



NORTHAVEN

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Spiritual Growth Opportunities January – April, 2012

Adult Education within a *Journeys of the Spirit* Framework

Sunday School Classes

Sunday Courses

Weekday Courses

Lecture Series

Discussion and Meditation Groups

Special Events

Comments of Our Ministers and Adult Education Council Chair

From Eric Folkerth, Senior Minister



I am thrilled to see the variety and depth of adult education classes that will be offered at Northaven Church in the coming months. There is a real thirst in so many people for quality and meaningful ways to deepen their spiritual life and walk with God. I give thanks for our Adult Education Council for all of their hard work in creating the programming you see here. I hope you will all prayerfully consider the ways that you might connect to these exciting ministries.

Grace and Peace.

From Mary Clair Lowrance, Minister of Congregational Life

We are constantly growing and I believe that caring for our spiritual needs is vital to our overall mental and physical health. We have carefully and thoughtfully planned for comprehensive spiritual formation experiences that will aid in one's spiritual journey. Our understanding of God and how God speaks to us in our education, in our prayers and meditation brings us to the mysterious revelation of God's amazing love for all. It is our hope and prayer that you will allow Northaven to accompany you on your journey.



From Joe Hilbun, Adult Education Chair



“WILL YOU SEEK OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW SPIRITUALLY?”

That is the question all of us answered when we joined the church. To help in fulfilling that commitment, the Adult Education Council has developed a plan called **JOURNEYS OF THE SPIRIT: A guide for Adult Spiritual Formation**. The overview course for *Journey of the Spirit* is **The Heart of Christianity**. This course is a foundation course that covers the main areas of the Christian tradition.

Continuing the Journey, there are four principle areas of spiritual growth:

Nurturing Our Relationship with God – prayer, meditation and spiritual disciplines

Servanthood in the World – ethics, social justice and missions

Exploring the Scriptures – Old and New Testament

Exploring our Beliefs – personal theology

Courses in all areas are offered at various times through the year, both on Sunday morning and weekday evenings. We encourage everyone to begin or continue their journey by participating in one or more of these courses. Choose a course that meets your needs at this time.

The principle areas are colored coded in the brochure.

Journeys in the Spirit Overview, January - April

The Adult Education program, generally structured by the five categories of the *Journeys of the Spirit* framework, is carried out through a variety of approaches:

- *Sunday School classes* have a core “membership” who comes together each Sunday 9:30-10:30 a.m. to meet educational and social needs. Each class plans its own program, typically focused on a particular topic or book for several weeks. Some “members” of classes may also attend other classes or special courses for several weeks, if interested in the topic.
- *Special courses* ranging from 6 to 12 weeks in duration are offered on Sunday mornings or in the evenings. Each has a focused purpose carried out in a structured manner using lectures, DVDs, and discussion. Most of these courses are considered “basic,” designed for anyone; other courses are more narrowly focused than the basic or overview courses.
- Other events and program offered weekly, monthly or annually provide specialized content or experiences.
- Weekday discussion groups and programs meet other needs.

Together the Adult Education programs offer a rich array of opportunities. Fewer *special courses* are provided in the summer months; in the fall a fuller array of options will be offered.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Lectionary Class – Room 234

Bible study following the international lectionary schedule

Cornerstone Class, Room 237

January 1-February 12, *Buddhism & the Dhammapada*

February 19-March 4, *Uppity Women of the Bible: Judith*

March 11-April 29, *The Challenge of Jesus*

Jesus, Java and Journey (J³) – Room 250

January 8-29, *Old Testament Bible Study*

February 5-26, *God and the Search for the Meaningful Life*

March 4-April 8, *Lenten Study Series*

April 15-May 27, *Free Form for All*

Spiritual Journey Class – Room 240

January 8-29, *God and the Search for the Meaningful Life*

February 5-19, *Methodism 101*

February 26-April 1, *The Lord's Prayer*

April 15-May 20, *The Spirituality of Aging*

Lecture Series and Meditation Groups

2nd Monday Series – *Mystery and Metamorphosis*, every second Monday evening February through November

Faith Voices on Justice, every fourth Thursday

Passage Meditation Group, every Tuesday evening

Circles of Spirit, at varied times and places

WEEKDAY DISCUSSION AND ACTIVITY GROUPS

2nd Tuesday Northaven Women's Book Study Group

1st Thursday Evening Coed Book Club

Dinners With Friends

BASIC & SPECIAL JOURNEYS IN THE SPIRIT COURSES

Special courses, events and programs round out the variety.

The Heart of Christianity, based on the book by Marcus Borg, is an effective *overview* course offering a fresh

approach to the fundamental issues of the Christian faith.

