

2012

January—May

catalog



TRINITY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us. We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and God’s might, and the wonders that God has done.”

Psalm 78

Trinity Presbyterian Church is a member of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Pam Driesell, Senior Pastor
Dr. David Bartlett, Theologian in Residence
Jeannie DuBose, Coordinator for Hospitality and Connection
Cader Howard, Interim Associate Pastor of Adult Ministries
Matthew Ruffner, Designated Associate Pastor of Adult Ministries
Erin McGee, Associate Pastor of Children and Family Ministries
John Ryan, Director of Youth and Family Ministries

Tom Jones, Chair, Adult Education Committee
Michael O’Shaughnessey, Chair Adult Spiritual Formation
Wardlyn Bassler, Chair Women’s Link
Monty Hamilton, Chair, Youth and Family Ministries
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Welcome

As our mission statement affirms, Trinity is a progressive, inquiring, and inclusive congregation committed to nurturing “the whole person – mind, heart, and soul; providing continuing opportunities for the development of faith, character, and intellect of all our members throughout their lives; and encouraging that continual exploration and insight which keeps us open to a new world God is always creating.” Trinity’s educational program is designed to provide a context where people of all ages may find a meaningful, challenging, and exciting program of continuing education that prepares us to live as faithful people in God’s world. Trinity also seeks to embody a generous, welcoming spirit in each learning space, and hopes that you will come and be a part of these places of growth!

Sunday Morning

Adult Education Opportunities

9:45 - 10:45 a.m.

Further information on particular classes offered for adults, youth, and children can be found in this catalog.

Adult Elective Classes

Trinity has a long tradition of outstanding elective classes. The Adult Education Committee offers a lively mix of courses in each of these seven areas:

- ▶ Bible
- ▶ Christian and Religious History
- ▶ Christian Living and Spiritual Practices
- ▶ Contemporary Issues and Action: The Church and the World
- ▶ Missiology: Our Life in the World
- ▶ Perspectives on Literature, Arts, Science, and Faith
- ▶ Theology and Ethics

You are encouraged to choose classes that interest you, challenge you, and provide a balanced “educational diet” over time, enabling you to grow in your faith and life.

Adult Ongoing Learning Communities

These classes (Common Ground and Roots) meet together throughout the year, a primary goal being to stay “connected” with one another in a learning and caring community.

New Member Classes

Offered three times during the year, these classes are a series that introduce those interested in joining Trinity to the life of this congregation.

Winter

January 8, 15, 22, 29

Spring

April 15, 22, 29, May 6

Weekday Education Opportunities

Weekday educational opportunities, interest groups, and spiritual formation groups at Trinity are also listed in this catalog. The opportunities are plentiful for exploring together what it means to live as the people of God. The Adult Education Committee encourages you to come join us, so that you can be nurtured, fed, and sent forth into the world!

Electives | Session III

BIBLE

Imperialism and the Bible

Teacher: Dr. Cameron Howard

January 8 – February 12

B104-106

Nearly all of the books of the Bible came into being when the land of Judah was under some form of imperial domination. The political, social, and economic realities of imperialism affected all aspects of life in Judah, including religious observance and the production of texts. This series will use “empire” as a guiding concept for reading and interpreting the Bible. The first four sessions of the class will examine notions of empire in both the Old and New Testaments, giving particular attention to the Assyrian, Persian, Babylonian, Hellenistic, and Roman contexts. We will consider the ways in which both the style and the content of biblical texts reflect the socio-political realities in which those texts were composed. In the last two sessions of the class we will look at ways the Bible was wielded in the European colonization of Asia and Africa in the modern era, as well as ways it has been used to resist imperialism and foster decolonization. Throughout the series we will compare and contrast ancient and modern empires, as well as consider how Christian notions of biblical authority and of evangelism have or have not changed over time.

Dr. Cameron Howard is Instructor of Old Testament at the Interdenominational Theological Center, a consortium of six denominational seminaries in Atlanta. She received her Ph.D. from Emory University in 2010. Last year she served as Visiting Assistant Professor at the School of Theology at Sewanee, the University of the South. She is a contributor to The New Interpreter’s Bible One-Volume Commentary and the forthcoming revised edition of The Women’s Bible Commentary. She is married to the Rev. Cader Howard, Interim Associate Pastor at Trinity. Their son Isaac will soon be four years old.

Contemporary Issues and Action

What Kind of Society Do You Really Want?

Coordinator: Trinity members Sandra Mackey, Nancy Purdon, Philip Cave and Charles Heinz

January 8 – February 12

Williams Hall C

It has been a long tradition within Trinity's adult education program to explore political issues during an election year. For the 2012 election, this class will move beyond specific issues of public policy to an examination of American society from the perspective of Christian theology and ethics. Among the questions to be explored are the relationship between American Christians in times of economic stress; whether the current pattern of income distribution in the United States is inequitable; does every American citizen have a right to health care; who is my brother in a multicultural society; and what are the ethics of taxation. Using a discussion format, each of these classes will be led by a theologian and/or ethicist. All those interested in a respectful and introspective discussion of the challenges facing American society are urged to attend.

Christian Living and Spiritual Practices

Hot Button Issues for Parenting Tweens (and Beyond)

Teacher: Trinity member Sue Astley

January 8 – February 12

B110

Join us as we identify and explore the hot button issues that confront us when dealing with our preteens and the early teenage years. We'll explore topics such as homework, discipline, rules for technology use, bullying, making good choices, competition, body image and life skills. This will be an interactive, discussion-based class open to all parents (if your child is not a tween yet, he/she will be soon). Ideas for additional topics will be welcomed.

