

ST. MARK'S PEACE LECTURE SERIES AND EXHIBIT
February 26 • March 5 • March 19 • 2015



FORGIVENESS A PATHWAY TO PEACE

The Peace Chapel at St. Mark's, dedicated in 2012, is a place where people from all walks of life can experience the love of God and the hope of everlasting peace. The simple design of the chapel creates an intimate space, where prayer comes easily and God's presence feels close at hand. Affiliated with the Community of the Cross of Nails, an international peace movement that began in response to the World War II bombing of Coventry Cathedral in England – The Peace Chapel holds weekly prayers for the reconciliation and peace of all people and nations. Whether for peace within our hearts, for personal reconciliation with others or for lasting peace among the nations, prayers are offered amidst the quiet beauty of the chapel.



Chip Freeman - Artist

Cover art by Chip Freeman, a St. Mark's parishioner, is a photo-montage of elements found within the St. Mark's Peace Chapel windows. The composition is inspired by the lecture series' title and suggests a challenging, free will flight "path" of peace doves.

*"Forgiveness is not an occasional act, it is a constant attitude."
- Martin Luther King, Jr.*

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND SCHOOL
3395 Burns Road, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410 • 561-622-0956
www.stmarkspb.org

ST. MARK'S invites you to our second annual lecture series on the topic of personal peace. The yearning for peace is a common call among people, regardless of faith, race, gender, generation, or socio-economic status. Join us for three evenings of personal witness to the power of forgiveness in the midst of great tragedy. While this program is open to the community free of charge, a donation is encouraged when attending lectures.

FORGIVENESS PROJECT EXHIBITION

FEBRUARY 21 through MARCH 7

The Forgiveness Project's highly acclaimed exhibit is a collection of arresting images and personal narratives exploring forgiveness in the face of atrocity. These narratives show that forgiveness means different things to different people and is often difficult, costly, painful – but potentially transformative. First launched in London in 2004, it has been displayed in over 300 venues worldwide. The exhibit will be on display in the Staluppi Center from February 21st through March 7th.

ARNO MICHAELIS

Former racist skinhead, author, speaker, teacher, and student

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Racism's Worst Nightmare: Human Kinship

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Arno Michaelis was deeply involved in the white power movement. He was a founding member of what became the largest racist skinhead organization in the world and was the lead singer of the hate-metal band Centurion, selling over 20,000 CDs to racists around the world. His life once filled with hate, violence, and crime was turned around by the love for his daughter and the forgiveness shown by people he once hated, thus enabling him to embrace diversity and practice gratitude for all life. Today Michaelis is a speaker, an author of *My Life After Hate*, and an educator working in an ongoing process of character development with Serve 2 Unite, an organization that promotes peace as a valuable way of life to students. To learn more, visit www.mylifeafterhate.org.

SAMANTHA LAWLER

Advocate for Inclusion

THURSDAY, MARCH 5 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Compassion as the Gateway to Forgiveness

In 1999, Samantha Lawler found her mother dead at the family home in Ft. Lauderdale. Her father admitted to strangling his wife and pleaded guilty to first-degree murder and rape and was sentenced to life in prison without parole. Thirteen years later she participated in a weekend workshop that provided her with something completely unforeseen: a sense of humanity and an interest in reconciling with her father. After a ten-minute visit with him in prison, Lawler was set free from over a decade of anger and victimization. She is now committed to transforming a punitive justice system into a restorative justice system – one that offers compassion and empathy to both victims and offenders and creates harmony and understanding. To read Lawler's story and other compelling testimonials, visit www.theforgivenessproject.com.

STEPHANIE CASSATLY

Author, professor, and St. Mark's parishioner

THURSDAY, MARCH 19 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Five Hundred Shades of Forgiveness

Twenty years after the murder of her mother, Stephanie Cassatly found her mother's killer in prison and forgave him before he died. Seeking a way to fully value and express this transformative experience, she earned an MFA in Writing at Vermont College of Fine Arts and answered her call to write. Her essays have won awards and appeared in several publications. Cassatly is in the process of publishing her memoir, *Notice of Release*, about her journey to heal and forgive, and she also teaches writing part-time at Palm Beach Atlantic University. She continues to explore and wrestle with the concept of forgiveness in her writing, teaching, and speaking. Cassatly resides in Jupiter with her husband and two daughters. To learn more about Cassatly and read her works, visit www.stephaniecassatly.com.

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