Other *basic* courses and *special* courses that go into greater depth cover topics within the other four categories of

- 1) **nurturing our relationship with God**,
- 2) **servanthood in the world**,
- 3) **exploring the scriptures**, and
- 4) **exploring our beliefs**.

The *basic* course offered during this timeframe is:

The Heart of Christianity

Sunday mornings, April 15-May 20

Three *special* courses are offered:

Writings of the Apostolic Fathers

Wednesday Evenings, January 1-March 28

Beyond Living the Questions

Monday Evenings, January 9-March 26

Invitation to the New Testament

Monday Evenings, January 23-March 12

Wednesday Mornings, January 25-March 14

Methodism 101

Sunday mornings, Spiritual Journey Class, Feb. 5-19

God and the Search for the Meaningful Life

Wednesday Evenings, February 29-March 28

The Journey into God's Love

Sunday mornings, March 4-April 1

Colossians Bible Study

Sunday mornings, March 25-April 22

SPECIAL EVENT

Lee Taft Lenten Retreat, Saturday, March 31

Adult Sunday School Program Schedule – January - April

Week of	Lectionary	Jesus, Java, Journey (J3)	Cornerstone	Spiritual Journey	Special Sunday a.m.	
Jan. 1	Follows the Lectionary for discussion of the Scriptures		<i>Buddhism and the Dhammapada</i>			
Jan. 8		<i>Old Testament Bible Study</i>		<i>God and the Search of the Meaningful Life</i>		
Jan. 15						
Jan. 22						
Jan. 29						
Feb. 5			<i>God and the Search for the Meaningful Life</i>		<i>Methodism 101</i>	
Feb. 12						
Feb. 19				<i>Uppity Women of the Bible: Judith</i>		
Feb. 26					<i>The Lord's Prayer</i>	
March 4			<i>Lenten Study Series</i>			<i>The Journey into God's Love</i>
March 11				<i>The Challenge of Jesus</i>		
March 18						
March 25						<i>Colossians Bible Study</i>
April 1						
April 8						
April 15			<i>Free Form for All Discussion</i>		<i>The Spirituality of Aging</i>	<i>The Heart of Christianity</i>
April 22						
April 29						

Course Emphasis Color Key:
Primary Emphasis - border color

Orange: Overview of the Journey
Blue: Nurturing Relationship with God
Green: Servanthood in the World

Red: Exploring the Scriptures
Purple: Exploring Our Beliefs

Weekday Evening & Morning Program Schedule – January - April

Week of	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Jan. 1		Passage Meditation Weekly, 6:00-7:30 p.m., Room 244	Writings of the Apostolic Fathers, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Room 237	
Jan. 8	2nd Monday Series <i>Continues monthly on</i> <i>2nd Monday 7-8:30 p.m.,</i> <i>Northaven Sanctuary</i>			
Jan. 15				
Jan. 22				
Jan. 29				Faith Voices of Justice Series <i>Continues monthly on</i> <i>4th Thursday 7-8:45</i> <i>p.m., Northaven</i> <i>Sanctuary</i>
Feb. 5				
Feb. 12	2nd Monday Series			
Feb. 19				
Feb. 26				Faith Voices of Justice Series
March 4				
March 11	2nd Monday Series			
March 18				
March 25				Faith Voices of Justice Series
April 1				
April 8	2nd Monday Series			
April 15				
April 22				Faith Voices of Justice Series
April 29				

Course Emphasis Color Key:
Primary Emphasis - border color

Orange: Overview of the Journey
Blue: Nurturing Relationship with God
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Adult Sunday School Classes – *Lectionary Class*

LECTIONARY CLASS - ROOM 234

The old joke goes, “How do you eat an elephant?” The answer, of course, is “One bite at a time.”

How do you study the Bible without going to seminary or getting lost in page after page of “begats” and laws regarding the tethering of oxen? The answer, of course, is “One passage at a time.” The Lectionary is a globally recognized cycle of Bible readings which over the course of a three year cycle covers everything in the Bible except the “begats” and the tethering of oxen. Members of the class share leadership, facilitating discussion which can be anything from thought-provoking to funny and everything in between.

Leadership sharing is voluntary, and each class stands on its own. Visitors and new members are welcome any and every Sunday. Come once, come twice, come every week and get to know the Scriptures one bite at a time.

To find the Lectionary scriptures for any given Sunday, go to www.gbod.org/worship/lectionary/.