Perspectives on Literature, Art and Science

The Short Stories of Alice Munro

Teachers: Trinity members Nancy Purdon and Lewis Wilson

January 8 – February 12

B112

This course will offer an introduction to the work of contemporary short story writer Alice Munro. Munro has been a frequent contender for the Nobel Prize in literature, and inside her native Canada she is the three-

time winner of that country's highest literary award. Often compared with Chekhov and other great short story writers of all time, Munro writes only short fiction, but her stories are widely thought to have the emotional and literary depth of novels. She is known particularly for complex female characters and for her themes related to love and work and the limitations of both. Books will available for purchase January 1 and 8 outside Williams Hall.

On-Going Classes

Common Ground

January 8 - February 12

B108

Common Ground is a class seeking to explore our faith with an open discussion-based format. Our typical format involves a moderator who introduces a topic and who then facilitates conversation. Our diversity of ages and life experiences brings many views as we focus in on our topics. The central theme of the class is to explore how to live intentionally in our faith in the midst of multiple calls on our time, resources, and loyalty.

We discuss how to nurture our relationship with God and to claim God's promise through our relationship with others. The class is open to any and all who are seeking deeper relationships and a deeper life with God. Many of our regular attendees have children or teens living at home, so often the conversation becomes particularly relevant to those family situations. Although we strive to build a class with regular participation, this is a great class for people who can only attend sporadically. Each week is usually a "stand alone" class and does not require previous attendance. We are also a good choice for those who find themselves showing up late or leaving early for choir or ushering. We may seem casual in our approach to church school, but together we seek new "common ground" with each other and our faith. Make your plans to join us in Common Ground.

Roots

The Prodigal Son in the 21st Century

Teacher: Trinity member Bill Jordan

January 8 - February 12

A116

Looking for a way to make some connections here at Trinity? Want to establish some "roots" in your church home? The Roots class focuses

on fellowship and the opportunity to delve into our faith through subjects that are relevant to this particular season of our lives. Most participants have young children or are expecting their first child, but all are welcome.

The Prodigal Son in the 21st Century – “A certain man had two sons...” begins this amazing parable. What can this teach us today? Are we like the prodigal son? Are we like the elder son? Are we both? Drawing on recent books about this fascinating story by Timothy Keller and Henri Nouwen (plus a little movie with Brad Pitt – and maybe the Rolling Stones thrown in for good measure), we will explore how Christ’s teachings in this parable can serve as the keystone for an understanding not only of basic Christian tenets of love and forgiveness, but how it can help us be the friends, parents, and servants God would want us to be.

All Church Class — February 19

American History from a Christian Perspective

Presenter: Dr. Patrick N. Allitt
Sanctuary

Do you ever wonder why the varieties of religion found in our country are so numerous and diverse? Join historian Professor Patrick N. Allitt in exploring the vital and diverse story of religious life in America from the first European contacts to the late 20th century. Examine religion not only as a set of formal beliefs, ideas, communal or institutional loyalties, and styles of worship, but also as an influence on life “beyond the pews.” Discover why the United States, unlike virtually any other industrial nation, continues to show so much religious vitality.

Patrick Allitt is Cahoon Family Professor of American History, an Americanist specializing in religious, intellectual, and environmental history. He graduated from Oxford, England, in 1977 and earned his Ph.D. in American History in 1986 from the University of California, Berkeley. He was a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard Divinity School (1985-1988) and has been at Emory since 1988. Author of six books, he is also the presenter of six lecture series with The Teaching Company on aspects of American and British history. His current research and writing project is a history of the intellectual and political opponents of environmentalism from the 1960s to the early twenty-first century.

Electives | Session IV

BIBLE

Resurrection

Teacher: Dr. David Bartlett, Theologian in Residence
February 26 – April 1
B104-106

In this encore presentation of a class that received rave reviews a few years ago, Dr. Bartlett will lead the class in exploring the scriptural basis and the theological, social, and political implications of resurrection throughout history. The course will begin with how the gospel stories of Jesus' resurrection differ and how they are similar. The class then will move to theological interpretations of the meaning of resurrection (both for restoration of justice now and at the end of time) and the meanings of personal resurrection. Finally, the class will discuss contemporary theologians' interpretations of the meaning of resurrection today, drawing upon such authors as N.T. Wright and Rowan Williams.

In addition to serving as Theologian in Residence at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Dr. Bartlett is Professor of New Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA. He is the Lantz Professor of Preaching and Communication Emeritus at Yale Divinity School.

Contemporary Issues and Action

Who is Missing from the Table? Paths to Inclusion in the Church

Coordinators: Trinity member Crystal Allen and Rev. Cader Howard
February 26 – April 1
Williams Hall C

Though many congregations claim to welcome all people, few are truly diverse and inclusive. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once commented, "it is appalling that the most segregated hour of Christian America is eleven o'clock on Sunday morning." This course will explore the history and present reality of exclusion in the church and examine how God's people can break down inappropriate barriers based on race, gender, class, and sexual orientation. The class will also consider what kinds of specific practices congregations might adopt to combat these historic exclusionary tendencies and encourage an inclusive community in which we are "all one in Christ."

