

"Seasons of Change"

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
Pre-Lenten Women's Day Event

Speaker: *Vickie Garvey*, Bishop's Associate for Lifelong Christian Formation, Episcopal Diocese of Chicago

Date: Saturday, February 2, 2013

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Place: St. Matthew's Guild Hall, 5900 7th Avenue, Kenosha, WI 53142

Phone: 262-654-8642

Cost: \$15.00 (Includes continental breakfast and boxed lunch)

Make checks payable to: St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 5900 7th Avenue, Kenosha, WI 53142. Mark **"Women's Day Event"** on the check memo line. Complete registration form and mail with your check to St. Matthew's.

Registration Deadline: Wed., January 30, 2013

Your Name: _____

Your Phone: _____

Boxed Lunch Choices (Please select one):

Turkey []

Ham []

Vegetarian []

Do you have any dietary restriction(s)? If so, please list them and we will make every effort to accommodate you.

Vickie Garvey: When I was in the first grade, I was blessed with a teacher who knew incipient trouble when she saw it. In the second week of school, she assigned four other first graders to me and another potential trouble-maker and asked us to help them to learn. She called from me my eventual vocation, and I can say that I've been happily teaching and learning, mostly merrily with others, since I was six years old. Along with this on-going passion for teaching/learning is another passion for the church at its best. So I consider myself to be inordinately graced to have lived most of my adult life indulging my twin passions: as a teacher at a Roman Catholic high school for young women, as a teacher of the bible, its theological leanings and its languages in both university and seminary settings, as a speaker and retreat leader and preacher in The Episcopal Church in several parts of the United States and, on one occasion, abroad. And these days, I get the privilege of exercising these gifts with an exuberant and engaging diocesan community and beyond as I serve the Bishop of Chicago as Associate for Lifelong Christian Formation.

Seasons of Change: "To everything, turn, turn, turn... OR The Byrd's Were Onto Something". Change is hard, even when we profess to love it. Most of us are most comfortable when we know who we are and where we are and whence we've come and where we're going. There's a season for that, of course. But if we stay in one place – geographically or metaphorically – we don't learn, don't stretch, don't perhaps become the best we could be. The Bible, that old standard in whatever translation is, interestingly enough, a champion of change, from its first page on which God invites a universe into being and a form of being that is ever changing to the last, with its vision of a new Jerusalem. The prophets and the psalmists were consistently challenging their – often reluctant – audiences to move, get up, get going, change their lives. "Behold," says one of the greats, "I am making all things new." Jesus, a chip off the old divine Block, as well as true heir of his human ancestors, constantly cajoled his followers, admonished his enemies and calls across the millennia to his current disciples to dream dreams and envision visions and dare to break out of our default settings. I'm hoping we'll explore some of that together, both in the biblical world which is our heritage and in the 21st century upper Midwest which is our home.