

# **Christian Education 2011-2012**

Growing in our faith with classes and activities for all ages—nursery-aged children through adults.

Sunday morning classes begin August 21, 2011.  
Classes start promptly at 9:30 a.m. and end at 10:30 a.m.

Northridge  
Presbyterian  
Church



## **ADULT CLASSES “UNDER CONSTRUCTION”**

**Watch the newsletter for information and announcements  
pertaining to these classes.**

### **“EARTH HONORING FAITH”**

Led by Jerry and Carolyn Henson

“After having attended a most stimulating seminar at Ghost Ranch in June, we plan to organize a study group called “Earth Honoring Faith.” The group will be open to not more than 12 persons who will agree to read and participate in a seminar on the anchor book, Saving Paradise. We will meet from 6:00—8:00 p.m. The book is a serious and scholarly historical study of theological themes with important contemporary implications. The class will be offered at seminary level, demanding serious thinking and sharing of ideas. It promises to be exciting and rewarding.”

### **LENTEN MID-WEEK STUDY**

Led by Robert Foster

Spring, 2012 the Northridge Christian Education Committee will offer a Lenten study one day or evening a week. Time and day of the week to be determined.

### **PALM SUNDAY—COMBINED ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL—QH**

Ken and Mary Jane Cooper will lead a class on congregational hymns. Ken and Mary Jane are retired music directors from First Presbyterian Church, Dallas.

## **Nursery Care: Infants – 18 months**

**Room 104**

**8:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Sunday mornings**

**Ana Baldazo**, our nursery supervisor, provides a warm, secure environment and keeps our nursery organized. Ana has “raised” many of our children here at Northridge.

Taylor Moeller and Candice Richardson complete our childcare staff.

Trained volunteers from our congregation are also present in the nursery to greet families and assist our childcare staff.

## **Extended Care: 18 months – 5 Years**

**10:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**

**Childcare during 11:00 a.m. worship**

2-3 Year Olds	Room 109
4 – 5 Year Olds	Room 112

Parents of children in the program and other adults in the congregation take turns caring for children, focusing on helping each child know that church is a safe and loving place. When weather permits, everyone goes out to our playground, designed for children of this age range.

**Kristie Giles**, our Extended Care Coordinator, keeps the schedule organized. Teen members serve as assistants.

**Toddler Class: 18 months through 2 years**  
**Room 109**

Sara Hundley  
Clay Hundley

We provide a loving, stimulating environment, encouraging curiosity while providing a safe environment. Our curriculum is the Presbyterian produced Wee Believe program.

It is written and designed to nurture the development of faith through age-appropriate Bible stories. Recognizing that young children learn through repetition, most Bible stories are explored over two sessions.

**3—4 Year Old Class**  
**Room 112**

Tracy Bye  
Jeff Chauza  
Kathy Watson

The first thirty minutes are devoted to the music curriculum, *God's Children Sing*, which is based on the model program *Kindermusik*. The music reflects different Old and New Testament stories. After music time, the stories are reinforced with craft and game activities from the Presbyterian Wee Believe program.

## **Kindergarten & First Grade Class**

### **Room 212**

**Kristie Giles**  
**Licia Harper**  
**Catherine Wooding**  
**Kerry Wooding**

*Wonders of Worship Program*  
*& We Believe Presbyterian Curriculum*

Teachers prepare children for participating in worship. Kindergarten children begin learning about the sacraments of baptism & communion, our parts of worship and memorizing congregational responses. First Grade children begin attending worship.

The fall quarter of We Believe will focus on "God's People Together." Children will learn about some key relationships in the Old Testament. Examples are Adam & Eve, Cain & Abel, Miriam & Moses, Samuel & Eli, Elisha & the Widow, Esther & Mordecai.

At the end of the year, First Grade Children receive a small hand carved cross. This tradition was begun by Jess Spoons who always role modeled "shining your light." Doug Gill learned from Jess's example and continues the tradition of presenting hand carved crosses to our First Graders.

