

Adult Sunday School
2009 - 2010



*" . . . continue in what you have learned and firmly believed,
knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you
have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for
salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."*

(II Timothy 3:14-15)

Dear Friends in Christ,

In giving us the Great Commission, Jesus instructs that we are to “Go, and make disciples of all nations . . .” (Matthew 28:19) But how can we make disciples unless we first become one, and what does it truly mean to become a “disciple of Christ?” The Adult Education subcommittee has struggled with these questions for several months as we have sought to discern the purpose and direction of our Adult Sunday School programs, as well as the other adult education ministries of our church. In the end, we arrived at two discipleship “ideals” as they relate to Christian Education . . .

As disciples, we are called to the ongoing study of the Bible as God’s revelation to us, so that we may faithfully grow in our understanding of God and of God’s intentions for our lives.

Informed by that understanding and guided by the Holy Spirit, we are called to experience God’s word through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, in fellowship with the Body of Christ, and in service to our families, friends, coworkers, church and community.

Guided by these ideals, we are introducing a new structure and new curricula to the Adult Sunday School program beginning with the 2009-2010 year. Divided into five learning segments over the course of the year, each segment offers classes to study God’s word, to grow in relationship with God and in relationship with one another. The new structure provides opportunities throughout the year to join and move freely between classes, choosing the topics that interest you most and strengthen you on your faith journey. It is our prayer that through your Sunday School experience each Sunday morning, you will find new opportunities for learning, fellowship and spiritual growth as we prepare to go in to worship God together.

Please join us!

The Adult Education Subcommittee



New Members, Visitors and Inquirers Class

*“Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you,
for the glory of God.” (Romans 15:7)*

Each year, First Presbyterian Church offers Sunday School classes created especially for our new members, visitors and inquirers, along with anyone from our congregation who desires to learn more about our church, our faith as expressed in our Presbyterian Reformed tradition, and the many programs, ministries and service opportunities in which we participate as the Body of Christ. The class is led by our Pastors, together with members of the Diaconate's Shepherding Committee and members of the Session's Evangelism Committee. The class meets from 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.



Each class meets for eight weeks. Those who wish to unite with our church family are invited to do so during Worship on the last Sunday of the class, followed by a Welcome Reception in the Church Parlor.

Topics

Welcome and Introductions

The Reformed Tradition - Part I - Heritage and Roots

The Reformed Tradition - Part II - Church History from Jerusalem to Belmont

Who Presbyterians Are and What Presbyterians Believe

Programs and Ministries of our Church

Church Organization

The New Members, Visitors and Inquirers class will be held twice this year . . .

The Fall Session will begin on September 20 and conclude on November 8.

The Spring Session will begin on February 7 and conclude on March 28.

We look forward to the opportunity to get to know you better, and to share the life and faith of First Presbyterian Church with you. Please join us for this time of learning and fellowship.

Invitation to Bible Study

“And he said ‘How can I understand unless someone guides me?’” (Acts 8:30)

For many of us, the study of the Bible can appear as a daunting task, filled with more questions than answers . . . Where do I start, how do I begin to understand it, and what difference does this make for my life today? The Invitation to Bible Study classes, with video, lecture and discussion provide a comfortable and compelling place to encounter God anew as revealed through the Bible, and to experience the fellowship of studying God's word in a community of fellow travelers on the journey. Our pastors lead these studies which meet in the Sanctuary.

Invitation to the Old Testament - November 15 - December 27

The Hebrew Scriptures, or Christian Old Testament, is the story of God's call to the people of Israel. In the Old Testament, we experience God's word through narrative, poetry, history and prophesy. Familiar stories take on new meaning as we uncover their historical, social and cultural contexts. We come to understand the nature of God's covenant with Israel and in turn with us, as heirs of that covenant, and we learn to listen for God's call and to respond to that call in our own lives.



Invitation to the New Testament - January 3 - January 31

The New Testament bears witness to the fulfillment of God's Old Testament promise to send a Messiah through the coming of his Son, Jesus Christ. It is also the story of the beginnings of the early Christian church, and contains the apostolic writings which shape our faith today. The Invitation to the New Testament uses Matthew's Gospel to explore how the early Christian community wrestled with the coming of Jesus, his life, actions, death and resurrection. The themes of Matthew's Gospel are then traced and connected through other passages of the New Testament scriptures to further understand their implications for discipleship and life in the Christian community of faith.

The Invitation to the Old Testament and Invitation to the New Testament studies are a part of the DISCIPLE Bible Study curriculum.

The Chapel Class

*"If you continue in my word,
you are truly my disciples . . ." (John 8:31)*

The Chapel Class combines a traditional Bible study experience with the opportunity to connect Scripture with its meaning for our everyday lives. We follow The Present Word curriculum, focusing each week on a specific passage of scripture, combining lecture and class discussion to discern what the passage tells us about God and about our life together as the Body of Christ. This year, the Chapel Class again meets in the Chapel of the church adjacent to the Parlor, and will be led by Parks Wilson, Daria Ragan and Bob Decker.



Covenant Community - September 20 - November 29

The covenantal aspects of Christian community will be presented from three unique perspectives. We begin with a study of community leaders from the Old Testament - Joshua, Gideon, Ezra and Nehemiah. Then, from the Gospel of Mark we will see how Jesus invites the community to live in covenant with God. The quarter then concludes with a look at what it means to be a covenant people as seen through the First and Second Letters of Peter.

