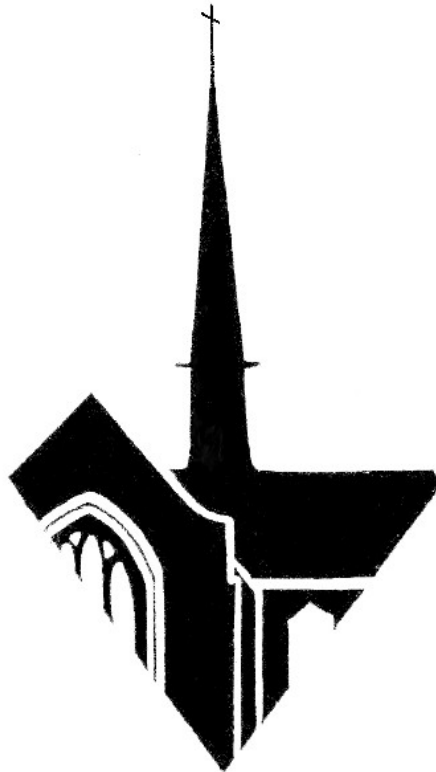


Ardmore Presbyterian Church

Christian Education Programs and Discussion Groups



Spring 2010

Ardmore Presbyterian Church
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Adult Educational Opportunities on Sunday Mornings at 9:00 am

PAUL'S LETTERS TO THE PHILIPPIANS AND THE COLOSSIANS

Sunday, January 31 through Sunday, April 11 (excluding Easter)

The Apostle Paul's letters to the various Christian churches were widely circulated and eagerly read. They were not intended for either a religious or intellectual elite – they were meant for everyone. And that is still true today. Come join us as we discuss two of these letters – Philippians and Colossians. We will learn a lot about Paul and the circumstances of his life, and a lot about the struggles of these newly formed Christian churches. In many ways the lives of these early saints are far removed from life in the 21st Century, but in many other ways they are similar. Paul's teaching to the members of these churches always takes them back to the reality of what Jesus has done, and how it all works out in the lives of ordinary people. We will spend five weeks on each book: Don Poorman will lead Philippians from January 31 to February 28; Jen Herbst will lead Colossians from March 7 to April 11 (excluding Easter). We will meet in the Blue Room every Sunday from 9 to 10 am.

CHRISTIAN STORY, CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

Sun. Jan. 31 - Sun. Apr. 11 (excluding Easter)

Led by Nan Clarke and Mary Van Leeuwen

Everyone has a faith-based 'worldview'-- a framework of meaning to answer questions like 'What is the meaning of the universe, and of us as humans within it? What is humanity's biggest problem, and how can we be delivered from it?' We often assume that the biggest challenges to the Christian account of reality come from deep philosophical theories such as Marxism and Existentialism. But in fact, the most subtle and powerful worldview 'idols' come to us from common cultural temptations such as consumerism, individualism, nationalism and moral relativism -- all of which affect us as Christians much more than we recognize. This class will help us think about what it means to have a Christian or biblical worldview. We will also discuss together how we can live more consistently within that worldview in the context of our everyday lives as citizens, workers, and people involved in many kinds of relationships. To help us, we will also read and discuss a new book by two Christian philosophers titled HIDDEN WORLDVIEWS: EIGHT CULTURAL STORIES THAT SHAPE OUR LIVES. This should be a stimulating class for persons at all stages of their Christian walk, but perhaps especially for young adults and younger married couples, many of whom are seeking wisdom to structure their personal, professional, and family lives more consistently in terms of the Christian 'story' in which we are all actors. This class will meet in the Mill Creek Room.

Additional Adult Educational Opportunities

LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUPS

During Lent there will be four different opportunities throughout the week to meet together to discuss Tim Keller's book, The Prodigal God. The groups will begin meeting after Ash Wednesday, on Thursday, February 18th, and run for six weeks. Groups will meet early Wednesday morning, Thursday mid-morning, and Thursday and Sunday evenings. The Prodigal God will give us a glimpse into the very heart of the gospel: God's radical love for sinners of every kind. As we read and discuss the book together we will go beyond the traditional focus of the wayward irreligious younger son and look also at the moralistic elder son, and the Father who lavishes his love on both. As we journey through Lent together we will gain a deeper understanding of and appreciation for the message of hope and salvation that Jesus offers to both the devout and the skeptic. Watch for locations and times for these groups in coming weeks.

THE HEALING MINISTRY OF JESUS IN THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

How did Jesus heal people? Does Jesus still heal people today?

Our April and May Sunday evening Bible Study will focus on Jesus' ministry of compassion and wholeness. We will read the Gospel of Luke, giving special attention to the accounts of the people who were healed by Jesus during his earthly ministry. These accounts, through the Holy Spirit, can inform our current understanding of how Jesus brings about healing and wholeness in the lives of people today. We will meet from 7:00 – 8:30 pm on the Sunday evenings of April 11, 18, 25, and May 2, 9, 16, 23. Rev. Sturgis Poorman will be the leader.