## **Second – Fourth Grade Class**

**Room 216**

**Carol Barron  
Bill Swart  
Brandy Treadway  
Jason Treadway**

Using the Presbyterian USA curriculum, *We Believe*, 2nd-4th Grade children will be learning about “God’s People Together” and focusing on key relationships in the Old Testament. Stories include Adam & Eve, Cain & Abel, Miriam & Moses, Samuel & Eli, David & Goliath, Elisha & the Widow, Jonah & God, and Esther & Mordecai.

## **Fifth - Sixth Grade Class**

**Room 205**

**Laurie Bret  
Violet Deatherage  
Monty Watson**

Fifth & Sixth Grade class members begin to study Bible stories based on lectionary passages. Augsburg-Fortress’s Spark curriculum provides developmentally appropriate lessons that help children explore the Bible and make connections between what they learn in Sunday school and what they hear and experience in worship. This fall we are in Lectionary Year A.

## **Junior High Class: Seventh - Eighth Grades**

**Room 206**

**Ric Berger  
Tory Chauza  
Candy Haynes**

Younger youth look at theological questions and biblical themes through contemporary experiences and stories that allow them to identify with the topic. We use the curriculum titled *Re:form*, published by Sparkhouse. This year the class will focus on *Re:form: Ancestors*. They will explore the ancestors of our faith and discover similarities between themselves and the many unlikely people selected by God to do extraordinary things.

## **Senior High Class: Ninth – Twelfth Grades**

**Youth Suite – Senior High Room**

**Sharon Diaz  
Jesse Diaz  
Lou Alpert**

This fall the Senior High class topics include: Biblical Archeology – foods, ancient games, and methods of learning; Exploring the Lost Years of Jesus – what were the lifestyles and social norms of the time and area where Jesus lived; Hey Jesus, Friend Me! – a look at how modern media has shaped our view of God and Christ; Thanks for Giving – a look at the idea of giving; and ending the fall with Are You Kidding Me? – an Improv program that teaches about appropriate humor.

**4-5-6 Fellowship**  
**Fourth—Sixth Grades**  
**Fourth Sunday of the Month 6—7:30 p.m.**  
**Quillin Hall**

Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth graders meet each month for dinner, fellowship and service activities. We usually meet on the fourth Sunday of the month at 6:00 pm but some months we have special activities. In the Fall, we plan an overnight event at the church. In the spring, we go to KidQuake, a weekend retreat at Camp Gilmont. Each year, we shop for items and put together Christmas gift packages for the Stew Pot Ministry program.

**Youth Fellowship**  
**Seventh—Twelfth Grades**  
**Sundays 5:00-6:30 p.m.**  
**Youth Suite**

Northridge has a year long youth fellowship program which welcomes everyone from 7th through 12th grades. During the school year, youth meet on Sunday evenings to enjoy fellowship, eat dinner twice a month, complete mission projects, go on field trips, and explore their spirituality. Throughout the year, the youth also attend various Presbyterian camps and conferences including YouthQuake, SHYC (Senior High Youth Conference), and MO-Ranch. The highlight of the summer programming is the annual youth mission trip. In 2011 the youth traveled to New Orleans to work for a week in continuing to restore homes damaged by Hurricane Katrina. In 2010, the youth participated in an international mission trip to Patchakan, Belize. Each youth attending the trip will complete the P.A.C.T. (Peers Attending Church Together) which encourages our youth to become an active part of our church community and provides an opportunity for the youth to build relationships with each other, their youth director, and their sponsors before they go out into the world to serve.

**Melanie Ogé Rylander** is our Youth Director. Please contact her for an up-to-date calendar of youth activities and events.

**James Binford, Michelle Gill, and Abby Munn** are our dedicated youth sponsors.

## **Adult Classes - Fall I Courses**

**August 21 - September 25**

### **Parlor Class**

#### **Money and the Bible**

Led by Ben Dorr

What does Scripture actually say about money, possessions, and wealth? Is the message consistent or contradictory? What does Jesus say about these matters? When we think about our lifestyle and standard of living, does the Bible affect our thinking? This class will explore these and other questions related to faith, the Bible, and money.