Class Coordinator: Laurelle Moffett

LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR JANUARY – APRIL 2012

January 1

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13
Psalm 8
Revelation 21:1-6a
Matthew 25:31-46

January 8

Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

January 15

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

January 22

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

January 29

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

February 5

Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

February 12

2 Kings 5:1-14
Psalm 30
1 Corinthians 9:24-27
Mark 1:40-45

February 19

2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

February 26

Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

March 4

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38

March 11

Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

March 18

Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

March 25

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

April 1

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)

April 8

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

April 15

Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133
1 John 1:1-2:2
John 20:19-31 or
Matthew 28:1-10

April 22

Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

April 29

Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

Adult Sunday School Classes – Cornerstone Class

CORNERSTONE CLASS – ROOM 237

This class specializes in substantive presentations on a broad range of theological and social justice topics, drawing on authoritative materials and often inviting presenters with special expertise in the area of interest. Some attend this class regularly and others attend when the topic is of particular interest to them.

January 1-February 12, *Buddhism & the Dhammapada*

The project of this mini-course is two-fold: (1) to reflect on fundamentals of the Buddhist outlook on the world and (2) to study *The Dhammapada*. One of the oldest Buddhist scriptures, *The Dhammapada* summarizes key teachings of the Buddha in a way intended to be accessible to all. For the first project, we will listen to and discuss a sampling of 30 lectures taken from The Teaching Company course "Buddhism," by Malcolm David Eckel, professor of religion at Boston University. Topics include "All Is Suffering," "The Path to Nirvana," "Emptiness," and "Zen." For the second project, we'll read and discuss several sections of *The Dhammapada* for each class. Several translations of the full text are readily available online. According to scholar and teacher Eknath Easwaran, "if everything else were lost, we would need nothing more than the Dhammapada to follow the way of the Buddha."

Presenter: Bill Beauchamp

February 19-March 4, *Uppity Women of the Bible: Judith*

This is a continuation of the DVD-based series Uppity Women of the Bible featuring Hebrew Bible professor Dr. Lisa Wolfe. We will examine the story of Judith - an Uppity Woman who took things into her own hands, including the head of a brutal warrior chief. The Book of Judith is from the Greek version of the Hebrew Old Testament (the Septuagint) and reads like a historical novel, rife with warfare, lust, espionage and intrigue. Judith is not found in most of our Bibles, but is found in the Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Old Testament. Dr. Wolfe combines careful scholarship with a genuine love for the story of this amazing woman.

Presenters: Elaine Wiant & Sally St. Clair

March 11-April 29, *The Challenge of Jesus*

In this DVD-based curriculum, renowned historical Jesus scholar John Dominic Crossan presents an overview of his life's work, exploring the matrix of Jesus' time and place, his tradition and vision, in four interrelated themes: The World of Jesus; The Life of Jesus; The Death of Jesus; & The Resurrection of Jesus. "Jesus," Crossan asserts, "is a homeland Jew, within eschatological Judaism, against Roman imperialism." Interpreting Jesus' witness within this complex and dynamic matrix is the "challenge" referred to in this fascinating course's title.

Presenter: Kim Batchelor

Course Emphasis Color Key:

Blue: Nurturing Relationship with God

Orange: Overview of the Journey

Purple: Exploring Our Beliefs

Red: Exploring the Scriptures

Green: Servanthood in the World

Adult Sunday School Classes - J3

Jesus, Java and Journey (J3), Room 250

Jesus, Java and Journey class shares coffee, fellowship and learning about our faith journey. We are a class that has a strong belief in service projects to our community, and we also enjoy many social functions during the year.

We study contemporary Christian authors and utilize lesson/video based style of teaching based on biblical based truths. Our series include works by a variety of authors, as determined by the class. It is an open discussion class that invites many different viewpoints.

Teacher: Wade Schuessler - wschuessler@verizon.net

January 8–29, *Old Testament Bible Study*, DVD of Amy Jill-Levine and discussion. Bring a Bible

Dr. Amy Jill-Levine is University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies, E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Professor of New Testament Studies, and Professor of Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt University Divinity School and College of Arts and Sciences. She holds a B.A. from Smith College, M.A. and Ph.D. from Duke University, and honorary doctorates from Drury University, the University of Richmond, the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest, and the University of South Carolina-Upstate, Professor Levine has been awarded grants from the Mellon Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the American Council of Learned Societies. She has held office in the Society of Biblical Literature, the Catholic Biblical Association (she is presently the New Testament book review editor for the *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*), and the Association for Jewish Studies.

Her recent books include *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus* (HarperOne), the edited collection, *The Historical Jesus in Context* (Princeton) as well as the fourteen-volume series, *Feminist Companions to the New Testament and Early Christian Writings* (Continuum). With Marc Brettler of Brandeis University, she is presently editing the *Jewish Annotated New Testament* (Oxford). She has recorded "Introduction to the Old Testament," "Great Figures of the Old Testament," and "Great Figures of the New Testament" for the Teaching Company. A self-described "Yankee Jewish feminist who teaches in a predominantly Christian divinity school in the buckle of the Bible Belt," Professor Levine combines historical-critical rigor, literary-critical sensitivity, and a frequent dash of humor with a commitment to eliminating anti-Jewish, sexist, and homophobic theologies.