Christian Living and Spiritual Practices

From the Om to the Omega: Contemplative Practices across Time and Religions

Teacher: Kenneth Hosley

February 26 – April 1

B 110

From the beginnings of Christianity, silence and the solitude have been key fixtures within the prayer life of our religious tradition. It is in silence that we find the true battleground of our souls. It is in silence that we find a true need for God in our lives. It is in silence that we find and experience God's loving presence. In the early days of Christianity, the desert fathers and mothers fled the cities and the bustle of society to find solitude in the barren landscapes of Egypt and Judea. It is from this example that the tradition of contemplative prayer follows in our Church. Similarly, other religious traditions have developed contemplative practices that have enabled their followers to separate themselves from the distractions of the world and make space specifically for silence and reflection/meditation. This course will examine contemplative practices from the perspective of several world religions.

- Yogi of Hinduism
- Buddhism
- Kabbalah of Judaism
- Monasticism of Christianity
- Sufi of Islam

Our study will begin with an examination of the historical context of the particular religion and how/why contemplative practices emerged as means of expression and spirituality. The similarities and differences among the contemplative traditions will be explored to help us as Christians better understand some of the precursors to our own practices and also gain an appreciation for how disparate religions have shared common values around silence, solitude, and interior spirituality.

Brother Kenneth Hosley, O.P.C. will lead the course. He is the founder and abbot of the Order of St. Anthony the Great under the auspices of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta. Brother Kenneth received his BA in Religion from the University of Georgia and has continued his studies in the history of contemplative spirituality and Christian monasticism. He has been a frequent guest lecturer at local churches, as well as Georgia Perimeter College and Georgia State University. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Brother Kenneth is also a professional calligrapher, iconographer and the managing curator for the Grey Parrot Gallery of Rare Books and Maps. He is scheduled to begin seminary for his Master of Divinity degree in the fall of 2012.

Theology and Ethics

Being Christian in a Presbyterian Way

Coordinators: Trinity members Pat Lander and John Fenton

Teachers: Trinity Pastoral Staff

February 26 – April 1

B112

This class, led by members of the pastoral staff, is designed to deepen one's understanding of what it is to be a Christian applied in a Presbyterian way. Classes will involve study and interactive discussion. The class is intended both for those who are relatively new to the Presbyterian faith, as well as those who feel they need a refresher on this topic (and, of course, the class is open to everyone). Topics covered are shown below, as well as the types of questions that will be addressed:

- Who is God—What does it mean that we believe in the triune God, and how do the three persons of the trinity function?
- Scripture—how it came to be, how we can interpret it and live it out in our daily lives?
- Community—what does it mean to be part of a Christian community, how do we live it out?
- Worship/Confession—How is the worship service ordered and put together, and why is confession at the heart of our worship?
- Prayer—what is the role of prayer in our daily lives?
- Jesus—what does it mean that Jesus died for our sins, and what does it mean to be the Christ?

On-Going Classes

Common Ground

Teacher: Kurt Swensson

February 26 - April 1

B108

See page 8 for class description.

For Session IV member Kurt Swensson will lead us to experience and discuss the story of Jesus' passion as portrayed in the 1973 film version of the popular Andrew Lloyd Weber rock opera Jesus Christ Superstar. Make your plans to join us in Common Ground.

Roots

Teacher: Rev. Matthew Ruffner, Designated Associate Pastor
February 26 - April 1
A116

Looking for a way to make some connections here at Trinity? Want to establish some “roots” in your church home? The Roots class focuses on fellowship and the opportunity to delve into our faith through subjects that are relevant to this particular season of our lives. Most participants have young children or are expecting their first child, but all are welcome. The class is led by class coordinators, as well as various Trinity clergy and staff. Matthew Ruffner will lead this class using the Feasting on the Word curriculum.

Electives | Session V

Bible

Minor Prophets/Major Issues – Compelling Messages from the Bible’s “Minor Prophets”

Teacher: Dr. George Yacoubian

April 15 – May 20

B104-106

A dozen prophetic books of the Bible—known to us as the minor prophets due to their brevity but not their importance—still speak to us today on pivotal topics that read like tomorrow’s headlines.

Their inspired messages were directed to, just to name a few examples:

- a people seduced by false gods—Hosea;
- an age turned callous about social justice—Amos;
- an empire ensnared in pride and cruelty—Nahum
- a society gripped by perplexity and fear—Habakkuk
- a nation yearning for utopia—Zephaniah
- a religious community with misguided priorities—Haggai

Even a cursory survey of the major themes of these books will quickly show that the prophets’ faith, insight, and judgment have not been outdistanced by our technologically sophisticated and frantic rush into the future. In fact, in every respect, especially theologically, we will have to stretch to keep up with them. In these lessons we will explore the highlights of the minor prophets, many of which have been interwoven into the fabric of the New Testament.

George Yacoubian teaches Biblical Studies at The Westminster Schools. A graduate of the American University of Beirut, Dr. Yacoubian received his M.Div. from Duke University and Ph.D. from Emory University.

Contemporary Issues and Action

Oppressed Christian Communities

Coordinators: Dave Higgins, Louise Gracey, and Sandra Mackey

April 15 – May 20

Williams Hall

The uprisings of the Arab Spring have been the vehicle to remove, or attempt to remove, Arab despots from power, but they have exposed festering sectarian and factional resentments and grievances. There is much news coverage of Sunni and Shia, loyalists and rebels, protesters and military, but rarely are Christians mentioned. Throughout the Middle East, Christian communities have existed for centuries. Often, as a small minority, these Christians are persecuted or oppressed, effectively having second class citizenship. This class will explore the various oppressed Christian groups, with an emphasis on the Middle East, how

they came into being, how they have survived, how their struggles have affected their population, what political alliances have been forged to assure their survival, and what challenges they now face.