Additional Opportunities

CONFIRMATION CLASS

This year's confirmation class will start on Sunday morning, January 31, 2010 at 9 am. The class will run for 13 weeks and include an overnight retreat. We will be studying what we believe and how our faith impacts our lives. We study Scripture, prayer, and the historic creeds of the church. We worship together, and we share a service project. Each participant has an adult mentor who will pray for the youth and meet with them to discuss the Scriptures they have read. The purpose of this class is not to give every answer. In such a short period of time that is impossible. Instead, we want to give our youth the tools that they need to continue to grow within the context of the community of faith.

NEW MEMBERS' CLASS

If you've been attending APC for some time as a visitor we invite you to join our new members' class. We will meet four times and you will have the opportunity to learn more about what it means to be a Christian, a Presbyterian, and a member of APC. There is no obligation to join – the class is a place to learn, to ask questions, and to make new friends. We will be meeting Sunday evenings, at 7 pm in the Church Library, from April 18th – May 9th. Please contact the office at admin@ardmorepres.org to let us know you'll be coming and if you need child care.

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RETREAT (SER)

During APC's second annual Spiritual Retreat, January 22-24, 2010, we turned our attention to the first question of the Heidelberg Catechism, "What is our only comfort in life and in death," as we examined the theme "Comforted, not Comfortable." In our worship and in our confessions, we claim that we belong to Christ. What does that mean? And practically, what does that mean for our worship, study, service and stewardship? We were led in our exploration by the Rev. Eunice (Junior) McGarrahan, Associate Pastor at National Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C. and musician David Wallace, who is on the faculty of the Julliard School of Music.

Children and Youth at APC

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children, ages 2 to 7th grade, are able to participate in our weekly Sunday school classes. These are held at the same time as worship each Sunday (Pre-K – 7th grade youth leave from worship). For 2 year olds to 7th grade, we are using the SPARK curriculum. This curriculum follows the Revised Common Lectionary allowing both the children and the worshipping adults to be nurtured by the same Scripture texts. Any further questions about the curriculum can be directed to Kristen Thomas Clarke. Youth in 8th grade have the opportunity, beginning January 31st, to participate in the confirmation class.

ACTIVITIES

Wednesday PLUS/Cherub Choir: Every Wednesday from 5-7, we have Wednesday PLUS and Cherub Choir. Cherub Choir, directed by Jen Bonanni, is for children K-1st grade. They practice each week, and sing a couple of times a year. Wednesday PLUS is for children in grades 2-5. The children are directed by Gary Garletts. After eating dinner, they participate in a Bible lesson, which is taught by Sondra Dillon and Viola Terwiesch.

Youth Fellowship: Youth Fellowship for Middle and Senior High is held from 5:00-7:00pm on Wednesday evenings at the Parish House. At these gatherings we have discussions on relevant topics, speakers, and games. We also participate in various service projects throughout the year. There are retreat opportunities for youth, and we are planning additional fun outings.

Family Movie Nights: Two to three times a year, the Christian Education Committee sponsors a night of dinner and a child friendly movie. These are held on Friday nights from 6 to 8 pm in Fellowship Hall. A movie night will be held Friday, February 26, 2010.

Weekday Opportunities

MEN'S WEDNESDAY NOON BIBLE STUDY AND LUNCH

Leader: James Hodsden

Every week the men enjoy Jim Moore's home-cooking as we wrestle with the Scriptures. Good conversation, laughter and questions are always welcome. We are currently studying the book of Acts. A desire to learn is all that our participants need. If you would like to join us, please contact Pastor James or just show up any Wednesday. The Bible study is held in Fellowship Hall and ends at 1:30 pm.

WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY NOON BIBLE STUDY

Facilitator: Elaine Giese

The Women's Bible Study meets at noon on Wednesdays in the library. During the first half hour we eat a brown-bag lunch, catch up on each others' lives and share joys and concerns from the Hugs List. Our study time begins at 12:30 with prayer. Currently we are reading Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis. Newcomers are always welcome! We end our meetings at 1:30 pm.

DIRECTORY

James Hodsden, M.Div., *Pastor* (pastor@ardmorepres.org)

Nan Clarke, M. Div., *Associate Pastor* (assocpastor@ardmorepres.org)

Gary Garletts, M.M., AAGO, *Director of Music/Organist* (music@ardmorepres.org)

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(christianed@ardmorepres.org)

Anne Foote, *Director of Weekday Preschool*
(preschool@ardmorepres.org)

The Christian Education Committee meets at 7:30 pm the first Tuesday of every month to plan the educational activities of the church. All are welcome.