

Adult Enrichment Fall 2009 Sunday School Classes

Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes – will be facilitated by Bill Love. This class will use the book [Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes](#) by Kenneth Bailey to study the biblical accounts of the life and teachings of Jesus. The publisher's website says, "*Bailey examines the life and ministry of Jesus with attention to the Lord's Prayer, the Beatitudes, Jesus' relationship to women, and especially Jesus' parables. Through it all, Bailey employs his trademark expertise as a master of Middle Eastern culture to lead you into a deeper understanding of the person and significance of Jesus within his own cultural context. With a sure but gentle hand, Bailey lifts away the obscuring layers of modern Western interpretation to reveal Jesus in the light of his actual historical and cultural setting.*" I have found that the hardest texts to preach are the ones that are the most familiar ones, because we all know (or think we know) what they say and mean. This study will help us look with fresh eyes and minds at the biblical account. The class meets in Westminster Hall.

"Evolution and Faith" will be led by Kirby Deater-Deckard.

The year 2009 marks the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of the publication of his influential and controversial book, *On the Origin of Species*. In this class, we will read and discuss current perspectives on the theory of evolution and its intersection with Christian faith. We will struggle with the contradictions and compatibilities between contemporary scientific theories of human origin and a theology of divine and continuous creation. We will learn about some of the recent scientific technologies that have been developed in the quest to test evolutionary theory and consider the dilemmas these may present. Our opinions will differ, but we will provide a supportive environment to share and learn from each other, while reading scripture and reflecting on our understanding of God's creation and our place in it. The class meets in Hatcher Conference Room.

"Presbyterianism From Switzerland and Scotland to the Shenandoah Valley" will be led by Tom Watkins.

The class opens with the Reformation--the contributions of Luther and Zwingli. From then on the focus is the "Reformed" tradition and the interplay of theology with social and political developments: Calvin at Geneva and the Calvinism that spread outward, the Catholic Counter-Reformation, the Huguenots of France, John Knox and Presbyterianism in Scotland, the tumultuous developments in England in the 17th century (especially the Westminster Confession of 1647) culminating in the Glorious Revolution of 1688/89 which guaranteed a Protestant succession in England and Scotland. Roughly the second half of the semester is an examination of the migration of thousands of people from the British Isles to the American colonies in the 17th and 18th centuries and in particular the settlement of Scots-Irish Presbyterians in the Shenandoah valley. We will end in the late 1700s. Instead of a single book, handouts will serve as bases for discussion. Anybody whose ancestors participated in this settlement is invited to share their family's story and thereby add a personal touch to the dry bones of history. This class will meet in Fellowship Hall #3.

University Class – Join us for Breakfast and Bible Study September 6th, 13th, and 20th at 10:00 a.m. in the small conference room (across from the kitchen). We will be looking at the book, "Letters from a Skeptic" by Boyd and Boyd (a father and son corresponding about faith topics such as: "If God is so compassionate, how come there is so much suffering in this world?"). We will decide in September if we want to continue to meet weekly; if we want to have breakfast each week; and if meeting before church is the best time and place. We look forward to newcomers joining us! For more information contact Angela Anderson at angela@andersoj.org.



Adult Weekday Educational Opportunities

Bible Study

We are excited to continue our Tuesday morning Bible Study this fall. Everyone is invited to join a continuing group that digs deep into scripture, its historical context, and how it applies to our lives today. This study, follows the lectionary cycle and challenges us to live out scripture in our lives. In preparation for the class each week, participants will read the scripture lessons. Susan Verbrugge will lead the discussions. We will meet together weekly on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. for one hour (yes, that does say a.m.) in Hatcher Conference Room. Start your day off in scripture. Coffee is provided!

Way Cool Wednesdays

For Kindergarten-5th grade

Wednesdays from 4-6:45 pm

September 9- December 9

Bible class, choir, games, crafts, fellowship, fun and dinner

Theme Nights:

September 9- Labor Day Picnic
16- Beach Night
23- Crazy Hat Night
30- Jungle Night

Schedule:

4:00-4:30 Gathering & Snacks
4:30-5:15 K - 2nd Grade- Bible Time
3rd - 5th Grade -Choir Practice
5:15-6:00 K - 2nd Grade - Choir Practice
3rd - 5th Grade - Bible Time
6:00-6:45 Dinner with Dinner Parents

October 7- Hokies or Favorite Team Night
14- Native Americans
21- Disco Dance
28- Halloween (no costumes)

November 4- VOTE for Your Favorites
11- Favorite Book
18- Giving Thanks
25- NO- WAY COOL WEDNESDAY

December 2- Advent Night
9- Gingerbread Houses and Pot Luck with entire Church Family!!

Dinner Parents and Dinner Families

One of the greatest aspects of Way Cool Wednesdays is the time spent around the dinner tables with our Dinner Families. Dinner Parents are members of the church who feel a special calling to work with children in this setting. We get to know each other, share our good things and our bad things, help each other with manners, and serve each other "family style". The relationships that are shared and nurtured around the tables are so special and help us all grow in our knowledge and love of God and each other.

Teachers:

Music: Mary Harder and Mary Lee Hendricks

Bible Class: Keirsten Deater-Deckard, Susan Hunter,
Debbie Showalter, Sarah Windes, and Melody Zobel

Snack Hostess: Clare Dannenberg



*Blacksburg Presbyterian
Church
Christian Education
Programs
2009-2010*

Youth Education

Our Youth will use a variety of different materials that stimulate meaningful discussions about faith and life. We have excellent teachers and amazing youth, and the Sunday School hour promises to be worth getting up for!

Mid High Youth Teachers

(6th, 7th and 8th Grades)

Austin Banks, Mac McCord and Dede Stone

Senior High Youth Teachers

(9th, 10th, 11th and 12th Grades)

Amy Mauldon and Mary Spencer

Mid and Senior High Youth Groups

Meet Sunday Nights 5:30 - 7:30 pm

For Dinner and Fellowship, Spiritual Growth and Nurture

**YOUTH GROUP BEGINS SEPTEMBER 6
WITH DINNER AND GAMES AT 5:30 P.M.**

COME JOIN THE FUN!!!

2009-2010 Youth Advocate is
Erika Schroeder

2009-2010 Youth Advisors
Mary Spencer, Colleen and Russell Drumheller

Children's Education

Children's classes will be using PCUSA's "We Believe" curriculum.

Preschool Teachers (Ages 3-5)

Full Year:

Arlice Banks
Judy McCord
Cynthia Wimberley

K-2nd Grade Elementary Teachers

Fall: Bill Sembello, Lorinda Straley, B'easy Thompson
Winter: Marilyn Hutchins, Mary Fain, and Patti Giles
Spring: Susan Barnard and Patti Giles
Substitutes: Sarah Woolsey and Melody Zobel

3rd - 5th Grade Elementary Teachers

Fall: Janet Rakes, Heidi Anne Mesmer, Eric Mesmer
Winter: Janet Rakes, Sally Greenfield, Dale Wolf
Spring: Janet Rakes, Sally Greenfield, Keirsten Deater-Deckard
Substitutes: Joan Dickinson, John Dillard