Facilitator: Wade Schuessler

February 5-26, *God and the Search for the Meaningful Life*

Have you ever wondered why we do what we do, why there is suffering and violence, why it is often hard to see any meaning in life and feel good about ourselves, how we can live meaningfully in this crazy world and what God and theology and the Christian faith have to do with any of these issues? Come and explore human nature and the nature of God and the relationship between the two and have a chance to ask all sorts of questions. .

Facilitator: Ben Marshall

March 4-April 8, *Lenten Study Series* – TBD
(Book Study with no required reading/class discussion)

Come experience the Lenten Season as only Northaven can do. This will be based on our literature selected by the Worship Commission of NHUMC. You will not be disappointed to learn the real meaning of Lent and the Resurrection all over again. We will draw on the staff of NUMC and others to bring us this special message.

Facilitator: Wade Schuessler

April 15-May 27, *Free Form for All*
(video, book and/or class discussion format)

Free form begins. In this setting, we will take a look at a topic, event or movie that challenges us in our daily lives. Come and explore topics ranging from politics to dealing with greed that invades our life. Let's explore how our Christian faith leads us in our daily lives. The first topic on our list is the movie "I AM", so do not miss out on this dynamic month.

Facilitator: Wade Schuessler

Course Emphasis Color Key:

Blue: Nurturing Relationship with God

Orange: Overview of the Journey

Purple: Exploring Our Beliefs

Red: Exploring the Scriptures

Green: Servanthood in the World

SPIRITUAL JOURNEY CLASS – ROOM 240

This class is focused on our personal spiritual journey and relationship with God and emphasizes understanding this common pursuit across all religious traditions. Members of the class, other Northaven members, and occasional visiting teachers guide the discussion, drawing on diverse writings that offer rich insights, personal testimony, and helpful guidance for spiritual development. Opportunity is provided to discuss personal spiritual journeys and to participate in group prayer/meditation.

January 8-29, *God and the Search for the Meaningful Life*

Have you ever wondered why we do what we do, why there is suffering and violence, why it is often hard to see any meaning in life and feel good about ourselves, how we can live meaningfully in this crazy world and what God and theology and the Christian faith have to do with any of these issues? Come and explore human nature and the nature of God and the relationship between the two and have a chance to ask all sorts of questions.

Facilitator: Ben Marshall

February 5-19, *Methodism 101*

This is a basic introduction to United Methodist history and theology. The course will cover the history of the United Methodist Church, and its relation to other Christian denominations. It will also introduce students to John Wesley, Methodism's founder, and the spread of his movement to the United States. The course will also provide basic understanding of some of the "core" or "distinctive" values that make United Methodism unique.

Facilitator: Eric Folkerth

February 26 – April 1, *The Lord's Prayer*

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, we can't remember when we memorized it—because our memorizing was not a conscious effort; it was simply the process of hearing the words until they were part of our very persons. Yet most of us don't know much about this prayer, and we're inclined to recite it without thinking. Martin Luther, with his penchant for saying things directly, described the Lord's Prayer as the greatest martyr, "for everybody tortures and abuses it." It is mostly, of course, the abuse of familiarity. Because we say it so often and because its words have the flow of poetry, we are likely to speak it without investment of either mind or heart. Jesus warned, "In your prayers do not go babbling on like the heathen, who imagine that the more they say the more likely they are to be heard" (Matt. 6:7 NEB). It's ironic, isn't it, that the prayer Jesus gave us is probably the most frequent instrument of violation for the warning he gave us. Lent is an appropriate time to consider the prayer Jesus taught us to pray in a careful way. The Spiritual Journey Class will enjoy the many reflections and information provided in these sessions. Each Sunday will concentrate 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.

Multiple Facilitators

April 15–May 20, *The Spirituality of Aging*

What is the purpose of life lived long past the reproductive years? Using their concepts of "elderhood" and "the art of life completion," Schacter-Shalomi and Miller survey the societal changes that they believe are synchronistic events that give meaning and purpose to the burgeoning population of elders in American society and other developed countries. An increasing number of writers share these men's belief that the aged are needed to guide humanity in its values, to influence the young to make the changes that consider the distant future as well as the present. Rabbi Schacter-Shalomi has spent his adult life studying numerous spiritual disciplines. He believes that the present easy access to ancient spiritual teachings that were once passed secretly from one generation of adepts to the next is for the purpose of allowing large populations to prepare themselves for their contribution to humanity as wise elders. The major theme of this work could be said to be the art of living and dying with meaning. Going beyond the usual observations of the characteristics of our rapidly aging population, Schacter-Shalomi and Miller have offered sound advice on how an individual can find purpose in life beyond reproduction and career. They even offer specific "Exercises for Sages in Training."

