



SOUTH
MECKLENBURG
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

**ADULT
SPIRITUAL
FORMATION
OPPORTUNITIES**

FALL 2011

“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” [Jesus] said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your *mind*.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it. ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” (Matthew 22:36-38, NRSV)

Presbyterians place a high priority on learning. Or, as I once heard Matt say to a group of inquirers, “There will always be an assembly of folk who endeavor to love the Lord their God with all of their minds.” That is who we are: learners, disciples who seek to love God with all of our *minds*. As a nod to our Presbyterian heritage, this fall SMPC studies the Old Testament! Come, read, taste, and see that the Lord is God!

Yours in Christ,
Kim Lee, Director of Spiritual Formation

ADULT OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY MORNINGS (9:30-10:30 am):

Adult Lectionary Bible Study Class

Sunday Mornings, 9:30 am, Room 302

Join us for a deeper study of the scriptures chosen by our ministers. We will approach the text from its historical setting, often with the eyes and ears of the first hearers, then consider how it applies to our 21st century lives. What in the world has changed? What has not? Whether you are a biblical scholar or a novice you can enjoy this class.

For more information, contact: Gwen Volker at gkmvolker@gmail.com

All Things Considered

Sunday Mornings, 9:30 am, Room 201

Sunday Discussion Group

Come join us for thoughtful discussion on contemporary Christian topics. The group shares opinions, experiences and knowledge of the day's topic in an inclusive, small-group setting. No preparation is needed and the topics are different each week, making it easy to join the group at any time.

September 11: **Remembering 9/11 - When Life Plans Change** – Kathy Paquette

On September 11, 2001, we experienced deep sadness and great change in our world, but for those who lost friends, coworkers, and loved ones ten years ago, their life changes have been excruciatingly painful. Join us as we remember September 11 and share in discussion on how we learn to create a deeper walk with God when we experience our own changes in life plans.

September 18: "**The Best Version of YOU**"- Jeremy Boone

September 25: "**Strength and Faith through Brokenness**" – Amy Potvin

Amy Potvin, founder of *Lift Up Ministry*, shares her testimony of how God can use our brokenness to build our faith and offer eternal hope to all those who hurt.

For more information, contact:

Heather Russell, hrussell70@gmail.com or 704.910.5000

JOY Sunday School Class

Sunday Mornings, 9:30 am, Room 301

Calling all seniors to join us! No prizes ... No discounts ... No "Early Bird Specials." However we do have the very best ***star teachers! Our class is addictive with no after effects other than the desire to keep coming back plus we follow an agenda that will knock our socks off. Once you come, you'll get it – you'll want to be a part of it and won't want to miss a single class. We meet every Sunday following the 8:30 am worship service in the Chapel, Room 301. Grab a cup of coffee (or tea) and a muffin at the *Coffee Grounds* and join us. Classes begin on Rally Day, September 11. We would be so JOYful to see you!

Teachers: Mary Ann Christian, Dixie & Dave Lindquist, and Tommy Sinclair.

For more information, contact:

Mary Ann Christian at MACHris1@carolina.rr.com or 704.544.5327

Parents of First Graders Study

Sunday Mornings, 9:30 am, Commons

September 11 – October 2

First grade is an exciting time in the life of the church community. It is our tradition here at South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church to formally welcome first graders into the worship service. John Westerhoff, Professor of Theology and Christian Nurture at Duke University Divinity School, says that, "[i]f our children are to have faith, they must worship with us." The Spiritual Formation Committee seeks to fully include our faithful children into the worship service. To this end, we have put together a four-week study. One class is for parents; and one class is for children.

Parents will learn:

- To ponder the central understandings of worship, the sacraments, and prayer from the Reformed perspective

Children will learn to participate in worship:

- We have a place to worship
- Worship is our response to God's love
- We have a plan to help us worship
- We pray as a part of our worship

Beginning on Rally Day, September 11, the first graders will take part in their four-week study with Patty Stevenson in the Disciple Designs Room during the 9:30-10:30 Sunday school hour.

Beginning also on Rally Day September 11, the parents of first graders will take part in their four-week study with Kim Lee in the Commons during the 9:30-10:30 Sunday school hour.

