

Adult Education
at
First Presbyterian Church

Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread

Fall 2006



Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

In the Body of Christ, the Church, we are united in Christ, who is our “Bread of Life.” Our goal is to live as faithful disciples that we might grow into spiritual maturity.

One of the biggest determining factors for faith maturity, according to a study by the Search Institute, is one’s involvement in Christian Education over a period of a lifetime. It is through regular participation in study with others in the Body of Christ that we can truly grow.

We offer many different types of opportunities for personal, spiritual growth, as described in the rest of this brochure. We pray that you might find the places which will help you in your faith journey.

**Anita Parish
Director of Christian Education**

Lay Academy

The Lay Academy presents an opportunity for people to go deeper in their quest for a better understanding of the Bible, Theology, Church History, Christian Discipleship and the Spiritual Life. The courses will be taught by those who have an advanced theological education. Participants will be expected to read a text(s) and do homework.

Wednesday Nights—6:00-7:15 p.m. September 20—December 13
Leader: Dr. Susan Brayford, Associate Professor of Religious Studies of the Hebrew Scriptures, Centenary College

The Hebrew Scriptures, or Christian Old Testament, recounts the stories of the relationship between the people of Israel and their God. It presents a theological history of this evolving relationship in which both parties continually adjust their ideas, attitudes, and expectations in response to the changing social and religious environments in which the people exist. This course will introduce you to these stories from a variety of perspectives and help you appreciate the literary beauty and theological depth of the biblical texts. You will discover the joys and the sorrows that the people experience as they struggle to define and understand themselves and their God.

Faith and Life Forum— Weekly, Sundays 9:45 a.m.
Facilitator: Robert Folsom
Presbyterian Women Suite

This new Discussion Forum seeks to help Christians wrestle with difficult questions by stimulating informed conversation and reflection about living faithfully in a complex world. We receive our studies from “The Thoughtful Christian” website which is maintained by Westminster John Knox press of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). However they use writers from a variety of denominational affiliations and experiential backgrounds which will help us hear a variety of perspectives from which we can learn and form our own opinions.

Each week there will be a different topic, announced in advance, with a study guide which will be available on the church website or at the Forum. Participants may help choose the topics, and new studies are constantly being produced in response to news in the world and issues of interest.

Sunday Morning Classes

9:45-10:45 a.m.

Celebrations—Room C-22

This class consists mainly of young adults (ages 25-40). The young adults also enjoy a variety of regular social events and service projects and are always looking for other opportunities to connect with the church and the community at large.

Class Leader: Grant Summers

9/10-10/1	Fair Trade and Economic Justice—Sarah Kirkpatrick
10/8	Isaiah—Mary Ann Shaw
10/15	Lecture Series “Truth or Dare: Five Religious Trends for Scary (but exciting) Times—Ray Waddell
10/22-11/5	Isaiah—Mary Ann Shaw
11/12-12/24	Christmas from the Backside—Lisa Schrott and others
12/3	New Year’s Eve Brunch

Electives—Room L-6

This is an intergenerational class offering a lecture/discussion format for a wide range of subject matter and outstanding teachers. If you find a favorite teacher or a special interest being offered we hope that you will “elect” to drop in for as long as you choose.

Class Leader: Clarence Frierson

9/10	Faith of Our Fathers—Clarence Frierson
9/17-10/8	God Was In Christ—Mary Anne Whited
9/15	Lecture Series “Truth or Dare: Five Religious Trends for Scary (but exciting) Times—Ray Waddell
10/22-11/19	Gospel of John—Grant Summers, Anita Parish
11/26	Religious Sites in Iran Slide Presentation—Will Blanchard
12/3	TBA
12/10-12/17	TBA—Lee Morgan
12/24-12/31	TBA

McClamroch—Room C-16

This is a large class of middle and older adults who enjoy a good Bible study. They use a quarterly curriculum called “Present Word,” which covers most of the Bible in three years. They also enjoy periodic social gatherings in their homes.