Facilitator: Mary Clair Lowrance

Basic Journeys in the Spirit Courses

The following set of brief courses (6-12 weeks) is offered Sunday mornings alongside the regular Sunday School class scheduling and/or on a weekday evening or evening. The *Heart of Christianity* course is the overview course, and the other Sunday morning offerings are classified as *basic* courses. The weekday courses are classified as a *special* Journey of the Spirit course.

Methodism 101

Sunday Mornings, 9:30-a.m. February 5-19,
Room 239

This is a basic introduction to United Methodist history and theology. The course will cover the history of the United Methodist Church, and its relation to other Christian denominations. It will also introduce students to John Wesley, Methodism's founder, and the spread of his movement to the United States. The course will also provide basic understanding of some of the "core" or "distinctive" values that make United Methodism unique.

Facilitator: Eric Folkerth

The Heart of Christianity

Sunday Mornings, April 15-May20,
9:30 a. m, Room 248

As the foundational overview course for our Journeys in the Spirit series, The Heart of Christianity, using the book by that title, takes you on a journey through the key facets of the Christian tradition. It explores the emerging paradigm in Christian theology to help us see how we can be progressive in our theology and still be passionate followers of the Faith.

Facilitator: Ben Marshall

The Journey into God's Love

Sunday Morning, March 4-April 1, Room 248

We are all in need of a meaningful, working relationship with God but we may not have learned how to nurture one. This course in the Journeys in the Spirit series will give you a basic understanding of the nature of the inner life with God and how to nurture a relationship God for yourself so that you can go deeper as you are led. We will explore the various forms of prayer and other spiritual disciplines to help you find the ways that are best for you. It will be good experience for observing Lent.

Facilitator: Ben Marshall

Colossians Bible Study

Sundays, March 25–April 22, 9:30-10:30 am,
Room 239

Colossians offers an intriguing glimpse into the development of early Christianity and raises a host of fascinating questions. If it was written by Paul, why are aspects of its style, vocabulary, theology, and moral instruction so different from his other letters? What does it mean when it commands wives to submit to their husbands? How did Jesus become envisioned as a cosmic Christ who holds the whole universe together? Explore these and other questions in this 5-week series.

Facilitator – Mark Chancey

Special Journeys of the Spirit Courses

God and the Search for the Meaningful Life

Wednesday Evenings, February 29 - March 28,
Room 239

Have you ever wondered why we do what we do, why there is suffering and violence, why it is often hard to see any meaning in life and feel good about ourselves, how we can live meaningfully in this crazy world and what God and theology and the Christian faith have to do with any of these issues? Come and explore human nature and the nature of God and the relationship between the two and have a chance to ask all sorts of questions. An excellent Lenten experience.

Facilitator: Ben Marshall

Beyond Living the Questions

Monday evenings, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. January 9- March 26, Room 237

Three and one-half years ago this class began with the course **Living the Questions**. Come this January 2012, the class will visit a **different version of Living the Questions** and invites all who are seeking a refreshing, progressive way to understand the Christian message to come join us. The sharing and fellowship is wonderful and we want others to be a part of it.

Facilitator: Ben Marshall

Special Journeys of the Spirit Courses (continued)

Writings of the Apostolic Fathers

Wednesdays, January 1-March 28, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Room 237

After the books that were to become New Testament were written in the late first century C.E., and before the development of what we know as orthodox Christianity in the fourth century C.E., there were a number of other early Christian writings whose authors were struggling to formulate a coherent view of the faith.

The Apostolic Fathers is a collection of early second century C.E. writings that hewed to the basic lines of thought and practice that later emerged as orthodox Christian theology.

Epistles included in the Apostolic Fathers are attributed to: Clement, Ignatius, Polycarp, and Barnabas. Influential early works such as the apocalypse called The Shepherd of Hermas and the church manual called Didache are also part of the Apostolic Fathers.

Prior to the emergence of the doctrines of Jesus being both fully human and divine and of a Trinity, devout Christian authors were communicating their understanding of their faith to friends and associates. Some of their writings were accepted as authoritative in different parts of the church that later came to be identified as orthodox. A few of these works are included in our early major manuscripts of the Christian scriptures.

The class will feature lectures by Bart Ehrman on the writings of the Apostolic Fathers and their relationship to various developments in the early centuries of Christianity. There will be opportunities for discussion of these writings and their relevance to our faith today. Ehrman translated and edited the two volume Loeb Classical Library edition of The Apostolic Fathers (Harvard, 2003).

