

2011-2012
Adult Education Offerings



PROVIDENCE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**10140 Providence Church Lane
Charlotte, North Carolina 28277**

(704) 846-1079

www.ppc1767.org

Adult Education at PPC

Providence's adult Sunday School classes are designed to provide a context where people of all ages may find a meaningful, challenging, and exciting program of continuing education that prepares us to live as faithful people in God's world.

As a congregation, Providence also seeks to embody a generous, welcoming spirit in each learning space, and we hope that you will come and be a part of these places of growth!

We offer a variety of on-going Sunday School classes that meet each week as well as short-term elective studies throughout the year. Additional information about each elective, including location and facilitator, will be available in future church publications.

All church school classes meet from 10:15 to 11:00 a.m.



Designates a Bible study based class



Designates a class that focuses on Christian living

On-Going Classes

✝ Covenant Class

Fellowship Hall Room 101
Facilitator: Beverly Howard

Continuing its tradition of reading great books on spirituality, the Covenant Class will be exploring Richard Rohr's new book *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life* this year. Rohr describes the first stage of life as gathering, proving and improving our years and the second stage of life as when we move beyond our routines and preconceived ideas about faith and God. Through guided discussion, this class seeks to learn to live with purpose, pay attention to our lives, slow down, and practice reverence.

📖✝ Explorers Class

Adult Ministry Center Room 403
Facilitator: Mary Rich

The Explorers Class enjoys studying Scripture and the doctrines of our faith through renowned Christian authors. This year's class will be based on Tony Campolo's book *20 Hot Potatoes Christians Are Afraid to Touch*, and will cover a variety of study topics. We enjoy rich fellowship while striving to live holy and joyful lives.

✝ Faith Foundations Class

Adult Ministries Center Room 402
Facilitators: John Heiskell & Bill McCormick

This fall, the Faith Foundations class will be studying C.S. Lewis's autobiographical work *Surprised by Joy*, which describes his conversion to Christianity. In the spring, the class will read N.T. Wright's *Simply Christian* and learn about the basics of the Christian faith. Join them for faithful study and lively discussions!

📖✝ Genesis Class

Fellowship Hall Room 103
Facilitator: Susan Miller

Members of the Genesis class are interested in exploring their faith and what it means to be a Christian in this particular time and place. This class will cover a variety of topics during the year, including studies of several New Testament figures. Members take turns facilitating the class.

📖 Pathfinders Class

Fellowship Hall Room 102
Facilitators: Wink Bullard & John Garver

The Pathfinders class will be engaging in a year-long comprehensive Bible study based on the *Kerygma: The Bible in Depth* curriculum. Join this intergenerational class to delve into stories from the Old and New Testaments and to reflect deeply on Scripture, faith, and life.

✝ Providence Class

Adult Ministry Center Room 407
Facilitators: Betty Anderson & Betty Scarborough

Covering a wide variety of topics throughout the year, the Providence Class enjoys learning about it all: Bible basics, figures in church history, and pertinent issues to Christian living. The class will begin this fall with a brief study of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's life and writings led by Lynne Snider. In October and November, Paulette Purgason and Sherry Robinson will lead a study of C.S. Lewis's *Mere Christianity*. A collection of Lewis' radio talks to the British people during WWII, this book follows the author's conversion from atheism to Christianity and provides a faithful study of right and wrong.

Electives

Great Themes of the Bible

October 9, 16, 23, and 30

The Bible is richly diverse, sixty-six books written over eleven hundred years by prophets, poets, historians, sages, farmers, soldiers, prisoners, storytellers, theologians, and letter-writers. Some expressed strong faith, others grave doubt. When we view the Bible as one whole document, what is it saying? What are the big messages by which interior messages are to be interpreted? Come explore these questions and more in this fall elective series.

Accounts of Jesus' Birth

December 4 and 11

The Christmas story is a very familiar one, and most people are in the habit of combining the beginnings of Matthew and Luke into one seamless story. The result is a wonderful and comfortable picture of the Holy Family, magi, shepherds, and animals gathered around the manger inside the stable. These two lessons invite us to consider the differences between the birth narratives in Matthew and Luke, and to hear this familiar story in a fresh way.

Week in Review

January 8, 15, and 22

Protestant theologian Karl Barth advised Christians to "take your Bible and take your newspaper, and read both. But interpret newspapers from your Bible." This three-week study will look at headlines of the *Charlotte Observer* through the lens of Scripture and discuss how to respond to local events from a Christian perspective.

Electives (continued)

Reflections on the Lord's Prayer

March 18, 25, and April 1

Do you remember the first time you heard the Lord's Prayer? Most of us not only can't remember when we first heard this prayer; over time, it has simply become part of our very persons. Lent is an appropriate time to consider the prayer Jesus taught us to pray in a careful way. Each session of this elective concentrates on a major theme or phrase of the prayer in the hope that we will be renewed in our reflections during Lent and intentional as we pray this familiar prayer.

Parenting in the Faith

Designed specifically for parents of elementary school-aged children, the Parenting in the Faith elective explores ways for parents to live their own faith, share it with their children, and nurture faithful practices in the home.

Fall series: Baptism
November 6, 13, 20

What does the Bible say about Baptism? What does our faith tradition teach about this sacrament? How can we parent our children in ways that reflect these beliefs about baptism? Join us for study, fellowship, and lively conversation.

Spring series: Teaching Children about the Bible & Worship
February 26, March 4, 11

Sure, your children come to worship and go to Sunday School. But how can you as a parent help them to learn about the Bible and worship? Come to this three-week series and learn more about how you and your child can grow in faith together.