

North Shore Presbyterian Church

Adult Education Classes
January through May 2012



Bring Your Questions! Sunday mornings 9:15-10:15

The Christian life begins with questions that connect to living –

...Questions about life, about meaning, about purpose

...Questions about the world, right and wrong, good and evil, about how to live with others.

...Questions about God, about love, about how Christ guides us, and about grace...

2012

Sunday Mornings 9:15 – 10:15

January

- 01-01 NO EDUCATION HOUR
- 01-08 The Christian Response to the Lakota Sioux
- 01-15 Introduction to Apocalyptic Literature
- 01-22 Introduction to Apocalyptic Literature
- 01-29 Children in a Digital Age

February

- 02-05 Children in a Digital Age
- 02-12 Kairos Palestine
- 02-19 NO EDUCATION HOUR
- 02-26 Kairos Palestine

March

- 03-04 Kairos Palestine
- 03-11 Civil Discourse
- 03-18 Civil Discourse
- 03-25 Amazing Grace Questions

Adult Education

April

- 04-01 Amazing Grace Questions
- 04-08 NO EDUCATION HOUR—EASTER
- 04-15 The Milwaukee River Greenway Master Plan -
A Vision for Recreation and Restoration
- 04-22 Climate Change
- 04-29 Eco Focus - “The Story of Stuff”

May

- 05-06 NSPC 90th Anniversary - TBD
- 05-13 NSPC 90th Anniversary - TBD
- 05-20 NSPC 90th Anniversary:
The Rev. Bonnie Stafford leading

Please see descriptions beginning on page 4

Tough questions and complex issues never have simple, cookie-cutter answers. We get together with our questions, and we listen before we start giving answers. We are here to re-form ourselves to be more like Christ, so every answer we eventually form starts with the core question: "Who am I and what should I do as a follower of Jesus Christ?"

Bring your questions. We don't have a printed sheet with the answers, but we can help you find your own answers.



Class Descriptions

January 1 - No Education Hour

January 8 - The Christian Response to the Lakota Sioux

Facilitated by Mission Commission

“We will view a 15 minute video addressing how the history of the relations of the US with the Lakota nation are reflected in the social strife that exists on the Pine Ridge Reservation today. Additional discussion will focus on the Wounded Knee Massacre and the deep scar that event has left on the Lakota and on our society. How do we as Christians respond to an historical legacy that our society chooses to ignore out of guilt, prejudice, ignorance and disbelief?”

January 15 and 22—Introduction to Apocalyptic Literature

Led by J.P.Kastner

Just like at the time of Jesus, we want to know how things will end. Although telling stories around a fire have been replaced by best sellers and blockbuster films, the interest has not waned. In this two-part class, JP Kastner will look at the history behind two of the most popular apocalyptic books in the bible, Daniel and the Book of Revelation as well as a couple of Jewish and Christian books that didn't make the canon.

January 29 and February 5 - Children in a Digital Age

Guest Speaker: Dr. Jacques du Plessis

School of Information Studies

University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee

Jacques du Plessis comes from South Africa. He has been in the United States since 1984 and studied in the field of Instructional Technology. As the Internet became a new reality, he was active in educating parents about risk to the youth and looking for ways to support the youth and develop structure to keep them from harm's way.

Do you feel outpaced by your technologically savvy kids? Social networking sites have morphed into a regular medium for teens and adults to exchange information about themselves, share pictures and videos, and use blogs and private messaging to communicate with friends, and sometimes even the world-at-large. Are these tools hindering the development of relationship skills for teens? Perhaps not. However, with issues of online bullying and rumor spreading, identity theft, blogging and the real threat of sexual predators, it is important to be aware of the possible pitfalls that come with networking online.

