

OUR MISSION

Woods Adult Education Committee strives to offer a variety of interesting and helpful classes and programs to further the spiritual inquiry and faith development of believers. Our classes on the Bible, theology, history, discipleship, mission, ecclesiology, social justice, and human development, as well as our programs on theology in the arts, are designed to enable all God's adult children to feed their souls, to mature in their understanding of discipleship, to grow in intimacy with God, and to serve God with greater love, faithfulness, and joy.

Winter Quarter January 3rd – March 28th

† Classes are open to all.

† Unless stated otherwise, no advanced registration is required. Try one, or try them all!



Men's Bible Study

Adult men of all ages are invited to join in this weekly discussion of faith and the Bible. This winter, the Men's Bible group will be studying *Ruth and Esther* from the Old Testament, and *The Book of Acts* from the New Testament. Various facilitators will lead the study. Come join other men of faith committed to walking with God.

Sunday 8:00 am/Founders Room

Women's Bible Study



Women of Woods are delving into the Book of Acts this Winter. *Acts* tells us the history of the birth of the Church, and how the disciples of Christ went from being simple followers, to teachers and evangelists of the good news themselves. Come learn from the first Christians more about discipleship and faithfulness. Facilitated by Elizabeth Wyble.

Sundays 8:00 am/Room 152

Note

For those who would like to study *Acts* but cannot attend one of these early groups, there will also be an 11:00 class on *Acts* led by Greg Hubert later in the Spring.

9:30 am *The Book of Daniel*

The Old Testament *Book of Daniel* holds unusual status in the Church. For our children, it is a beloved text filled with vivid and memorable stories like "Daniel and the Lion's Den." For adults, however, it is a text more often ignored or misinterpreted because of its dark and confusing apocalyptic passages. How should we understand this text? Is it still relevant to our lives as adult Christians today?

In this 7-week class led by Dr. John Belcher, participants will discover that the real value of the *Book of Daniel* is not its ability to function as a time table for the future, or its



ability to be reduced to cute Veggie tale videos. Rather this text is valuable because it teaches us essential and powerful lessons about how to respond to the challenges of being faithful disciples, while at the same time reminding us of the certainty of God's promised future, which will be free from tyranny and oppression.

**January 3rd – February 14th
Office Conference Room**

11:00 am Sisters, Saints and Society:

Examining the Role of Christian Women and the Shaping of Gender Identity from the Early Church through the Reformation



This course, taught by popular teacher Rod McCaslin, will introduce key women in the history of Christianity from the Classical era through the Reformation, and place them within the context of their societies and times. Women such as St. Clare of Assisi, Hildegard von Bingen, Heloise, Julian of Norwich, Katerina Luther, and Argula von Grumbach among others will be discussed.

Although women are the subject of this class, the class itself is not just for women. If you can name Augustine or Calvin, but don't know about the great women in our faith history, you need this class. Men and women are both invited to come acquire a fuller understanding of the cloud of faithful witnesses who have gone before us, and perhaps learn more about how culture and

Church affect our understanding of our own roles too.

- Week 1:** Introduction – Women of Greece and the women of Corinth.
- Week 2:** Women of Rome – Perpetua, Virgins, and the Female Man of God.
- Week 3:** Wives and Saints – The conversion of the barbarians in the Early Middle Ages.
- Week 4:** Medieval Women – Mysticism and monasticism.
- Week 5:** Heloise, Hildegard, and St. Clare
- Week 6:** The Renaissance – Education of a Christian Woman.
- Week 7:** Women and the Reformation - More than the Six Wives.
- Week 8:** Conclusion.

**January 3rd – February 21st
Founders Room**

Sunday Evenings

"PROPHETS" Special Premiere Performance January 24th 7:00 pm



Woods is extraordinarily blessed to be the site of the national premiere of award-winning actor, Brad Sherrill's, newest one-man show, "PROPHETS." Sherrill performed his one-man show of the *Gospel of John* five years ago at Woods to a sold-out audience and rave reviews. Now he is back to present this new show, which is the culmination of

five years of work with Rev. Elizabeth McLean, and videographer, Mark Hickman.

In 90 minutes, this dramatic performance delivers the essence of the call for change and the promise of hope proclaimed by major Old Testament prophets Jeremiah and Isaiah, as well as others. The Word of God comes to life through Sherrill's acting as well as through evocative and vivid videos presenting contemporary illustrations of the prophets' message. Not only will you leave this show with a clearer understanding of the heart of God's proclamation through the prophets, you will leave deeply moved and spiritually energized and inspired.

This show was previewed by renown Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann this Fall. Here was his reaction to the show:

"'PROPHETS' is marked by courage, imagination and a passion for truth-telling. Brad Sherrill has used shrewdness in selecting his texts, wisdom in weaving them into a compelling unity and imagination in presenting them in contemporary ways. His performance is a faithful and evocative rendering of the prophets. Powerful."

-Walter Brueggemann

Other comments from members of the preview audiences:

"The show left me with a sort of transformative buzzy glow all over!... Seriously, just amazing..."

"Any church who has even the slightest desire for the truth will welcome this show... It is thought-provoking, challenging, engaging and more..."

Working on this project has been a personal act of discipleship and labor of love for Elizabeth McLean for several years, one that is now finally ready to be shared with the world. Please come experience the Word of God like you've never done so before.

Tickets on sale in January. \$6 adults/ \$4 teens. Childcare for babies and toddlers upon advanced request. Show is suitable for children in 6th grade and up. There will be a reception following the performance.



Prophets: A Call for Change, A Promise of Hope

Following the PROPHETS dramatic performance, Elizabeth McLean will be offering an 8-week Bible study on Sunday evenings on the Old Testament prophets. This class will be a thematic introduction (rather than an in depth study of any one of the books). We will explore who the prophets were, what their message was, what they hoped to achieve then, and what their words means for us today.

People who enjoy the PROPHETS show are encouraged to come delve more into the biblical texts themselves through this class. But you do not need to have gone to the performance in order to take this class.

**Sunday evenings 7:30-9:00 pm
Founders Room**



LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to these programs, there will be several other great programs coming in Lent. Watch for the separate Lenten brochure:

Sundays:
9:30 am **Discipleship**

11:00 am **"Angels and Demons: Decoding Christian Art and Icons"** led by Nancy Saarlans

Tuesday nights:
7:00 pm **"Benedictine Spirituality for Presbyterians"** led by Rev. Dr. Floyd Churn



Women's Weekend Retreat: "At Home in the Kingdom of God"

Jesus said that the Kingdom of God was at hand. But can you see it? Do you feel as though you live in it? It's not as hard as you might think to embrace kingdom living here and now. Adult women of



all ages are invited to join Elizabeth McLean at the New Windsor Conference Center from Friday night March 12 - Sunday noon March 14th to find the keys to the kingdom through fun, fellowship, Bible study, small group discussion, music, film, and worship. Come away for the weekend to refresh yourself in body, mind, and spirit. You don't need to be a member of Woods to attend, but registration will be limited. Watch for the separate brochure in early January. Registration will begin later in January.

Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church

Adult Education
Winter Class
Offerings 2010

January 3rd – March 28th



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