Christian Living and Spiritual Practices

Caring for Ourselves and Each Other in the Midst of Grief

Teacher: Rev. Jonathan Ball

April 15 – May 20

B110

Experiencing a significant loss in our lives can be devastating, and often we are unsure how to support a friend or family member who has experienced such a loss. Coping with grief is never easy, but having a better understanding of the nature of grief and a familiarity with some of the resources that are available can make it more bearable. Guest speakers will help us explore the cultural, theological, and psychological understandings of grief while offering resources for coping and supporting others. Specific topics will include grief and children, spiritual practices in the midst of grief, and the grief of caregivers.

The Rev. Jonathan Ball is Coordinator of Clinical Pastoral Education at Atlanta's Northside Hospital.

On-Going Classes

Common Ground

Teacher: Trinity member Brandi Diamond

B108

In Session V Brandi Diamond will lead us in an exploration of “The Spirituality of Indiana Jones.” Do not miss this adventure packed look into the theology behind the Indiana Jones’ movies, and why their archeological and religious themes make for such fun and exciting films. We’ll separate fact from fiction, and you may find yourself surprised at the real life twists and turns Indy represents.

Roots

A116

Trinity Member Walter Hall will lead the class using the Nooma series of videos as discussion starters. The NOOMA short films explore our world from the perspective of Jesus. Jesus lived with the awareness that God is doing something, right here, right now. He encouraged his listeners to search, to question, to wrestle with the implications of what he was saying and doing. He inspired, challenged, provoked, comforted, and invited people to be open to God’s work in this world. Wherever he went, whatever he did, Jesus started discussions about what matters most, because for Jesus, God is always inviting us to open our eyes and join in.

Children

With the Spirit's guidance, the Ministry to Children and Their Families seeks to provide experiences of grace, love, imagination, and learning, thereby nurturing faith in Christ, wonder at God, hunger for the Bible, heart for mission, and the discovery of our God-given gifts. In planting the seeds of faith, we pray that children will integrate faith throughout their growing lives, so that they can be mature, committed and joyful disciples. The core program to achieve this mission is Sunday morning church school, which is held September to May from 9:45 to 10:45 AM for children age 2 years through grade 5. (Child care is provided for children age 1 and younger whose parents and siblings would like to attend church school.)

Ages 2 and 3

God Loves Me

God Loves Me is a storybook-based curriculum which, through 52 illustrated retellings of Old and New Testament Bible stories, relates the theological theme that God loves us all. Faith foundations are also built through the songs sung with "Mr. Music" (e.g., "Deep and Wide," "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands," "Jesus Loves Me," "B-I-B-L-E"), play, and activities which reinforce each Sunday's lesson. Lessons are taught by volunteer teachers and supported by childcare staff.

Pre-K, Kindergarten

Pre-1st, 1st Grade, and 2nd Grade

Spark

Spark is a faith formation program that encourages children in Pre-K (age 4) through grade 2 to open the scriptures and explore God's word. Spark lessons bring to life 150 stories from the Old and New Testaments through games, art, music, and science, to accommodate all the different ways kids learn. It walks through key Old Testament and New Testament Bible stories each year, in a two-year cycle. The Old Testament stories are presented in the fall quarter, and the New Testament stories are presented in the winter and spring quarters. Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost stories are included in the lesson sequence each year. Lessons are taught by volunteer teachers, and preschool rooms are also supported by childcare staff.

3rd Grade

SBC

SBC is a three-part foundational course for our 3rd-grade children. The “S” stands for “sacraments.” Our 3rd-grade children begin the year with a in-depth study of the two sacraments of the Presbyterian Church—communion and baptism. The biblical roots, theological meanings, and current practices are all examined. Additionally, these children process in worship with the communion bread on World Communion Sunday (first Sunday of October).

The “B” stands for “Bible.” After completing the sacraments study, these students will participate in an in-depth study of the Bible—its formation, organization, authors, as well as the broad sweep of the Good News. This study culminates with the presentation of Bibles to each 3rd grade student.

The “C” stands for “creed.” Beginning in the second semester, these middle elementary children will turn their attention to the Apostles Creed and other confessions of faith of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Each student will write his/her own statement of faith. Lessons are taught by volunteer teachers, clergy and intern staff.

4th and 5th Grades

ROAD Trip

ROAD is an acronym which stands for “Riding on the Avenues of Discipleship” and describes a multiple intelligences approach to faith formation. These older students engage in and explore a single Bible story from three different perspectives (e.g., art, drama, video, cooking, computers, games). Because of their advancing cognitive abilities, these children are challenged with deeper theological conversation. Adult volunteers serve as “crew leaders” and teachers with this age level.

Church School Rooms

Infants (non-toddlers) – A31 (lower level, building A)

Wobblers – A32 (lower level, building A)

1 year olds* – A23 (lower level, building A)

2 year olds* – A132 (street level, building A, near the kitchen)

3 year olds* – A24 (lower level, building A)

Pre-K (4 year olds)* – A 28 (lower level, building A)

Kindergarten* – D118

1st grade* – D116

2nd grade* – D112

3rd grade* – D110

4th and 5th grade* – D109, D106, D104, D102

* Classes are assigned on the first Sunday of the program year (September 11, 2011) by age or grade and remain stable through the next 12 months. Every enrolled child receives an Church School Invitation postcard in early September with the location of his/her class and the names of the teachers.