Facilitator: Bob Radford.

Apostolic Fathers:

1 Clement

Epistles of Ignatius

Epistle of Polycarp to
the Philippians

Martyrdom of Polycarp

The Didache of the Apostles

Epistle of Barnabas

2 Clement

Papias

The Shepherd of Hermas

Epistle to Diognetus

Invitation to the New Testament: A Short -Term Disciple Bible Study

Monday Evenings, 7:00-8:30 p.m., January 23-March 12, Room 239

Wednesday Mornings, 10:00-11:30 a.m., January 25-March 14, Room 239

This 8-week video-based study is related to DISCIPLE Bible study series in that it incorporates the same focus on in-depth study of the Biblical text, weekly preparation, accountability in a small group setting and a call to more faithful discipleship.

Using Matthew's Gospel as a starting point, this study will examine how the New Testament writers and the early Christian community wrestled with the implications of the story of Jesus for their lives and their communities of faith.

Facilitator: Mary Clair Lowrance.

Course Emphasis Color Key:

Blue: Nurturing Relationship with God

Orange: Overview of the Journey

Purple: Exploring Our Beliefs

Red: Exploring the Scriptures

Green: Servanthood in the World

Special Journeys in the Spirit Courses, Events & Programs (continued)

These programs and events are for both Northaven and the community.

2ND MONDAY SERIES 2012

LIVING OUR FAITH: DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES AND PATHS

7:00-8:30 p.m., Northaven Sanctuary

The 2nd Monday Series offers ten presentations annually, February through November. The purposes of the series are to:

- Address matters of the spirit from an interreligious or interspiritual perspective
- Create a space of trust and mutual respect for discussion across faith traditions
- Offer insights that go beyond the intellect to affect the way we live

Presenters for the series represent different faith traditions, with a focus on the spirit at the core of each tradition. This focus supports exchange that achieves greater mutual understanding while deepening our respective personal faith commitments.

Drawing on ancient concepts of different paths for a life lived attuned to God in all of our thoughts and actions, each presentation will point toward one or more of four “paths” or “ways”: heart, knowledge, work, meditation. To live our faith is to live in a sense of the presence of God or the Spirit, but there is more than one way for this pursuit. No one path is superior to the other and individuals will usually find a personal affinity for one particular path.

The 2012 2nd Monday series will also provide connections from each presentation to life in the world by sharing information of available paths for engagement in discussion or activity that moves us from insights to productive action.

FAITH VOICES OF JUSTICE SERIES

Fourth Thursdays

7:00-8:45 p.m., Northaven Sanctuary

Faith Voices on Justice addresses the foundations of social justice and its specific issues in a coherent and challenging way. Our purpose is to educate, advocate, and activate around justice to strengthen Northaven’s understanding and practice of justice, the justice ministries of other participating faith communities, and our mutual efforts.

Sessions are scheduled 7-8:45 p.m. with the usual format a presentation, plenary question and answer session, and small group discussion and networking.

January 26, Professor Rick Halperin, Director, Embrey Human Rights Program, SMU & Former Chair, Board of Directors of Amnesty International USA

Human Rights as a Way of Life

Other presenters to be announced

PASSAGE MEDITATION GROUP, Every Tuesday, 6:00-7:30 p.m., Room 244

Based on the notion that we become what we meditate, Passage Meditation was developed by Eknath Easwaran, former UC Berkeley Professor. The method is to memorize great passages from the Bible or the writings of saints and sages and meditate on one or more for 30 minutes a day, allowing it to “drip” in and operate in our unconscious. Daily life is guided by seven other “disciplines.” Objectives are:

- Develop the capacity to achieve focus – stilling the incessant mental noise.
- Gradually transform our attitudes and behavior to become less ego-driven, attuned to God, and more loving and compassionate in our day-to-day relations with others and in our actions in the world.

Each 1½ hour session consists of discussion, reading from a book, viewing an Easwaran lecture, and 30-minutes of silent meditation. If interested, please read the book, *Passage Meditation* (church library or purchase), and come join us.

Convenor: Bob Stewart

Special Journeys in the Spirit Courses, Events & Programs (continued)

CIRCLES OF SPIRIT (various times and places determined by each group)

Circles of Spirit is a program of small groups of three to five individuals that meet monthly to stimulate each other on their respective paths of inward and outward journey. The approach is simple but powerful in its effect.

