



WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

## ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION Spring 2010

### SUNDAY CLASSES

#### **The Stages of Faith**

*Led by Bruce Weaver*

Date: Sundays, May 2 and 9

Time: 10:10 – 11:00 a.m.

Place: Rodney Chapel

Life is a journey. And so is each individual's faith development. One's faith starts in early childhood and changes and grows throughout one's lifetime, driven by one's education, community, institutions and life's experiences.

This program is based on James Fowler's groundbreaking study showing how human life is progressively centered on a basic set of meanings and values that shape our faith. Faith, as approached here, is not necessarily religious, nor is it to be equated with belief. Rather, faith is a person's way of leaning into and making sense of life. Faith is the dynamic system of images, values, and commitments that guide one's life. Everyone who chooses to go on living operates by some basic faith.

Fowler engagingly presents six stages that track the evolution of one's faith--from the intuitive, imitative faith of childhood through the conventional faith of adulthood followed by the universalizing, self-transcending faith of full maturity. All individuals go through these stages. Recognizing them helps us understand our quest for meaning and value in life.

#### **The Power of Forgiveness**

*Led by Mike Gnade and Margo Reign*

Date: Sundays through May 16

Time: 10:10 – 11:00 a.m.

Place: Daughtry House Conference Room (next to WPC parking lot)

This class explores recent research into the psychological and physical effects of forgiveness on individuals and communities in a variety of conditions. Using a contemporary documentary for national public television, we will look at world events and interviews with renowned teachers and authors. This film also explores the role of forgiveness in various faith traditions, and provides an honest look at the intensity of human emotions. Through character-driven stories the film shows the role forgiveness can play in alleviating anger and grief. Join us as we consider the physical, mental and spiritual benefits which come from practicing forgiveness.

## **New! Steadfast Hope**

Date: Sundays, May 2 – 16

Time: 10:10 – 11:00 a.m.

Place: Classroom 6

We will examine the struggle for peace in Israel/Palestine using a resource of the Israel/Palestine Mission Network of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and *Encounter Point*, an award-winning documentary. Over the past four decades, the U.S. has provided unwavering support for Israel. Recently, our government has signaled that to find a just peace, new policies must be put in place to answer Palestinian grievances along with Israel's need for security.

The Presbyterian Church has had a presence in the Middle East since the early 1800s and has continually sought peace and justice in the region. This summer the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) will receive the report of the Middle East Study Committee. The committee's mandate was "to prepare a comprehensive study, with recommendation, that is focused on Israel/Palestine within the complex context of the Middle East."

## **Parenting**

*Group led, with Yvonne Nass, Parenting Consultant, leading the first Sunday of each month*

Date: Sundays through May 16

Time: 10:10 – 11:00 a.m.

Place: Ruth Christie Room

Classes are built around the participants' shared parenting experiences, particularly with young children. DVDs that focus on particular parenting issues will spark engaging discussions and help class members discover effective tools and techniques for rearing healthy children in our postmodern culture. On the first Sunday of each month, Yvonne Nass meets with parents for open dialogue and discussion on challenges of parenting. Yvonne brings more than 35 years of experience to the class.

## **Westminster By Heart**

*Led by Biblical Storytellers Mary-beth Howard and Shelley Gnade*

Date: Sundays through May 16

Time: 10:10 – 11:00 a.m.

Place: Meeting Room

Westminster By Heart provides a unique opportunity to study scripture, foster a deeper personal connection to the stories of the Bible, and develop skills for telling Scripture on a regular basis in worship. Be a part of expanding this potential, connecting to the stories of our faith and sharing the story with our congregation. Even if you're not sure that you're ready to tell but you are fascinated by the process, you are welcome! Perhaps you are more interested in joining us from a Bible study perspective. Learning to tell a story is one of the deepest ways to really connect to the Bible.