Youth

Sixth Grade

Faithfully Asking Questions

D210

The curriculum connects faith questions collected from Presbyterian youth with questions from The Study Catechism: Confirmation Version. Young people will bring their questions to the Bible and learn to navigate Scripture as they address issues of life and faith.

Seventh Grade

We Learn About Others

D214

What's up with that church down the street? How do we express our faith through worship? Our seventh-graders will spend time learning about how and why we worship God as Presbyterians, and then we'll learn about and visit other Protestant denominations and Catholic, Judaic, Muslim, and Hindu faith traditions.

Eighth Grade

We Learn About Ourselves/Confirmation Class

D212

Confirmation is the time set aside for youth to 1) explore what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ, and 2) learn how that commitment can be expressed through active membership in the church. During Confirmation class, youth are given the opportunity to study the basics of the Christian life and faith, with emphasis on Bible study, prayer, and discussion of issues/questions of faith, culminating in a written statement of faith. Basic aspects of our Presbyterian denomination and theology will also be explored. Confirmation Sunday is May 20, 2012.

Confirmation Parents' Class

This class meets with John Ryan. During our time together we'll

- Have a deeper understanding of the Reformed/Presbyterian faith.
- Think about the process of confirmation and its end results.
- Nurture and develop your own faith.
- Nurture and develop your adolescence's faith.

Classes will meet in the Youth area in D building on January 8, 22, 29, February 5, 12, 26 and March 11, 18.

Eighth Grade

Re:form D208

Re:form is a curriculum that's rooted in historic Christianity but speaks to teenagers on their level. Re:form empowers youth to discover for themselves what they believe, through three components:

- **ENCOUNTER:** Two DVDs with 40 hilarious animated short films frame the tough theological questions that kids really ask, like "Who wrote the Bible?" and "Why does God let bad things happen?"
- **ENGAGE:** A hands-on anti-workbook is the centerpiece of each youth's church school experience. It's a sturdy, full-color, wire-bound journal chock full of activities and ideas, with space to journal and doodle, and extras like pullout cards and cool stickers.
- **RESPOND:** re:form prompts youth to make videos, take pictures, interview people, and create stuff. Then they can upload all of their artifacts to an online portfolio – the re:form gallery – where kids can share with the whole congregation what they've been learning.

Senior High (9th-12th grades) D221 and D223

Modeled after the adult education program at Trinity, this year we will continue to offer choices for our senior highs on Sunday morning! All church school classes will fall into these broad categories: Bible, History and Doctrine, and Christian Living. Most sessions will run six to eight weeks, and students will choose one class each session.

Session III (January 8 - February 12)

Girlfriend Theology (Senior High Girls)

Girlfriend theology is an invaluable contribution to reclaiming the voices of one of the most silenced groups in our society, the teenaged girl. It offers the remarkable conclusion that such girls are not only grappling with deeply serious issues, they also can be reflective theologians with much to teach the adult world that so often finds them opaque and hard to understand. The key lies in learning to listen. The class will be led

by three women from various stages of life. Together you'll experience "girlfriend theology!"

Inside the Man Cave (Senior High Boys)

A man cave, sometimes called a manuary or manspace, is a make sanctuary where "guys can do as they please" without upsetting any female sensibility about décor or design! According to psychiatrist and author Scott Haltzman, it is important for a man to have a place to call his own, referring to a male area to which to retreat. Come explore faith issues from a male viewpoint. Your guides will be men in various stages of life.

Session IV (February 26 - April 1)

The Gospel According to Disney

Come explore the role that the animated features of The Walt Disney Company have played in the moral and spiritual development of generations of children. The class will discuss the religious, moral, and theological themes in 31 of the most popular Disney films, including Snow White, Cinderella, Beauty and the Beast, and the Lion King, and discover the Disney Gospel: faith that good will prevail, trust in yourself and your friends, and a little bit of something magical.

Session V (April 15 - May 20)

Seeing Gray in a Black and White World

Everyone agrees that America is polarized, with ever-hardening positions held by people less and less willing to listen to one another. No one agrees on what to do about it. One solution that hasn't yet been tried is for thinking persons of faith to model for the rest of the country a richer, more thoughtful conversation on the political, moral, and religious issues that divide us. Sessions will include:

- Where Faith and Politics Meet
- Christ, Christians and Culture Wars
- How Should We Live? The Ethics of Jesus
- Spiritual Maturity and Seeing Gray
- What Would Jesus Say to America?

Feasting on the Word

This innovative resource incorporates the Feasting on the Word commentary style to explore one of the lectionary passages in ways suitable for all participants. This curriculum begins with a solid scriptural and theological base and invites learners deeper into the rhythm of the church year. It utilizes a common Bible passage, making it easy for families to learn and live out their faith together.