The format is one of mutual exchange with a specific structure and a facilitator rather than teaching. The content arises from each person's own life. The structure includes each person one at a time having up to 15 minutes to discuss any aspect of his/her journey while others listen without judgment or thinking about how to "fix". After a couple of minutes of silence, there is ten minutes of feedback by other participants about what they have heard (without critique/counsel). This component of the Circle is a Quaker model of listening to the Spirit for any spiritual guidance to others. This same process is repeated, allowing each participant time to talk if he/she wishes to.

The groups meet 2 to 3 hours, depending on the number of participants (the duration determined by initial 20 minutes of meditation plus 30 minutes per person). A classroom is available Sunday mornings for up to four groups to meet on a rotating basis prior to the worship service or a group may meet at any other place or time it chooses.

Groups are formed of individuals who do not have family or business relationships with each other. Orientation to the approach and assistance in organizing a group will be provided to those interested. However each individual thinks about and approaches matters of the spirit and life in the world will fit with this approach. In fact, diversity of approaches and levels of experience in each group is desirable. The common focus is on personal growth and living a life of love, compassion and justice in the world, guided by inner clarity and the Spirit.

If interested in exploring, **contact Mary Ellen Irving** at 214-766-1603 or mehi@swbell.net for information.

Weekday Discussion Groups and Other Events

Informal discussion or activity groups meet weekly in book review or other formats for dialogue and to build relationships.

2nd Tuesday Northaven Women's Book Study Group, 9:30 a.m.-noon

All women who are members or friends of Northaven are welcome. Most read the scheduled book prior to the meeting, but this is not required. Many who attend meet at a local restaurant for a Dutch treat lunch. .

January 10 – *Mountains Beyond Mountains*, by Tracy Kidder, discussion led by Adreanna Cobo-Frenkel, hosted by Pat Folkerth, 7414 Chattington Drive, Dallas

February 14 – *Jane Lone of Texas*, by Neila Skinner Petrick, discussion led by Neila Petrick with Maridell Templeton, hosted by Wini Lynn, 7109 Briar Cove, Dallas

March 13 – *Still Alice*, by Lisa Genova, discussion led by Marjorie Westberry, hosted by Wini Lynn, 7109 Briar Cove, Dallas

April 10 – *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, by Rebecca Skloot, discussion led by Betsy Skloot, hosted Pat Pittman, Presbyterian Village North, 8600 Skyline Dr, Dallas

Coordinator: Pat Pittman, pat0718noel@yahoo.com

1st Thursday Coed Book Group – 6:30 p.m., Potluck Supper

The group meets in the homes of participants for food, fellowship and discussion of the book of the 1st Tuesday of the month.

January 5, dinner Gina Shield's home, Normal Terrell will review *Sister*, by R. Lupton

February 2, dinner Jo Tuck's home, then watch movie *I Am* next door at Lida Kechavarz's home

For more information, contact **Jo Tuck** at 214-521-1083

DINNERS WITH FRIENDS

Started in 1995, Northaven now has a number of small groups called "Dinner with Friends" that gather for the warmth and hospitality that help build a sense of community. These dinner groups simply give Northaven people the opportunity to know each other at a deeper level. If interested in knowing more, please contact: **Jack Evans or Connie Marshall**

Special Event



Lee Taft

Former Dean of Students, Harvard Divinity School
National Expert on Apology and Processes of Forgiveness and Reconciliation

Journey with the Prodigal: A Lenten Retreat on Forgiveness and Reconciliation

Saturday, March 31, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Northaven UMC

Retreat Facilitator

Lee Taft is a nationally recognized expert on apology and the related reparative processes of forgiveness and reconciliation and is a pioneer in the movement to transform cultural and legal responses to conflict. Lee was a dually board certified trial specialist in Texas for twenty years before entering Harvard Divinity School in 1996. He received an M. Div. in 1999 and was named dean of students at Harvard Divinity School that same year. In 2003 he created Taft Solutions, a consulting firm that provides a step-by-step method to resolve conflict. His method is designed to help clients not only resolve conflict but also preserve relationship. His essays have been published in the country's leading scholarly journals such as the YALE LAW JOURNAL, the MICHIGAN LAW REVIEW, and the HARVARD HEALTH POLICY REVIEW

About the Retreat

What does forgiveness mean to you? If you forgive must you resume relationship with the party who has harmed you? And if you don't return to relationship have you truly forgiven? Do you wonder if you should forgive, or, are you confused on how to repair broken relationships? If any of these questions resonate with you, then come join us for a morning of education, reflection and conversation on the twin topics of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Retreat Format

The pace of the retreat will be comfortable, alternating between brief presentations and times for personal reflection. The retreat format has proven helpful for individuals in finding their own forgiveness and reconciliation path.

