always keep in mind our baptismal promises of seeking and serving Christ in one another and respecting the dignity of every human being, as we interact with (and participate in), these discussions.