Bible Study

Women's Link Circle Bible Studies

Through Women's Link, opportunities are provided for monthly small-group Bible study at different times during the day and evening. Circle members take turns leading the study. The 2011-2012 Horizons Bible Study for Trinity Women's Link Circles will be Confessing the Beatitudes authored by Margaret Aymer. The author provides important insights about the original context of the scripture (mainly from Mark and Luke). She also offers wonderful direction for members of the groups to learn together what it means to speak the truth about who God is calling us to be – all as you learn how to confess the Beatitudes. If you are interested in joining a circle, please contact Bede Campbell at 404-495-8428 or at bcampbell@trinityatlanta.org. Meeting Times are as follows:

- Circle 1- 2 Second Tuesday of the month, 10:30 am, Chapel Parlor
- Circle 3 Second Tuesday of the month, 10:00 am, members' homes
- Circle 4 Second Tuesday of the month, 10:00 am, members' homes
- Circle 5 Third Tuesday of the month, 10 am, members' homes
- Circle 6 Second Thursday of the month, 7:00 pm, Chapel Parlor

Disciple Bible Studies

Disciple is a program of disciplined Bible study that focuses on engaging the disciple as learner, believer, follower, proclaimer and servant. Aimed at developing strong Christian leaders, it provides the fellowship and support of a small group. If you are interested in participating in a Disciple Bible study, please contact Bede Campbell at 404-495-8428. New groups will be formed subsequent to sufficient enrollment.

Disciple II: Into the Word, Into the World

Leader: Rev. Cader Howard
Wednesdays, 12:00-2:00 pm
B108

This 32-week course concentrates on the Old Testament books of Genesis and Exodus and the New Testament books of Luke and Acts. It is recommended that persons first take Disciple 1 before taking this course.

Disciple IV: Under The Tree of Life

Leaders: Group participants take turns leading the discussion
Thursdays, 9:00-10:30 am
B100

This 32-week course offers an in-depth study into scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Spiritual Formation Groups

Spiritual Formation refers to the growth and development of an individual listening for God by intentional observance of spiritual practices such as prayer, reading Scripture, confession, and service. These practices often result in the opportunity for participants to articulate their interior life, and to learn from others who are doing the same. The purpose of spiritual formation is to remain conscious of how you are being formed by God and to continue taking that consciousness out into the world to glorify God's kingdom.

If you need more information regarding group content and process, feel free to contact Jeannie DuBose at jdubose@trinityatlanta.org or at 404-495-8429. See contact information below to sign up for specific groups.

Faces of Wisdom

Leaders: Group members take turns leading discussion
Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 am
A116

Breakfast and lively study greet this intergenerational group of Trinity women each Wednesday morning in A116. Maturity and youth mix to exchange knowledge, experience, and friendship through the discussion of a variety of books and topics. If you are interested in participating, please contact Bede Campbell at bcampbell@trinityatlanta.org or 404-495-8428.

NEW—Middling Dads

Leader: Rev. Matthew Ruffner
1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 7:00 - 8:30 pm
(January 3, 17, February 7, 12, March 6, 20)
Location: TBD

The busyness of life can often times blur our focus on family, friends, community and self. Are you a father who sometimes feels out-of-

balance as you respond to your role as provider, husband, father, friend, son? Are you interested in being able to talk about the joys and frustrations of these many roles through the prism of our faith? If so, you might be interested in a new opportunity for dads of kids 4 -15ish. The idea is to provide a small group setting where men can explore how to live whole, faithful lives while in the midst of responding to multiple demands on time, energy and identity. We will meet for a series of six conversations; the structure for this group will be fluid, allowing time in the first few sessions for us to get to know one another and listen to where the Spirit is moving. To sign up, please contact Bede Campbell at bcampbell@trinityatlanta.org or 404-495-8428.

NEW—Monday Morning Moms

Leaders: Rev. Erin McGee and Rev. Rebecca Parker

Alternating Monday mornings, 9:30-11:30

(January 9, continuing January 30, February 13, 27, March 12, 26)

B112

Are you wearing lots of hats? Mother, spouse, friend, child of God? Are you a mother of a young child(ren) in the middle of multiple demands on your time, energy, and identity? Would you like to explore what it means to live a “whole life” with other Trinity women? If so, you will be interested in a new opportunity for mothers of 0 to 4 year olds. We will meet for a series of six conversations that invite women to know themselves, each other, and God more deeply. We will gather to explore, learn, share, and laugh as we seek to understand what it means to live true to ourselves while being accountable to the other responsibilities in our lives. Childcare is provided. To sign up, please contact Veronica Ridenhour at 404-495-8440 or vridenhour@trinityatlanta.org.

Mysterion: Young Adult Women (mostly in 20s)

Leaders: Group members take turns leading discussion

Alternating Tuesdays, 7:00 pm

Members' homes

Each term, Mysterion selects a book to read as a jumping off point to discuss the intersection of faith and life experiences. Strong content and the opportunity to build community are focal points for this group. To sign up, please contact Bede Campbell at bcampbell@trinityatlanta.org or 404-495-8428.

NEW—The Spirituality of Aging: Bearing Fruit in All Seasons

Leader: Jeannie DuBose, M.S.

Alternating Wednesday mornings, 10:00 am -12:00 pm

(January 25, February 8, 22, March 7, 21, April 18)

B100

Whether you consider yourself young or old, join us for a series of six conversations which will invite men and women to consider the concept of elderhood. Let's face it – there are things about aging that are downright lousy. The good news is that our faith tradition offers both mirror and guiding light as we journey through the struggles and epiphanies of growing older. This interactive, experiential series will use the teachings of Old Testament theologian Kathleen O'Connor, as well as the laments and delights from the Psalms as anchor for our conversations. Men and women of all ages are welcome. To sign up, please contact Bede Campbell at bcampbell@trinityatlanta.org or 404-495-8428.