Please register for this class by emailing Kim Lee at kim@smpchome.org.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Inquirer's Class

You are invited (especially if you're a visitor or new member) to participate in an **Inquirer's Class** on **Sunday, October 23 from 4 to 6 pm, Room 201, Chapel Building**. Dr. Brown will lead this class, which will take a brief look at the history, beliefs, and structure of the Presbyterian Church, answer questions relating to membership, and explore how the Spirit of God uses our gifts to form community. We will serve refreshments and childcare will be available.

If you have questions or would like to attend, contact:

Nancy Metzler at nancy@smpchome.org or 704.544.0404, ext. 103

THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

Monday

Exploring Theology

Monday evenings, 6:30-8 pm, Room 202

September 12 - November 14

Join us for a 10-week study of "The Burning Word, a Christian Encounter with Jewish Midrash" by: Judith M. Kunst. Midrash is an ancient and vibrant approach to reading scripture. Jewish Midrash views the troubling irregularities of the Bible not as accidents or errors, but as deliberate invitations to grapple with God's revealed word. Join us to start our journey in learning to read scripture as Jesus did.

Facilitators: Becky Trella, beckytrella@bellsouth.net

Gwen Volker, gkmvolker@gmail.com



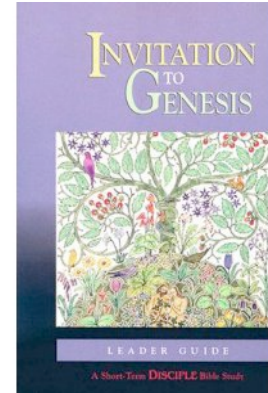
Tuesday

Invitation to Genesis

Tuesdays, 9:30-11 am

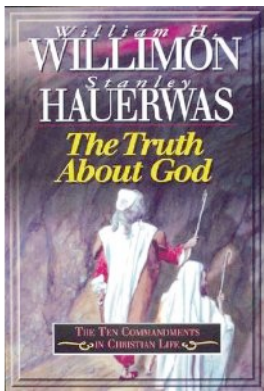
(September 13-November 15)

This is a 10-week Bible study that takes us into the rich tapestry of Genesis exploring the interaction between God and very human people - pride, family relationships, conflict and journey all showcase the best known stories of Creation, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Rebekah and Joseph.



The cost for the book is \$11. Childcare will be provided by registration. Rev. Lynne Frech will facilitate. If you have any questions or to register, please contact Lynne at lynn@smpchome.org or 704.544.0404, ext. 107.

Pastor's Study with Dr. Matthew S. Brown



The Ten Commandments

Tuesday evenings, 6:30-7:30 pm, Chapel

October 11-November 29

The Ten Commandments. We have certainly heard of them even if we could not name them in order. We may have argued about where they should be posted without ever thinking about what they mean. We invite you to join Matt in an exploration of this foundational Bible text. For our study we will utilize the book, *The Truth About God* by Stanley Hauerwas and William Willimon.

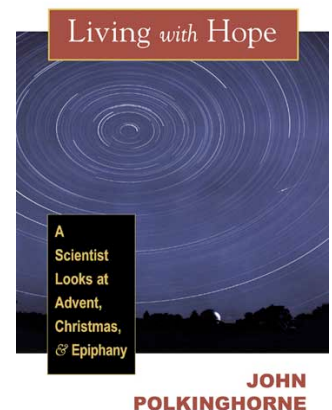
The cost for the book will be \$14. Childcare will be provided by registration. To register for the study and reserve a book, you can sign up at the Activities Table or email Kim Lee, kim@smpchome.org.

Living with Hope: A Scientist Looks at Advent, Christmas, Epiphany by John Polkinghorne

Tuesday mornings, 9:30-11 am, Session Room

November 22-December 13

John Polkinghorne's scientific and theological backgrounds make for a unique perspective on the themes of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. This book explores themes such as the end of the world, individual destiny, unseen realities, Heaven, Hell and suffering; this is not a book that hides behind platitudes or easy solutions yet the author offers profound insight into his deep reflections on the nature, meaning and purpose of Creation.



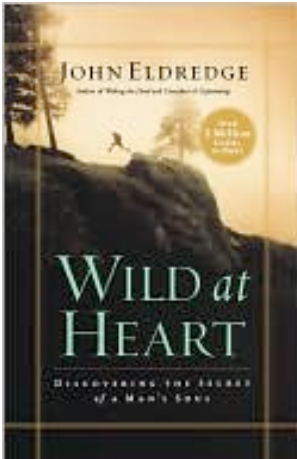
The cost for the book will be \$16. Childcare will be provided by registration. Rev. Katie Harrington will facilitate. If you have any questions or to register, please contact Katie at katie@smpchome.org or 704.544.0404, ext. 107.