February 19 - No Education Hour

February 12, 26 and March 4 - Kairos Palestine
Led by Rev. Tom Williams

One of the seemingly intractable issues facing the world is the relationship between the Israelis and the Palestinians. Living on a small strip of land both claim as their homeland, birthplace of their cultures and religions, these two peoples have been locked in a struggle to find a peaceful solution to conflicting claims. We often don't hear the issue as seen from a Palestinian Christian perspective. Using materials developed by the Israel/Palestine Mission Network of the PC-USA, we will spend time discussing and thinking out loud about what does justice mean in this area and how might we witness to our faith as we think about it.

March 11 and 18 - Civil Discourse
Led by Rev. Jim Bender

Every day we encounter issues that are not only controversial but that also seem to divide nations, politicians, and even best friends. Then there times when we encounter a subject that we know so little about that we don't even know how to talk about it with others. These classes will explore some current social and ethical issues from a faith perspective.

March 25 and April 1- Amazing Grace Questions
Led by John Stephens and Doug Irwin

“The hymn, “Amazing Grace” has, in the past ten years, become, along with “God Bless America”, almost a second national anthem. Numerous articles and even TV programs have appeared tracing the origins and meaning of the hymn, delving into the life of the author to explain its inspiration. People from every corner of American life have testified as to the deep meaning “Amazing Grace” has for them.

How many of you have thought about the meaning of this hymn or have experienced 'amazing grace' in your own lives? Have you considered the great appeal of the hymn and how the concept relates to Reform Theology?

We invite you to join Doug Irwin and John Stephens to consider these and other questions and to offer you a chance to share your thoughts about and possibly experiences of 'amazing grace.' It can be an educational and eye-opening and a “Heart-Opening” experience.

April 8- No Education Hour - Easter

April 15 - The Milwaukee River Greenway Master Plan—A Vision for Recreation and Restoration

Presenter: Ann Brummitt

Ann Brummitt, Director of the Milwaukee River Greenway Coalition, will discuss protection and plans for the Milwaukee River Greenway, 878 acres of urban wilderness. Ann will present a review of accomplishments and outline current and future plans for habitat restoration and recreation along 7 miles of river that will link 12 public parks in three communities, Glendale, Shorewood, and Milwaukee.

Ann taught public school, French and Drama, for 20 years mostly in the Elmbrook Public Schools. In 2006 she began, as a volunteer, to lead a grassroots effort to protect the Milwaukee River along with other citizens and three non-profits, the Milwaukee Riverkeeper, the Urban Ecology Center and the River Revitalization Foundation. As the effort gained traction, Ann felt a need to devote all her energies to the project and decided to leave teaching and become a full time director in 2007. After successful passage of protective legislation in the City of Milwaukee in 2010, the Milwaukee River Greenway Coalition was named the Resource Renewal Institute's 2010 River Warrior and the River Alliance's 2011 River Champion. The coalition is now focused on implementation of the Master Plan for the Greenway. Ann lives in Shorewood with her daughter Sara and Golden Retriever Max. Another daughter Nora attends UW-Madison.

April 22– From climate change to the dark mountain: Can we get out of this mess?

Speaker: Kyle Swanson, Professor and Coordinator of the Atmospheric Sciences Program at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Climate change is one of the many potential challenges facing humanity as we approach the so-called “dark mountain,” i.e., the age of global disruption. In spite of possible significant impacts to both the human and natural realms, there remain many unresolved questions about precisely what climate change entails and what it does not. We will take a hard look at some of these questions, and more importantly, have a forward looking discussion about why solving the climate change problem will be so difficult.

April 29 - Eco Focus - “The Story of Stuff”

“The Story of Stuff” movie is a 20-minute, fast-paced, fact-filled look at the underside of our production and consumption patterns. “The Story of Stuff” exposes the connections between a huge number of environmental and social issues, and calls us together to create a more sustainable and just world. It’ll teach you something, it’ll make you laugh, and it just may change the way you look at all the stuff in your life forever.” There will be a pre- and post-movie discussion to look at some of the issues that are brought up in this film.

May 6 and 13 - NSPC 90th Anniversary—TBD

May 20 - NSPC 90th Anniversary
The Rev. Bonnie Stafford Leading



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