The Tent

Leader: Trinity member Helen Graham

1st and 3rd Wednesday, 10:00 am -12:00 pm

B112

Are you looking for “more” in your spiritual life?” Would you like to be with a group of women who dig deeper into books and ponder their meaning? Do you like interesting discussions with other women seekers? Would you relish having fun, encouragement and enjoyment on your spiritual path? The TENT offers all of these. It is a place where you can experience a different rhythm from the hurried cadence “out there.” Though our gatherings are not like bygone rural “tent revivals,” we leave feeling full—like a soul revival in the middle of the week. Our conversations are stimulating, provocative, and laced with good times.

Our winter gathering begins Wednesday, January 4, 2012. We invite you to join us on the first and third Wednesday of each month in Room B112 from 10 am to noon. Our theme this year is “Living Deeply,” which invites us to dive below surface appearances of life and plumb the depths of our shared humanity and spirituality. The book we are exploring is *The Wisdom Jesus: Transforming the Heart and Mind* by the Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bourgeault.

The changes and challenges in our world today can test our faith, reminding us that life embraces both disappointment and hope—and ultimately renewal. Women of the TENT walk a path that leads us into a refreshing search to find God in new places.

Young Adult Women’s Small Group (mostly in 30s)

Leaders: Group members take turns leading discussion
Alternating Thursdays, 7pm
Members’ homes

This group explores how spiritual practices can enhance a faithful life. Strong content and the opportunity to build community are focal points for this group. To sign up, please contact Bede Campbell at bcampbell@trinityatlanta.org or 404-495-8428.

If you are interested in participating in one of the following groups (Chapter 3A and 3B, Men Transition, or Middle Moms), please contact Jeannie DuBose at jdubose@trinityatlanta.org or 404-495-8429. New groups will be formed subsequent to sufficient enrollment.

Chapter 3A

Leaders: TBA
Alternating Tuesdays, 12:30-2:30 pm
B112

This group’s content, reflection, and discussion centers on personal growth issues pertinent to women who are new empty nesters or who are on the verge of an empty nest. Chapter 3A began meeting in 2009 and is continuing their conversation about faith with a focus on the questions “What is changing? How am I changed? What are the changes I seek?”

Chapter 3B

Leaders: Catherine Enright and Nancy Mansfield
Alternating Thursdays, 8:15-10:15 am
B108

This group’s content, reflection, and discussion centers on personal growth issues pertinent to women who are new empty nesters or who are on the verge of an empty nest. With our faith tradition as our guide, we will continue to explore who we have been, who we are now, and how we might listen for who God is calling us to become. This term we will employ exercises and meditations from Julie Cameron’s *The Artist’s Way* as a vehicle for being authentic artists of our own life.

Men in Transition

Leader: Dr. David Bartlett

Alternating Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00 pm

D130

This group is comprised of men in their 50s, give or take, who are interested in exploring meaningful conversation about mid-life, its possibilities, and its challenges. One of the main objectives of this experiential group is to provide participants with the opportunity to know one another more deeply, while exploring how faith can support the desire to live an authentic life. Topics discussed include developmental touch points for men in midlife, spiritual practices that support a conscious life, and the exploration of feelings and questions that arise as we watch our children leave home, our focus on careers shift, and marital dynamics change.

Middle Moms

Leaders: Group members take turns leading discussion

Alternating Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 pm

Sanctuary Parlor

This group is meant for women who are in the midst of mothering elementary school-aged children. The conversation will focus on what it means to live a genuine life while being accountable to various obligations and responsibilities. We explore, learn, share, and laugh as we seek to understand what it means to know ourselves, each other, and God more deeply.

TOPICAL GROUPS

MOMS Group

Facilitator: Rev. Erin McGee

Last Thursday of the month

This group is geared for mothers of young children who are interested in hearing speakers address a variety of topics as follows:

Thursday, January 26, 6:30-8:30 pm. "Habits of a Healthy Mom,"

Speaker: Kate Ferguson

Thursday, February 23, 10:00-11:30 am. "Mark's Jesus Blog: A Bible

Study," Speaker: Erin McGee

Thursday, March 29, 6:30-8:30 pm. "Nurturing A Mother's Soul,"

Speaker: Rebecca Parker

Thursday, April 26, 10:00-11:30 am. Five Languages of Love and Who Are These People In My Home?" Speaker: Erin McGee

Non-Fiction Book Group

3rd Thursday, 7:00 PM
Chapel Parlor

The nonfiction book club meets the third Thursday, September through June (Chapel Parlor, 7:00 pm). The book club selects from a variety of nonfiction genre's including history, biography, spiritual and theological reflections, medicine, etc. The winter/spring season begins January 19 with *Myth of the Robber Barons: A New Look at the Rise of Big Business in America*, by Robert Folsom and Forrest McDonald. On February 19 we read *A World Lit Only by Fire*, by William Manchester. In subsequent months we'll read, in order *The Social Animal*, by David Brooks (March); *Lords of Finance*, by Liaquat Ahamed (April); *Moral Clarity*, by Susan Nie-man (May); and *1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus*, by Charles C. Mann (June). Should you wish to be on the e-mail and USPS reminder list, contact Nancy Ireland.

