

## **Adult Education Course Descriptions for 2016**

*Classes will meet Sunday mornings from 9:35-10:30 unless otherwise noted*

### **Ongoing Class:**

Bible Study

Tuesday mornings at 7:30 am

Led by Ben Dorr and Susan Sytsma Bratt

Quillin Hall

Join your pastors for a weekly Bible Study. No previous Bible knowledge required, just a willingness to study the text. We'll have coffee, and should wrap up by 8:30 so that you can get to work. Drop in when you can.

### **Spring I January 10 – February 14**

#### **Table Talk**

**Led by Ben Dorr**

#### **Parlor**

Parents of any stage are invited to join us for a class that is discussion and fellowship based. This is the perfect class to drop in on from week to week. Ben will lead a discussion, but class participation is strongly encouraged. This is a great way to connect with other parents in our church.

#### **American Heretics**

**Taught by Jerry Henson**

#### **Room 101**

We Presbyterians don't usually dispatch those who differ with us religiously to be burned at the stake. In fact, at Northridge we tend to value differing ideas on theology as a mark of maturity and sophistication. With some limitations! We are highly suspicious of "radicals," especially religious radicals.

One of the most important contributions the USA has made to the world is pluralism in various forms. Among these are political and religious pluralism. Since colonial times in America religious bodies have been splitting up, creating hundreds of "denominations." Our constitution enables and protects the right to do so.

But we have been and are sometimes intolerant of radical religious groups to the point of violence. This class will explore the causes of, results of and alternatives to these events in our history and current culture.

## **Wired Word**

**Led by: Peter Bratt, Tony & Lucinda Cummins, Kathy & Gary Sommerfelt, & Florence Quillin**

### **Room 105**

Join us for a weekly Bible Study and discussion that ties the latest headlines to our faith. This is the perfect class for drop in guests. If you would like to receive the weekly articles in advance of class, email Susan Sytsma Bratt at [susansb@northridgepc.org](mailto:susansb@northridgepc.org).

**Spring II February 21-April 3 (covers Lent)**

**No class on Easter, March 27**

**Lenten class: What do we Confess?**

**Susan Sytsma Bratt**

**Parlor**

Each week we affirm our faith in worship using a creed or confession. How did these words get written? What is in our Presbyterian Book of Confessions and why? Join an in depth study of various conflicts and turning points that led Christians to put down on paper what they believe.

## **Conversational Theology**

**Led by Alex Ash and Tim Jernigan with occasional guests**

**Room 105**

The idea of this class is to have stand-alone sessions for those who might not be able to commit to a thematic series of classes. Drop-ins are welcome. Discussions are Informal and wide-ranging as we attempt to discern God's presence in current events or other issues that participants may bring to the table. Usually a smallish group, it's a good way to get to know each other a little better while visiting about things that are currently on our minds.

## **An Altar in the World by Barbara Brown Taylor**

We are all reading one book during Lent, and reflecting on it in two small groups.

**Sunday Group** will meet Feb. 14 (skip Feb. 21) – April 3 9:35-10:30 on Sunday mornings. The group will read and discuss two chapters per week.

**Wednesday Group** will meet Feb. 17-March 23 12pm-1pm in Room 105.

**Spring III April 10-May 15**

**Hot Topics: Church and Society**

**Guests Facilitated by Susan Sytsma Bratt**

**Room 101**

This series will include guests who will cover hot topics in the world that also impact our faith and role as Christians in the world. We'll hear from guests covering topics like loving our Muslim neighbors in Dallas, moral injury in the face of war, refugee resettlement, and also an overview of topics coming up at our Presbyterian Church General Assembly meeting. Look for specific guests and topics in the newsletter.

**Newcomers' Class (April-May TBD)**

**Ben Dorr**

**Room 105**

We will cover Presbyterian theology, governance, and any other questions you may have about Northridge. If you have been visiting, or are interested in joining our church, or would simply like to learn more about our denomination, the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., you are welcome to attend!