Fee

\$40.00

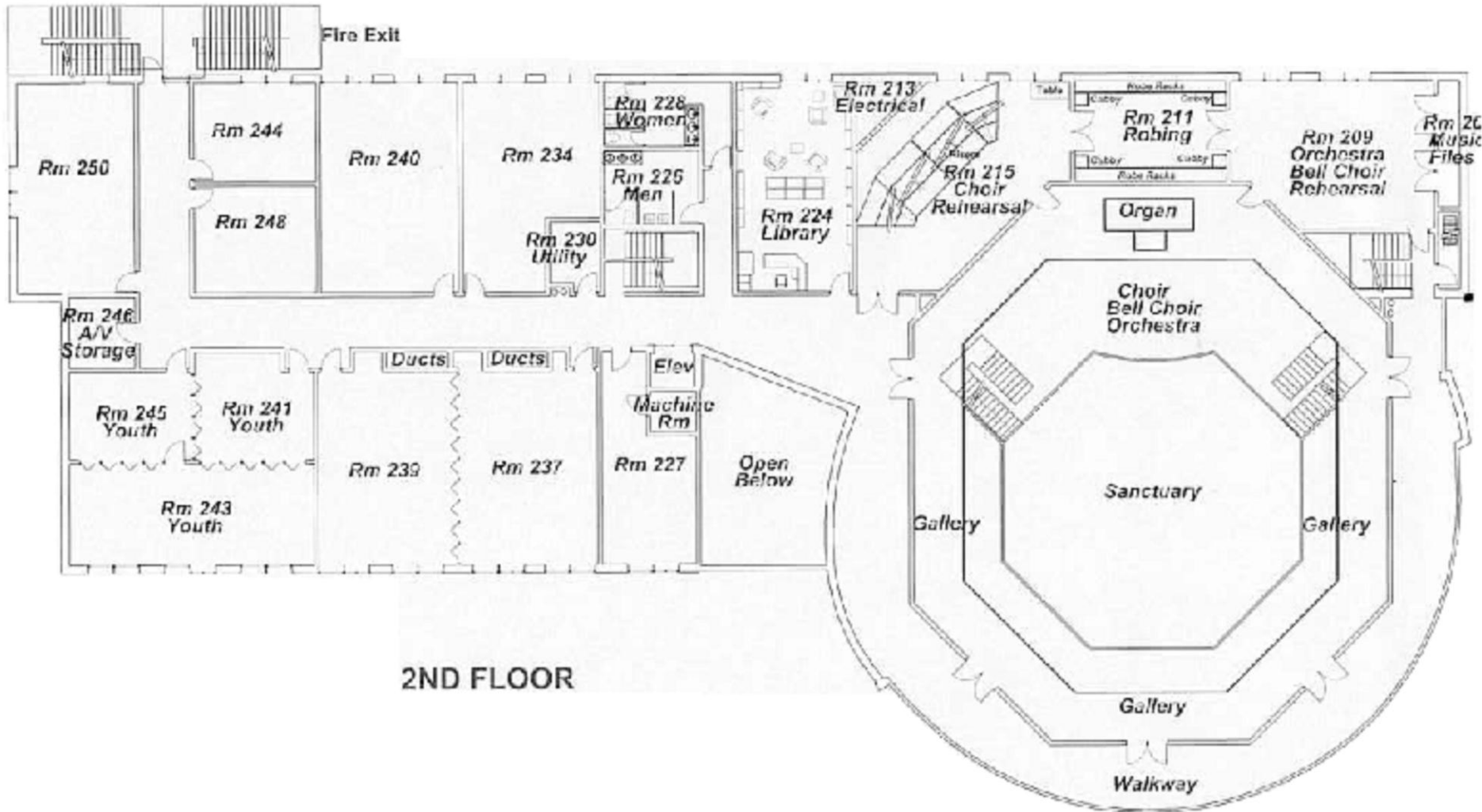
Scholarships are available

(make confidential request to retreat@northaven.org or call 214-264-1234)

Registration:

www.northaven.org/Education/AdultMinistry/LentenRetreat.aspx; call 214-264-1234

Northaven Second Floor Classroom Locations



2ND FLOOR



Our Mission

As one body of Christ, the people of Northaven are committed to sharing God's love for the world through ministries of compassion, peace, justice and reconciliation.

Northaven United Methodist Church is a vibrant, progressive—and growing—congregation with a deep commitment to the Christian values of love, peace, and justice. That means extending hospitality to all. It means nurturing a community of faith that reflects our world's awesome diversity. It also means taking a stand in the face of the prejudice and bigotry that pervades our world.

Rev. Eric Folkerth

Senior Minister

Mary Clair Lowrance

Minister of Congregational Life

Stephanie Rhoades

Minister of Music and the Arts

Beth Schussler

Minister to Children

11211 Preston Road

Dallas, TX 75230

214-363-2479

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