Christ, The Fulfillment - December 6 - February 28

In this series, we are invited to learn about Jesus as the promised Messiah through the writings of the Gospel of Matthew. Throughout Advent, we will study the familiar stories surrounding Christ's birth. Next we will explore Matthew's study of Jesus' ministry as evidence of Jesus as the Messiah from God. We will complete our study of Matthew with an understanding of the testimony of the eyewitnesses to Jesus' life, crucifixion and resurrection.

Teachings on Community - March 7 - May 30

Our last series of the year studies how the covenant community responds to God's call. We start the series with a return to the Old Testament, exploring the books of Jonah and Ruth for an understanding of mission within the community. Through a series of parables, we next discover some of Jesus' key teachings on community, and finish the year examining the role of the Church in community through the letters to the Colossians, to Philemon and the letter of Jude.

Life Applications Class

“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only ... he who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer that forgets but a doer that acts, he shall be blessed in his doing.” (James 1:22-25)

The Life Applications class is centered around taking what the Bible says and practically applying it to our everyday lives, experience and love of God. This is done through developing and deepening our relationship with God, for by having an active relationship with God, our lives become richer and just plain better. The Life Applications Class is led by Dave Barnhardt and meets in the former Session room behind the Chancel.

Study of Ephesians - September 20 – November 8

The study of Ephesians fits in quite well with the purpose of the Life Applications class of applying the word of God to our daily lives. The book is a blend of both doctrine and practical Christian living. This study will dig into these truths to better understand what they mean and how to apply them to our daily lives.

The Will of God - November 15 – December 27

This book by Leslie Weatherhead is a classic discussion on what the phrase “the will of God” means. The study of this book will provide answers and insights to these questions so we can understand God better and be prepared when bad things happen to good people.

Study of James - January 3 – January 31

In life, we often find ourselves not knowing what to do when faced with trials and temptations. The book of James explains how to have the kind of faith that perseveres in tough times, considers God in all its plans, and makes prayer its spiritual resource. This study is a wonderful piece that fits into our puzzle of learning to apply God's word to our daily lives.

How To Live The Spirit-Filled Life - February 7 - March 28

In keeping with Life Application's goal to help us apply God's Word to our lives, we will study Bill Bright's book The Secret. In this inspiring book, Bill shows us how to discover a new dimension of happiness and joy in our Christian walk by learning to draw upon the purpose, power and guidance provided by God's Holy Spirit. This book does a great job of educating us on the Holy Spirit with practical guidance on how to apply that knowledge in our lives.

To Be Determined - April 4 - May 30



Covenant Class

“For their sake he remembered his covenant, and showed compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love.” (Psalm 106:45)

Throughout the Bible, God initiates covenant relationships with His people. The Covenant Class, led by Kevin Plonk, meets in the Parlor to explore how we are called to live out God's covenant with us in all aspects of our relationships with others.

Boundaries With Teens - September 20 - November 8

(With Kent Tilley from Presbyterian Samaritan Counseling Center)

The teenage years are the most difficult to establish and maintain communication and discipline. Learn how to establish wise, loving limits that make a positive difference in your adolescent, your family and you. Author Dr. John Townsend discusses biblically based principles that you can apply to set healthy boundaries so teens can learn to take responsibility. Anyone with a teen in their life will find this study relevant.



Boundaries With Kids - November 15 - December 27

(With Kent Tilley from Presbyterian Samaritan Counseling Center)

How can we parent with character in mind? In this study, parents, grandparents, teachers and other caretakers of infants, preschoolers and school-aged children will learn how to define age-appropriate boundaries and consequences from a Christian perspective.

Covenant Marriage - January 3 - January 31

Develop true intimacy through establishing a totally committed marriage. From Gary Chapman who brought us the Five Love Languages, this book study will help you develop a covenant marriage relationship that mirrors God's covenant relationship with His people.

Fight Fair! Winning at Conflict Without Losing at Love - February 7 - March 28

This class will study the book by Tim and Joy Downs – What if God could blow the whistle when our conflicts compromise our vows to love and honor each other? This study reveals biblical truths that can help couples discover how to resolve conflicts successfully.

The Five Languages of Apology - April 4 - May 30

How to Experience Healing in All Your Relationships by Gary Chapman and Jennifer Thomas – What would the world be like if we all learned how to apologize effectively? Learn how to invite forgiveness into all your relationships, whether with your significant other, extended family, friends and co-workers, through applying these five languages of apology.

<i>Adult Sunday School</i>	Chapel Class The Present Word		Life Applications Class	Inquirers Class & Invitation to Bible Study	Covenant Class
	Chapel		Old Session Room	Sanctuary	Parlor
2009 - 2010	Parks Wilson, Daria Ragan & Bob Decker		Dave Barnhardt	The Pastors & Evangelism Committee	Kevin Plonk
R A L L Y D A Y					
September 20 through November 8	8 Weeks	Covenant Community	Study of Ephesians	Fall Inquirers Class	Boundaries for Teens (PSCC)
November 15 through December 27	7 Weeks	Covenant Community Christ, The Fulfillment	The Will of God	Invitation to the Old Testament	Boundaries for Kids (PSCC)
January 3 through January 31	5 Weeks	Christ, The Fulfillment	Study of James	Invitation to the New Testament	Covenant Marriage
February 7 through March 28	8 Weeks	Christ, The Fulfillment Teachings on Community	How To Live the Spirit Filled Life	Spring Inquirers Class	Winning the Conflict Without Losing the Love
April 4 through May 30	9 Weeks	Teachings on Community	To Be Determined		The Language of Apology