Class Leader: Billy Gilley

September-November—**God's Living Covenant (Old Testament Survey)**
December-February—**Jesus Christ: A Portrait of God**

Leaders:

First Sunday: Tom Bullock

Third Sunday: John Knight

Second Sunday: Gordon Blackman, Jr.

Forth Sunday: Mary Ann Shaw

Pathfinders—Room M-218

This class focuses on issues of faith and life in families. While the majority of class members have school aged children, this is by no means a requirement. We are in search for the path in life's journey through study, topics, and fellowship that are of interest to a diverse population. Breakfast is prepared and served by volunteers from within the class.

Class Leaders: Joe McCulloch and Brett Rowell

- 9/10-9/24 **The Aging Parent**—Bryan McDowell
10/1-10/8 **The Great Ends of the Church Revisited**—Robert Stroud and Rick LaBorde
10/15 **Lecture Series "Truth or Dare: Five Religious Trends for Scary (but exciting) Times**—Ray Waddell
10/22 **The Great Ends of the Church Revisited**—Robert Stroud and Rick LaBorde
10/29 **The Great Ends of the Church in Chile**—Garrett Staples
11/1-11/26 **Christianity and Culture After the First Century**—Spencer Murray
12/3 **A Fair Trade Christmas**—Brenda Nims
12/10 **An Alternative Christmas**—Jim and Pattie Kitchen
12/17-12/31 **Curing Affluenza (video series by Tony Campolo)**

Seekers Class—Room C18-20

This is a diverse group of members ages 50 plus who come together "seeking" knowledge through Biblical study, the study of theological issues and their relevance to the issues of today. This class enjoys a fellowship time at the end of each class and dinners in members' homes from time to time.

Class Leader: Mary Anne Selber

- 9/10-9/24 **Whose Bible Is It?**—Robert Stroud
10/1-10/8 **How to Study Luke**—Spencer Murray
10/15 **Lecture Series "Truth or Dare: Five Religious Trends for Scary (but exciting) Times**—Ray Waddell
10/22-10/29 **How to Study Luke**—Spencer Murray
11/5-11/12 **Christian Art**—Zama Dexter
11/19 **TBA**
11/26 **Religious Sites in Iran Slide Presentation**—Will Blanchard
12/3-12/31 **The Birth of God by John Rogers**—Various leaders of the class

Special Offerings

Lectio Divina—Mondays, 11:45 a.m.

Lectio Divina meets Mondays from 11:45 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. Lectio Divina is not a class, but a time of prayer and discernment. Many in the group bring a sack lunch, and after a time of greeting and eating, participants prayerfully engage a passage of scripture, take time to reflect silently upon the passage as it speaks to each one personally, then, in turn, share their insights. The exercise is concluded by intentional and specific prayers for each other. A worksheet is provided to guide the process. Recent participants agree that this time-tested spiritual discipline has the potential to be life-changing.

Leader: Rev. Bryan McDowell

Fall Lecture Series—October 15-17

Guest Lecturer: Ray Waddell

Truth or Dare: Five Religious Trends for Scary (but Exciting) Times

Ray Waddle is an award-winning journalist/columnist who writes about faith and culture for various publications and web sites. He is the author of two recent books—[Against the Grain: Unconventional Wisdom from Ecclesiastes](#) and [A Turbulent Peace: The Psalms for Our Time](#). Look for his regular columns at Interpretermagazine.org and in the Presbyterian Voice newspaper (synodoflivingwater.com). His work has appeared in The New York Times, Christian Century magazine, USA TODAY op-ed page, and United Methodist News Service. He was religion editor for 17 years (1984-2001) at The Tennessean in Nashville, the city's major daily newspaper, and still writes guest columns there. He teaches a writing seminar at Vanderbilt Divinity School, leads spiritual retreats and has published poetry. He is a contributing writer in Disciplines, the annual daily devotional guide published by Upper Room. He attends Christ Episcopal Church Cathedral. Ray is from Shreveport. His Mother still lives here and attends Noel UMC.

Inquirers' Class—Sundays, October 29, November 1—9:45 a.m.

