

**Report to the Vestry - Adult Ed/Small Groups**  
**April 27, 2021**  
**Cindy Eaton**

Daughters of the King (Barbara Taft)

The Daughters of the King is an order for women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church. The mission of the order is the extension of Christ's Kingdom thru Holy Prayer, Service and Evangelism.

The DoK have 20 sisters who attend in-person meetings that are held the second Monday of every month at 3p.m. in the Youth Building, classroom #2. The monthly in-person meetings last 60-90 minutes. Each DoK gets monthly prayer lists, as well as notification of new prayers and those to be removed. All prayers are treated with confidentiality. There is a preparation class before becoming a DoK (scheduled for Fall 2021) and all are approved of by Fr. Todd.

Life Groups

There are currently five Life Groups at St. Mary, with approximately 54 people attending. They meet on:

Sundays: 6:30-7:30 pm

Tuesdays: 9:30-10:30 am

Wednesdays: 9:30-10:30 am (in-person)

Fridays: 9:30-11 am (in-person)

TBD day/time for a group that meets bi-monthly (in-person)

Most are finishing up *The Reservoir*, one group discussed John Stott's *Sermon on the Mount*, and another is using a Renovare publication entitled *A Spiritual Formation Workbook*. The attached Appendix has more detail on each group.

Co-Ed Bible Study (Eva and Charlie Lippincott)

This group meets on Friday mornings and has been meeting in person (with masks and social distancing) since August. They were very excited to be able to remove their masks since all have been vaccinated! There is another session that meets on Saturdays via Zoom. Approximately 13 people have been attending these combined meetings.

Men's Bible Study (Peter Dayton/Bob Brown)

Men's Bible Study is currently on Zoom by invitation. They meet at 6:30 am on Wednesdays and are considering meeting in person at the Church. Approximately 15 to 30 men attend from St. Mary's and several other local churches. This men's group has been meeting regularly for over 20 years!

Cursillo Reunion (Barry Marsh)

Two people are currently meeting every Monday at 11am in a Cursillo Small Group Reunion. Sometimes they meet on Zoom and sometimes on the phone for approximately one hour.

### St. Mary's Book Club (Jane Miller/Tom Gilson)

There are currently 17 members of the book club; books are selected on a consensus basis a couple of months out. The discussion questions are often from the book itself or on the internet. *Caste: The Origins of Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson has been selected as the next book.

### Soulcare (Darla Cederberg)

Soulcare meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday from 5-6:30 pm via Zoom. In the past, there have been anywhere from 6-18 attending, with the average around 8. They are using the book by James Bryan Smith called *The Good and Beautiful God*. Soul Care is in its 8th year! The purpose of Soulcare is to be an experiential inclusive group where women can try out the various big ideas and practices (prayer, service, art, silence, lectio divina, etc.) in a way that encourages exploration and listening for the Holy Spirit. As far as challenges, Darla says they took a big hit (at least by 1/3) moving from in-person to Zoom. The women who come appreciate each other, the group, and aren't negatively impacted by Zoom. Others that no longer come, she believes are not wanting a virtual experience.

Another challenge that isn't unique to Soulcare, but is common, in Darla's opinion is that younger women aren't coming. Several younger women attended when the group met in person, but the demands on their time is great.

## **Appendix Life Group Detail**

Brendan Fisk: We have sixteen members in our Life Group. We meet twice a month in person at an outdoor setting. That will continue until all members have received both COVID vaccine shots. Then we'll meet on a weekly basis in a member's home. They are finishing up *The Reservoir* and will begin the *Resurrection* soon.

Shelly and Barbara Taft: This group meet every Friday year-round from 9:30-11 am in Classroom #2 of the Youth Building and on Zoom (they are waiting for one person to get fully vaccinated and then Zoom will cease). They have 14 members, 12 of which are currently active. They use resources chosen and recommended by Fr. Todd and are currently using *A Spiritual Formation Workbook*, a Renovaré publication. When Fr. Todd started forming Life Groups in late 2012, Barbara's Call to Discipleship group (Barbara, Lynn Hopkins, Faith Englund and Margo Miles) agreed to become a Life Group with Barbara and Shelly Taft as the leaders, and opened up for new members. They held their first meeting as a Life Group in January 2013 and have been meeting year-round ever since. As a service project, every month they make pans of fresh fruit salad donated by members and deliver them to LAHIA to help feed the homeless.

John and Jean Lockwood: Ten people attend this Life Group in the Youth Building Sunday evenings at 6:30 pm, usually for an hour or so. Currently they are studying John Stott's *Sermon on the Mount*, in conjunction with the Lenten Sermon Series. Michael and Sally Hastings offered

to lead this series. After they finish this study, they will most likely return to *The Reservoir* for the final two months, coinciding with the 2020 Advent sermons.

Marni Abate: Right now, this group is meeting on Zoom every Tuesday morning from 9:30-10:30 am. There are eight in the group and Marni feels it is just the perfect size group to be able to all share within the one hour. They are also using *The Reservoir*.

Ann Stocker: This group meets on Wednesday mornings weekly at 9:30 am. The group has six members; four meet regularly. They are almost through studying *The Reservoir*. They had a very happy outside celebration of a member who celebrated her 90th birthday! Ann reported that they are a close, caring group who support one another