Novel Ideas

1st Thursday 7:00 pm
Chapel Parlor

Novel Ideas is a discussion group that is open to all booklovers. This group, which is led by various members, meets monthly on the first Thursday of each month (September – May) at 7:00 pm in the Chapel Parlor to discuss the selection of the month. Selections for 2012 are *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage*, by Alice Munro (January) and *The Big Sleep* (February). *State of Wonder*, *Let the Great World Spin*, and *Northanger Abbey* are other selections for the spring.

DRAMA, anyone?

Quarterly, Monday evenings

The group meets once each quarter during the school year, on a Monday evening, in the home of a member. Each participant is responsible for obtaining a copy of the play in advance and reading through it before the meeting. When we gather, we read through the play taking lines in turn as we go around our circle. Alternatively, we might assign stable roles for a given scene and then switch about for the next scene. Thus, by the end of the evening, each member has had the chance, briefly, to “play” several characters. We interpret each character as colorfully as we choose. The group is always open to new lovers of drama. If questions, call Rosemary Kittrell at 494-355-7167.

Parents of Teens

Facilitator: Jeannie DuBose, M.S.

Last Sunday of the month, 6:00-7:30 pm

B110

Parents of pre-teens and teens meet to gather information and discuss issues pertinent to this stage of the life cycle. A variety of speakers address issues such as communication, healthy boundaries, sexuality, technology, exposure to alcohol/drugs, and our culture of consumerism. Time is always allotted for parents to share questions, thoughts, ideas and struggles in an effort to deepen relationships and allow for an honest reflection of how we might faithfully journey together through this stage of raising our children.

NEW—Young Adult Series: The West Wing of Faith

Leader: Rev. Matthew Ruffner

The 4th Tuesday of the month

7:00-8:30 pm, Members' homes

How does our faith inform how we function in the world? Does our faith influence our politics? How do our political beliefs influence how and who we worship with? What do we do with the hot button topics? Join the conversation on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 pm as we explore faith and politics through the lens of “The West Wing.” “The West Wing” is the popular television drama written by Aaron Sorkin, and is fertile ground for exploration.

Trinity Explores

February 2

Treating the Spirit in an Age of Prozac

Gordon Marino

7:00 pm, B104-106

Professor Gordon Marino, Philosopher of Existentialism and noted Kierkegaard scholar will speak at Trinity Explores Thursday, February 2 at 7:00 pm. Admission is free. Spurred by the many responses to his *New York Times* article: “Kierkegaard on the Couch” (Oct. 28th, 2009), Marino has been touring the country speaking and responding to questions about a hidden issue that resides in American attitudes toward mental illness: the difference between depression and despair.

In addition to being a philosopher, Marino is a football coach, professional boxing trainer, and boxing editor of the Wall Street Journal. Most importantly, he is a delightfully engaging individual who will enable easy conversation about this difficult but pervasive topic.

February 23, March 8, and March 22

The Problem of God

Dr. David Bartlett, Theologian in Residence

7:00 pm, B104-106

Fee: \$15

Can we really believe that God is omnipotent and truly good at the same time - particularly in the face of rampant human suffering and evil in the world? How can we humans assert that we are created in God's image when we are clearly such imperfect creatures populating an infinitesimally small speck of dust in the vast expanse of the universe? Have the advances of science eliminated any need or place for God as we enter the third Christian millennium? What do the Bible and, in particular, Jesus' life, death and resurrection, teach us about these questions? Join us for this three-week series led by our own Theologian-in-Residence, David Bartlett, as we seek faithfully to grapple with the “Problem of God.”

April 12

Spiritual Practices

Jeffrey Small

7:00 pm, Williams Hall

Fee: \$15

“I am a failure at prayer...[but] prayer might mean more than getting down on my knees...Prayer is waking up to the presence of God no matter where I am or what I am doing. When I am able to give myself wholly to the moment I am in, then I am in prayer.” –Barbara Brown Taylor, *An Alter in the World*

Do you feel this way? The spiritual practice of prayer can oftentimes be intimidating or something we feel that we do not and cannot do well. Join us as we explore the spiritual practice of meditation as prayerful practice. Jeffrey Small, Jr. will lead us in an exploration of this practice, its origins, and ways to implement this practice in your daily life.

Jeffrey Small, Jr. is the author of the mystical thriller, The Breath of God, a popular blogger on Huffington Post, and an acclaimed speaker on religious and spirituality topics. Jeffrey graduated summa cum laude from Yale University, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. While at Yale, he served as publisher and senior editor of the Yale Herald. He then graduated magna cum laude from Harvard Law School where he was elected to the Board of Student Advisors and taught speech, legal writing, and research. Jeffrey next earned a master’s in the Study of Religions from Oxford University in England where he was a member of Oriel College. Jeffrey is active in the Episcopal Church, currently serving as a member of the Board of Trustees at General Theological Seminary in New York, but he has also studied yoga in India and practiced Buddhist meditation in Bhutan.

Trinity Explores! Registration

Name(s)

Address

Home phone

Business phone

E-mail

COURSES

Classes are held on Thursdays at 7:00 PM.

- Treating the Spirit in the Age of Prozac**
February 2
Fee: None
- Problem of God**
February 23, March 8, and March 22
Fee: \$15
- Spiritual Practices**
April 12
Fee: \$15

CHILD CARE

- Yes, I need child care. (Reservation is required 1 week prior to the session)

Number of children _____ Ages _____

FEES

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