

Sunday Morning 9:00 – 10:00
Nov. 13 – Dec. 18 (6 weeks)

1 Corinthians – we will explore the nature of Christian community as seen in Paul’s letter to the Corinthians. How does Paul envision community, and how does that impact our understanding of community, locally and globally, in the 21st Century? What challenges do we face and how do we address them in a way that is consistent with the gospel? *Meets in the Mill Creek Room.*

Touchstones for Mission – we will look at a variety of biblical “touchstones” that will lead us into a conversation about the nature of God’s mission to the world. How do we decide how we, as individuals and as a church, are going to be involved in mission, locally and globally? Like the touchstone used to rub against a precious gem to test its purity, we will use these biblical touchstones to rub against our ideas of mission with a view to discerning where the Spirit is calling us to be more engaged in God’s transforming mission. *Meets in the Library.*



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Ardmore Presbyterian Church Small Groups Fall 2011



***Growing in Faith
Building Community
Witnessing in Word & Deed***



Throughout its one-hundred plus years APC has been a church where adults have faithfully studied God’s Word together in Sunday School and Bible Studies. The Christian Education Committee wants to continue this tradition of providing opportunities for all our members to grow in faith and deepen the bonds of community by moving from a classroom model to a small group model. In a classroom model, the focus is more on the transmission of content from teacher to student. In a small group, the focus is more on group discussion around God’s Word under the guidance of a teacher/leader, and includes fellowship, prayer and care for one another, and encouraging one another to serve Christ in all areas of our lives.

With that in mind, the Christian Education Committee encourages you to participate in one of our Small Groups this fall. Find a group that fits your interest and schedule and join us as we continue to grow in faith. As our relationship with God and with one another deepens we will be better equipped to be Christ’s witnesses in the world.

Sunday Morning, 9:00 – 10:00
Sept. 18 – Nov. 6 (8 weeks)

a. **Bible Study – The Book of Judges** covers a unique and discrete portion of Israel’s history – a time when things are falling apart. Many of us are familiar with some of the stories in Judges, including those of Deborah, Gideon, and Samson. But studying the entire book gives us an opportunity to appreciate them in the larger context of God’s overarching story of creation, fall, and redemption, and may lead to some surprising conclusions. Judges also provides a rich and fully-orbed picture of women in a wide range of roles, as well as a chance to confront some deeply disturbing material and wrestle with some hard questions. *Meets in the Mill Creek Room.*

b. **Faith Journey** – discover together how we can weave the basic pattern of our Christian faith into the fabric of our daily lives. Through an interplay of readings, reflections, spiritual exercises, and questions we will embark upon a life-changing journey of growing in Christ likeness and what it means to be loved by Christ and to love others in Christ’s name. *Meets in the Library.*



Sunday Evening
7:00 – 8:30 pm
Sept. 18 – Nov. 6 (8 wks.)

- a. **John's gospel** – John affirms that Jesus has come to bring us **life**. We will look at each passage in John in which Jesus speaks about "life". What does Jesus mean by terms such as "abundant life", "eternal life", "born from above", and "living waters"? Trusting in the Holy Spirit, we will seek to apply the truths in these passages to current concerns such as "end of life issues", "quality of life issues", "health care issues", and others. Since "life" for Jesus does not end with death, we will also explore the mysteries of life after death. *Meets in the Library.*
- b. **Faith Journey** – discover together how we can weave the basic pattern of our Christian faith into the fabric of our daily lives. Through an interplay of readings, reflections, spiritual exercises, and questions we will embark upon a life-changing journey of growing in Christlikeness and what it is to be loved by Christ and loving others in Christ's name. *Meets in the Parish House.*



Wednesdays at Noon
12:00 – 1:30
Starts Sept. 14



- a. **Women's Group** – we will be looking at the life of Samuel, the last judge of Israel who anointed both Saul and David for kingship. Samuel's mother, Hannah, was childless until late in life. She promised God that, if she conceived, she would dedicate her son to his service. Samuel's life was full of ups and downs, but he was truly a man of God. Bring your lunch and join us for fellowship, conversation, and prayer around God's Word. *Meets in the Library.*
- b. **Men's Group** – this fall we are continuing our study in the gospel of John. Rather than accept the words at face value, we will wrestle with John and his stated purpose that the gospel was written so that we "may believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God". We will discuss the differences with the other gospels and consider what the author was trying to teach us through his own unique style and narrative. Good conversation, laughter, and questions are always welcome. If you would like to join us contact Pastor James or just show up any Wednesday. Lunch costs \$7. *Meets in Fellowship Hall.*

Wednesday Evening
5:30 – 7:00
Oct. 19-Nov. 16 (5 wks.)



Welcome to the Story -After a light supper and time of fellowship we will explore together the nature of the Bible, the book God has given to his people. The Bible is a fascinating story about God – his work, his character, his plan, and his fame. It is also about us – our creation, our rebellion against God, our redemption, and our restoration. The Bible is evocative, compelling, meaningful, and of great importance. It is full of flawed characters, grand schemes of redemption, heartache, compassion, toil, and love. Our discussions will focus on how we can better read, love, and live God's Word, and so find our part in God's story. *Meets in Fellowship Hall for dinner and the Library for discussion. Childcare will be available for children too young for Wednesday PLUS.*

Thursday Evening 7:30 – 9:30
Starts Sept. 22nd for 8 sessions

Women's Group – We start with a time of fellowship, followed by time studying God's Word. Our topic will be the Beatitudes. We will pair each of the Beatitudes with a Parable and share together as we unpack and explore its beauty and meaning. We end each evening with a time of prayer. *Meets at the home of Peggy Shaver.*

Friday Evening
6:30 – 9:00
Sept. 16, Oct. 14, Nov. 11
& Dec. 9 (once a month)



Conversations on Faith and Life

Join us for a pot-luck supper after which we will view a short DVD and then discuss our faith and the ways we and other people think about it. Some of the things we will discuss include the reliability of the Bible, the "exclusive" claims of Christianity, the nature of suffering, and how God's wrath and love can coexist. We will meet in various homes for each evening. *Since this is a pot-luck, please call the office or Nan Clarke (ext.12) if you are planning to attend and we will contact you about what to bring and the place of our meeting.*

Saturday, Nov. 5th, 8:30am – 1pm
(1/2 day Seminar)

Church on Sunday, Work on Monday
Have you ever been struck by the fact that while we spend so much of our waking hours at our jobs, we seldom hear sermons that speak directly to how we should express our faith in our Monday through Friday world? What does it mean to be a Christian businessperson? Waitress? Physician? Store clerk? Engineer? Teacher? Homemaker? Artist? There is no single simple answer to such questions, but the Bible does give us considerable food for thought. This seminar will seek to outline why this problem is so important, to give us a framework that enables us to think Christianly about our work, and to begin to give some practical steps we may be able to take. *Meets in Mill Creek Room.*