### **Room 101**

#### **Slavery, Freedom and the Churches**

Led by Jerry Henson

The direct lineage of the United States goes back to the first permanent British colony at Jamestown, Virginia, founded in 1607. Just 12 years later those settlers purchased twenty African slaves from a Dutch slave trader and put them to work in the tobacco fields. Slavery made America rich while becoming the most divisive social, political, and religious problem in the nation. It ended with a horrible, fratricidal war. Then came segregation and Jim Crow, which eventually brought on the Civil Rights Movement of the mid twentieth century.

American Christians were on both sides of this issue, which split several denominations including our own. How could believers worship the same God, read the same Scripture, endorse the same creeds yet subscribe to such opposite theological justifications regarding this most basic matter? Indeed, how do American churches typically handle such issues? Is our theology any more adequate than that of our ancestors?

## **Fall I Courses—continued**

**August 21—September 25**

### **PARENTING—GOD’S GREATEST GIFT & CHALLENGE**

**Room 105**

Each Sunday participants will tackle different topics concerning growth and development of children at different ages. What behaviors should we expect? What are helpful ways to respond to the challenges of each stage?

August 21: Parenting in the Pew – experiencing worship with your children  
Melanie Towb

August 28: Growing Futures – basic early child development, including how the brain develops.

Natalie Baerwaldt

Sept. 4: Discussion panel on Teaching Faith in the Home

Sept. 11: Disciplining our Disciples – now that we understand their development, how do we respond to their behaviors using positive child guidance?!

Natalie Baerwaldt

Sept. 18: Middle Childhood – elementary and pre-teen development & challenges, including the domains of development

Natalie Baerwaldt

Sept. 25: Your Adolescent’s B.O.D. (board of directors) – how to help yourself and your child get through the teen years

Natalie Baerwaldt

Natalie is Director of Children’s Services at Nexus Recovery Center and has previously taught parenting classes for us.

## **Adult Classes - Fall II Courses**

**October 2 – November 6**

### **Parlor Class**

#### **SELECTIONS FROM AMERICA'S SPIRITUAL TREASURY**

Led by Tim Jernigan

Inspired by essays and treatises collected in Hugh Hewitt's Searching for God in America, we will examine samples of America's spiritual literature from the past 200 years or so. Over the course of six Sundays we will be considering works of authors from Mark Twain to Jonathan Edwards, Thomas Jefferson to Frederick Buechner. As Hewitt put it, "The thread that binds the selections together is a purposefulness on the authors' part to convey either the story of their own belief and how that belief sprang into being and changed their lives, or some commentary on religion in America." There will be conversion narratives and perhaps some words from thinkers whose searching led to less positive conclusions. We're looking forward to some good conversation and insightful discussion.

### **Room 101**

#### **THE PSALMS**

Led by Gary Sommerfelt

The Book of Psalms has been a source of consolation and joy for both Christians and Jews for centuries. Composed over hundreds of years beginning perhaps as early as the tenth century BC, the Psalms were originally written as poems that were sung in temple worship services. This course will emphasize the musicality of the Psalms as we hear them sung in Hebrew, Latin, and English. We will read and study various English translations of the Psalms in the spirit of lyric poetry rather than as doctrinal treatises or sermons. The goal will be to open up our imaginations so that the words of the Psalmists might provide a more spiritual grounding for our daily lives.

**October 2 – October 23**

### **Room 105**

#### **NEWCOMERS' CLASS**

Led by Ben Dorr

Are you interested in joining our church, or learning more about the Presbyterian Church (USA)? Ben Dorr will begin a four week Newcomers' Class that covers the theology and governance of the PC(USA). The class will be structured for visitors and prospective members. If you are a current member and would like a "refresher", you are also welcome to attend.