The Inquirers' class meets in the P W Suite. These warm, engaging and informative sessions are designed to acquaint visitors and Inquirers, interested in FPC membership, about the church, locally, nationally and internationally. Please come and bring a curious friend!

Midweek MANNA—(Meditation, Activities, Neighbors, Nourishment, Alleluia)
“the bread that the Lord has given you to eat”

Exodus 16:15

September 13-December 13, 2006—5:30-7:15 p.m.

Midweek MANNA is a great time for members to share food and fellowship at the table, to grow in our Christian life, and to offer our thanks to God in our Christian community. For those who can't arrive at 5:30, reservations can be made for box dinners which may be eaten during class.

The children will come at 5:30 for choirs and then eat and play a game together. Preschoolers will eat with their families and then enjoy playtime with teachers until 6:40 when they can join the Kindergartners for a Bible story and activity. The youth will eat at 5:30 as a group and then meet for study hall in the Youth Lounge and will close with a devotional. The adults will have classes from 6:00-7:15 p.m.

September 13th Kickoff

The River Cities Jubilee Barbershop Chorus

Enjoy the harmonies and musical entertainment of this widely acclaimed local group.
All ages will enjoy this, but childcare will be available.

September 20—October 25

Nurturing Children in the Faith—Anita Parish
Discussion of films from “The Thoughtful Christian” Series—David Means
Harry Potter Spiderman 2
Hotel Rwanda The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe
Munich The Fellowship of the Ring

November 1—December 13

Parenting for parents of Youth—Rebecca Mayfield
Holiday Cooking—Harriet Daggett, coordinator
History of the Middle East—Dr. Gary Joiner

Lay Academy

For those who want to enrich their life of faith with indepth study of the Bible, theology, church history, practical theology/Christian living, and spiritual life, we offer the Lay Academy. The classes will require more from the participant than the average class in terms of preparation, and it will be taught by those with higher theological degrees. Over a period of several years, people who commit to this discipline will have a solid foundation for mature Christian life and further life-long study.

September 20-December 13, 2006

An Introduction to Hebrew Scriptures—Dr. Susan Brayford, Professor of Religious Studies, Centenary College

Presbyterian Women—Monthly Circle Meetings, Various Times and Locations

Every woman, member or visitor is invited and encouraged to participate in the work and worship of this caring community of women.

2006-2007 Bible Study—Genesis

Within the pages of Genesis are stories of love and hate, nurture and murder. At its heart, Genesis is about God's call for us to live in relationship—with God, with one another, and with all creation.

In this much-anticipated Horizons Bible study, Celia Brewer Sinclair explores the many relationships—some familiar, many not so familiar—lived out in Genesis. Each person who embarks on this faithful and faith-filled journey will gain fresh insight as she or he is invited to read with “new eyes” the unique stories and perspectives of the many people of Genesis.

NEW THIS Fall—Ministry for Mothers of Young Children

Beginning Thursday, September 14—12:00 noon– 1:30 in the P W Suite

This new "Circle of Quiet" (along with outrageous laughter and spiritual care) is a new innovative ministry of the *FPC Presbyterian Women* to reach out and nurture mothers of young children in our church and community. Our first study series will run lunchtime (*good food and great childcare will be provided!*) each Thursday, 12 - 1:30, Sept. 14 - Nov. 16. Each week we will link interesting passages of the Bible to challenges, joys, and conundrums in marriage and mothering. Friends are welcome! Come as often as you are able and know that you will be loved and supported by new and old friends. Please RSVP for LUNCH and CHILDCARE to FPC Office (222-0604) by Sept. 10, or call Rev. Pattie Kitchen (FPC), Robin Jones (865-3488), Clara Wilkinson (865-1052), or Marisa Means (746-3755) with any questions.

Men's Prayer Breakfast

First Tuesday, Monthly, 7:00 a.m.

All men of the church are invited to fellowship and breakfast in the dining room. A brief devotional is presented each month. The breakfast concludes in time for those who need to get to work by 8:00 a.m.,

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