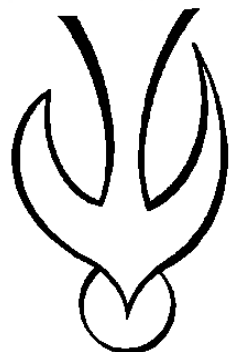


“Out of our constant struggle with issues of culture and ethnicity, we may be able to discern meanings in the Scripture that we would otherwise miss.”

- Justo Gonzales



PENTECOST THE GIFT OF CULTURES

The church was born from an encounter of cultures. The Church of Pentecost (Acts 2) included Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Lybia belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs ... they were all heard speaking together.

Each Sunday from Easter until Pentecost the Education Commission will sponsor a celebration of cultures, ancient and modern, during the fellowship hour. With special sermons highlighting the gifts of different cultures and the gift that is a multicultural church, we will sing, dance and eat our way to Pentecost.

- Bible Study every Sunday morning at 8:30
- Open book group on the fourth Tuesday each month at noon
- OctoberQuest: Presbytery event with Prof. Phyllis Tribble - Oct. 30 at 4:00 pm.
- Mission opportunities
- New educational forums emerging all the time – check our online calendar



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ADULT EDUCATION SERIES 2011-2012

Many Pilgrims,
Many Cultures:
A Reconciling Faith

White Plains Presbyterian Church
Worship and Church School at 10 am
Adult Education 11:30 am

THE CHALLENGE OF CULTURES

Moses and Multiculturalism

Inspired by the late Barbara Johnson's book *Moses and Multiculturalism*, and fresh on the heels of a national PC (U.S.A.) anti-racism training held in July, The Rev's Geary and Howland will explore multiculturalism not only as something among us but within each of us.

The diversity of cultures within the story (Hebrew, Egyptian, African, and Palestinian) could not only be seen *by* Moses but found *within* Moses himself. Moses' own mixed identity is an important part of the story: he was born a Hebrew, raised as an Egyptian, married a Midianite, and then returned to Egypt to liberate the slaves from whom he had been estranged.

Moses negotiated a multitude of cultures around him. Moses carried a multitude of cultures within him. How can this sacred narrative help us recognize, negotiate and celebrate our own multicultural reality and confront the continuing cultural prejudices among us and within us? Come explore with us.

*Led by The Rev. Jeffrey Geary
& The Rev. Peggy Howland*

Sundays, September 18 and 25 at 11:30 am

Jonah and the Song of Songs

Race, class, sex, ethnicity, age, gender orientation, cultural, social, economic, and historical situations, plus individual experiences – all these and other variables shape and reshape our interpretation of scripture. In addition, varieties of disciplines – historical criticism, archaeology, sociology, literary analysis, linguistics, psychology, the new historicism – complicate the mix.

Jonah is a story many of us think we know well, while few of us know anything about the Song of Songs. Come study the diversity of meanings within these texts with an internationally renowned biblical scholar.

*Led by Professor Phyllis Trible
Union Theological Seminary*

Sundays, October 16, 23 and 30 at 11:30 am

Steps along the Way: Following the Prince of Peace

November brings us Christ the King Sunday, a celebration of the present and coming Reign of God; the beginning of Advent; and our anticipation of the Prince of Peace. As one liturgical year gives way to the next, we pause to consider *our* role in practicing and fostering peace in a violent world. The PC(USA) has just begun a six-year study of peacemaking and the commitment to nonviolence. Come learn what it means to “study war no more” (Isaiah 2:4)

*Led by The Rev. Christine Caton
Presbyterian Peace Fellowship
Sundays, November 13 and 20 at 11:30 am*

“IT IS THE ROAD THAT TEACHES US THE BEST WAY TO GET THERE, AND THE ROAD ENRICHES US AS WE WALK ITS LENGTH.” Paul Coelho

Where Jesus Walked: Pilgrimage, Ancient and Modern

Join us for this highly professional and utterly delightful two-part video presentation of the best and latest thinking by archaeologists on first-century Palestine—the time of Jesus. Then learn how others have walked these steps.

Traditional interpretations of the role of women in the rise of Christianity presume that women exerted their influence as the wives of wealthy and powerful men. The rediscovery of the journals of Egeria, a remarkable fourth century pilgrim to the Holy Land, calls that into question. Egeria presents another possibility besides marriage or monasticism for understanding how the Christian message was communicated by women to women, although the questions of Egeria's identity, status, purpose and origin will remain open to debate.

*Led by Barbara Horan, Lynn Dunn
and The Rev. Jeffrey Geary
Sundays, January 8, 15, 22 and 29 at 11:30 am*

CONFESSING FAITH IN DIVISIVE TIMES: The Belhar Confession

The Belhar Confession emerged from South Africa as a witness of Christian faith against the sins of racism and focuses on major themes of unity, reconciliation, and justice in the context of the church's Trinitarian belief. It calls the church to a deeper appreciation of the values of unity in diversity in relation to the divisions of race, culture and other facets of the human condition.

We believe ... that unity is, therefore, both a gift and a obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain; ... that the variety of spiritual gifts, opportunities, backgrounds, convictions, as well as the various languages and cultures, are by virtue of the reconciliation in Christ, opportunities for mutual service and enrichment within the one visible people of God:

**Join us at 11:15 am each
Sunday during Lent
for this challenging
exploration of a Christian
faith for our times.**

Beginning February 26