## **Adult Classes - Fall III Courses**

**November 13 – December 18**

### **Parlor Class**

#### **THE TEN COMMANDMENTS**

Led by Bryan Jones

If Jay Leno approached you with his camera crew, could you recite the Ten Commandments? Probably so, but where did they come from and what do they mean to us? We will study the scriptural and historic origins of the Ten Commandments and their significance in the Old and New Testaments. We will look for parallels to the Ten Commandments in other cultures, especially in the Near East. Finally, we will discuss the significance of the Ten Commandments in Reformed theology and their meaning in our lives today.

### **Room 105**

#### **THE BOOK OF CONFESSIONS**

Led by Susan Sytsma Bratt

Have you ever wondered where our affirmation of faith comes from each week in worship? Have you ever wondered why the Book of Confessions is Part 1 of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church USA? Have you ever wondered just what compelled two twenty-somethings to draft the Heidelberg Catechism? This class will orient us to the purpose of the Book of Confessions, and take a look at the historical context and content of our 11 confessions.

### **Room 101**

#### **BONHOEFFER THE TEACHER: JOURNEYS OF FAITH**

Led by John and Margaret Etheredge

Using excerpts from Dietrich Bonhoeffer's writings, we will apply his rich theological messages to our own daily lives and our life together in a congregation. This class is a workshop comprised of a variety of experiences to help us discover new ways to live our faith.

In response to Bonhoeffer's writings, we will engage in the following:

- meditating and reflecting on selected theological topics.
- individual journal writing
- small-group discussion; questions to consider and raise
- personal stories of faith
- group tasks; group writings
- creating contemporary applications of Bonhoeffer's theology to ourselves as individuals and as members of our congregation

## **Adult Classes - Spring I Courses**

**January 8 – February 12**

### **Parlor Class**

#### **PRAYER**

Led by Susan Sytsma Bratt

Prayer has often been described as a conversation with God. Prayer is also a spiritual discipline and a foundation to our Presbyterian worship. This class will explore the practice of prayer through Scripture, church history, and contemporary scholarship. We will also stretch ourselves, learning and practicing several familiar and new forms of prayer. Come with your questions and a willingness to do some homework.

### **Room 101**

#### **A Cloud of Witnesses, First Five Centuries of Christian Doctrine**

Led by Rob Taylor

The Early Christians and the Development of Early Christian Doctrine—from the Crucifixion through the 5th Century. We will attempt to tackle the development of Christianity and Christian doctrine in the first 500 years following Jesus' death.

## **Adult Classes - Spring II Courses**

**February 19 – March 25**

**(No Adult Classes on April 1, Palm Sunday or on April 8, Easter Sunday)**

### **Parlor Class**

#### **“The Exodus and the Exile”**

Led by Ben Dorr

What are these two events in Israelite history? How are they described in the Bible? How did they affect the understandings of God that different authors in the Old Testament possess? Do they impact the message of the gospel in the New Testament?

### **Room 101**

#### **The History of the Bible**

Led by David Halleen

In honor of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the King James version of the Bible we will look at the history of biblical literature. We will study the Canonization process and the textual history.

### **Room 105**

#### **GOOD GIRLS AND BAD GIRLS OF THE BIBLE**

Led by Laura McHam

From Eve to Mary Magdalene, the women of the Bible have relevance for us today as we try to make decisions in our own lives. The class will include small group discussion.

## **Adult Classes - Spring III Courses**

**April 15—May 20**

**(No Adult Classes on April 1, Palm Sunday or on April 8, Easter Sunday)**

### **Parlor Class**

#### **THE BOOK OF ACTS**

Led by Frank Stevenson

Participants can count on dynamic discussions that result from a careful study of interpretations of scriptures found in the book of Acts.