Thursday

Men's Group

Thursday mornings, 6:30 am, Room 201

August 4 -



Calling all Men of the Church!

We meet every Thursday morning at 6:30 am at the church. Coffee and Krispy Kremes are served. We welcome anyone to come join us for the coffee, the fellowship and possibly the opportunity to learn something about yourself.

Our discussion will be based on a book by John Eldredge entitled *Wild at Heart*. The author explores masculinity and what it will take for men to restore their passion for adventure in their life in the world and the church.

Come join us anytime! For more information contact:

Russ Wenner at Russell.m.wenner@gmail.com

Disciple I –

Becoming Disciples through Bible Study

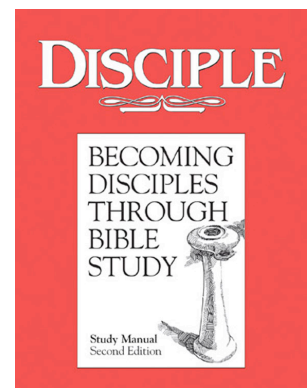
Thursdays, 9:45-11:45 am,

(September 15-May 10)

This is a 34-week study that begins in Genesis and ends in Revelation. Come, read, taste and see that the Lord is God! As Eugene Peterson writes, “When we submit our lives to what we read in Scripture, we find that we’re being led not to see God in our stories but to see our stories in God’s.”

The cost for the book is \$35. Childcare will be provided by registration. Kim Lee will facilitate.

If you have any questions or to register, please contact Kim at kim@smpchome.org or 704.544.0404, ext. 117.



Food for Thought Book Group

Thursday evenings, monthly on the first Thursday of the month, 6:30 pm

Join us on Thursday, September 1, to share books and discussion on the topic of autism. Autism is a developmental disorder that affects the brain's normal development of social and communication skills. Join us as we learn to understand this neural problem and how we as Christians can help to support those who deal with this growing disorder. Go to the SMPC website at www.smpchome.org for a list of books on the topic or email Kathy Paquette at khesspaquette@aol.com for a copy of reading suggestions.

Mark your calendars for future reads and meeting dates:

October 6 ***Breath: a Lifetime in the Rhythm of an Iron Lung***
by Martha Mason

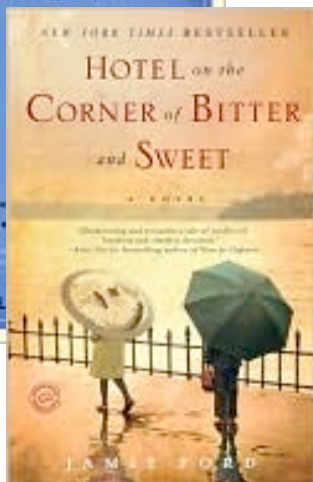
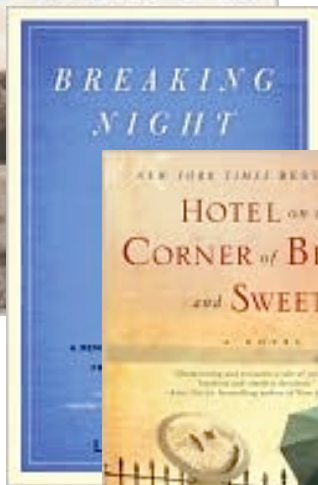
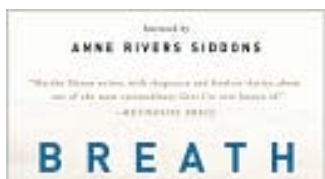
November 3 ***Breaking Night: a Memoir of Forgiveness and Survival*** by Liz Murray

December 8 ***Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet***
by Jamie Ford and our Christmas potluck dinner
(*details to follow*)

Please feel free to join our group at any time during this year!

For more information or to order a book, contact:

Kathy Paquette at khpaquettewh@aol.com



Adult Spiritual Formation Committee and Taskforce Members:
Kathy Paquette, Chair
Gwen Volker, Session Liaison
Paul Basquin, Guy Gosnell, Jerry Hawver, Leisa Lackey, Belinda Shearer

For our book study classes, books will be made available to those for whom this cost is prohibitive. For information on any programs in our Adult Ministry, please contact:
Kathy Paquette at khesspaquettewh@aol.com or 803.802.0754

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08/09/11