

AN INVITATION FROM YOUR VESTRY FOR SACRED GROUND

Dear Saint Barnabas Community,

For those who might not yet know me, let me introduce myself. I'm Dave Teves, husband of Karena and father of Kawika (3rd grader) and Kala (1st grader). I am in my second year as a vestry member here at St B's. In my role as a vestry member, I have some exciting news to share with you.

First a little background. At the 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church in 2015, a resolution was passed laying the groundwork for a long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation and justice. This commitment, referencing a phrase popularized by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, is called Becoming Beloved Community.

Your vestry has been working on a way to engage this work and begin this journey for our community here at St Barnabas. The racial injustices that unfolded throughout the spring and summer, beginning with the murder of Ahmaud Arbrey and most recently with the shooting of Jacob Blake, have added an urgency to our efforts. With guidance from Reverend Karen we came across *Sacred Ground*, a film-based dialogue series on race and faith.

Sacred Ground is a 10-part series, produced by the Episcopal Church, and, "built around an online curriculum of documentary films and readings that focus on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories. . . This series is open to all, and especially designed to help white people talk with other white people. Participants are invited to peel away the layers that have contributed to the challenges and divides of the present day – all while grounded in our call to faith, hope and love."

As we move into this new church year, the vestry would like to explore *Sacred Ground* together as a parish. The first step on this journey will be to gauge interest so we can form small groups. Once we have our groups organized, we can designate facilitators, build a schedule and launch into the curriculum.

This meaningful program provides us an opportunity to explore race and faith with our St Barnabas community---while we gather together virtually in the safety of our homes this fall. If you are interested in joining our St Barnabas community on our journey into *Sacred Ground*, please email me, Dave Teves, at david.teves02@gmail.com. Sign up by September 26th if you would like to be connected to a group in time for our first meeting. We will incorporate late registrations but cannot guarantee you will be in a group in time for our first session if you sign up after the 26th.