### **Room 101**

#### **Till We Have Built Jerusalem: Church Architecture and Sacred Spaces**

Led by Peter Bratt

It is said Church architecture is as varied as the people who worship within its walls. Join me for a six-week tour of the variety of church architecture from the earliest days of the church to the present. We'll spend a little time getting acquainted with terms associated with church architecture before jumping into visiting these visual reflections of our faith. We will spend one class looking at the uniqueness of Presbyterian architecture in the United States.

## **Adult Class - 30 Week Course**

**August 21 through May 20**

**(No Adult Classes on April 1, Palm Sunday or on April 8, Easter Sunday)**

Meets in the Library

### **Discovering the Bible**

Led by Eleanor Bissell

The Christian Education Committee is offering a 30-week course entitled *Discovering the Bible* published by Kerygma. It is a basic comprehensive introduction to the Bible as a whole to provide a foundation of biblical knowledge. The format of the class includes a study guide/workbook, weekly reading and group discussion. Since study materials need to be ordered, please contact Melanie Towb, Director of Christian Education, to add your name to the class list.

# *voYAge*

## **Young Adult Fellowship and Study**

Monthly gatherings with other Dallas Presbyterian young adults.

'voYAge' seeks to bring the Young Adult population of Northridge together for fellowship and study. You'll find more information about voYAge activities in the newsletter, on the website, or on Facebook. We meet monthly for Bible Study with several other Presbyterian Churches in Dallas and regularly for fellowship. For more information, contact our Associate Pastor Susan Sytsma Bratt, [susansb@northridgepc.org](mailto:susansb@northridgepc.org)

## **PWIN**

### **Presbyterian Women in Northridge**

Presbyterian Women in Northridge (PWIN) is about fellowship and community in small groups within the church. It is a great way to get to know the remarkable women in our congregation. All women in the church are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

Our monthly meetings include discussion on the missions and outreach of PWIN, the care of our congregation, and a Bible study. This year's study is *Confessing the Beatitudes* by Margaret Aymer. This will be a look at the Beatitudes in their context and the practice of confession—a practice of truth-telling about the glory and grace of God and of humanity's need for that grace.

**The Morning Circle** meets at 10 am on the second Tuesday of every month from September to May. Meetings are held in the Parlor of the church. Light refreshments are served.

**The Evening Circle** meets at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month from September to May (excluding January). Meetings are held in the homes of circle members. A light dinner is served prior to the lesson at 6:15. The location is announced in the bulletin prior to each meeting.

#### **Other activities include:**

##### **PWIN Coordinating Team Meeting**

First Tuesday of the month, September through May, 10:30 am, Room 105

**Service Day** - a small group meets to prepare comfort pillows for cancer patients

Third Tuesday of each month, September through May, 10:00 am, Room 105

**Prayer Shawl Ministry** – a gathering to work on shawls for those in need of comfort.

Day: Third Tuesday of each month, September through May, 10:00 am,  
Room 105 (with service day)

Evening: First Thursday of each month, 7:00 pm, Angeline Wortham's  
home

Child care is available upon request for all activities of PWIN.

## **NORTHRIDGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ADULT EDUCATION**

### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

The Northridge Adult Education program strives to educate adults of all ages in the Biblical foundations and Christian traditions of our faith and Christian practice. We seek to expand our course offerings by identifying, supporting, and educating new teachers.

### **VISION STATEMENT:**

A three-year plan for classes supports our church's mission in educating adults in a strong foundation in the Bible, in the Reformed faith, and in Christian practice in the following ways:

- Cover the books and themes of the Bible, over three years, to encourage Biblical literacy.
- Teach courses in Reformed theology, upon which our Presbyterian doctrines are based, including creeds and confessions.
- Explore themes from other religions, philosophies, and cultures.
- Offer courses in church history from Biblical to modern times, including influential theologians and theology.
- Introduce courses in Christian practice that would address contemporary issues and topics related to the daily lives of both younger and older adults.
- Provide a flexible schedule of classes and a variety of class formats to address the needs of our congregation.
- Support new teachers by providing opportunities to develop their teaching skills through workshops, team teaching, mentoring, and assistance with resources.