

...when we are serious about living a spiritual life, we are responsible for the milieu where it can grow and mature... we can choose friends, books, churches, art, music, places to visit and people to be with that, taken together, offer a milieu that allows the mustard seed that God has sown in us to grow into a strong tree .

Henri Nouwen

Spiritual formation is the activity of the Holy Spirit which molds our lives into the likeness of Jesus Christ. This likeness is one of deep intimacy with God and genuine compassion for all of creation. The Spirit works not only in the lives of individuals but also in the church, shaping it into the Body of Christ. We cooperate with this work of the Spirit through certain practices that make us more open and responsive to the Spirit's touch, disciplines such as Sabbath keeping, works of compassion and justice, discernment, worship, hospitality, spiritual friendships, and contemplative silence.

**Office of Spiritual Formation
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**

**WINTER/SPRING
2007**

Adult Education & Formation



**Shepherdstown
Presbyterian
Church**

INTRODUCTION

We seek to include more and more people in our circles of friendship and ministry. In the Spirit of Christ we seek to make this world as beautiful, wholesome, peaceable, just, and righteous as possible. Thy will be done *on earth* as it is in heaven is our daily prayer.

The Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church (SPC) was established by Scots Irish Presbyterians in 1743. Through good times and bad times it has been a continuing congregation of Christian faith, work, and witness.

We are a church in the Reformed tradition of Christian faith. Our roots go back through the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church into Judaism. Although we welcome and strive for ecumenical unity and partnership, SPC has a distinctive and peculiar heritage. We are not a generic church. Nor are we static. We are Reformed, and still reforming according to the Word of God.

Our life together is shaped by the constitution of the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA)—the *Book of Confessions* and the *Book of Order*. SPC is connected like a vine to local ministries through the Shepherdstown Ministerial Association and to national and global ministries through the Shenandoah Presbytery, the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, the General Assembly (PCUSA), the National Council of Churches and World Council of Churches.

We believe that to love God is to love the world, to love our neighbors near and far. We believe that right thinking (orthodoxy) and right living (orthopraxy) go hand in hand.

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A house of prayer for all people
Established in 1743

Through daily prayer we cultivate the presence of God's love and grace. In the Spirit of Christ we welcome all people in friendship and ministry, working together for good with God's dream for a world wholly beautiful, just, peaceful and free. We are partners in ministry with the PCUSA and Jefferson County Community Ministries.

Sunday Services

Liturgy of Word & Sacrament
8:30 and 10:45 a.m.

Sunday school during the later service

Daily Morning Prayer

Psalms and silence
(Monday through Friday)
Sanctuary, 8:00-8:15 a.m.

Taize Prayer

Prayer in song and silence
First Wednesdays
Sanctuary
7:30-8:00 p.m.

Contemplative Prayer

Third Sundays
Balcony, 7:00-7:30 p.m.

Retreat days are offered periodically

Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind.

Romans 12:2

PASTOR'S CLASS

The Heart of Christianity
by Marcus Borg

Saturdays 10:00 - 12:00 noon
January 13, 20, 27
Fellowship Hall

Especially for new members, officers, and those who missed part or all of previous discussions of this important book, that poses the essential questions, "what does it mean to be a Christian," and "how can we be passionate believers" today? These questions are central to our personal lives of faith, the faithfulness of our shared mission and ministry, and our capacity as individuals, and as community, to articulate a contemporary and life giving vision of Christian life, in words and in deed.

Selected Topics
Wednesdays 7:30 - 8:45 pm.
March, April and May

Reading and discussing scripture together. (Topics or books to be announced month prior).

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Meeting Jesus Again
for the First Time
by Marcus Borg

Sunday mornings 9:35 a.m.
January 14 through Feb. 11

For most of us our image of Jesus was formed in childhood. That image continues to give a number of people great hope and comfort. But for a number of others there is a yearning for a deeper understanding of Jesus. One way to gain that deeper understanding is to examine Jesus from two different perspectives. The Pre-Easter Jesus was a champion of the Jews from both a religious and social perspective. The Post-Easter Jesus is the resurrected Christ of the New Testament. Marcus Borg in his book *Meeting Jesus for the First Time* has given us the possibility to examine Jesus from both a Pre and Post Easter perspective, reconcile the two images and move past traditional belief in God into a closer relationship with God. If exploring a different vision of Jesus appeals to you, please join us on January 14, for five consecutive Sunday mornings and be part of a lively, interactive discussion group, using Borg's book as a guide.

LENTEN COTTAGE MEETINGS

Sundays 5:30-7:00 p.m.
March 4 - 25

In various homes throughout the parish. Sites to be announced later. Soup and bread supper followed by guided conversation and prayer. Suggested reading: *Life of the Beloved* by Henri Nouwen. Books available in the Fellowship Hall.

ROUNDTABLES

Second Thursdays
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Fellowship Hall
Pastor Tremba and Ethel Hornbeck
Conversations about anything and everything.

Fourth Wednesdays
10:30-11:30

Fellowship Hall
Ethel Hornbeck
Conversation and reflection with and around scripture, and other selected texts.

SUNDAY MORNING TALKABOUT

Occasional Sundays
9:30 a.m.

What is playing around town, and how it intersects with faith and life.

SPRING FORUM

The Apostle Paul
with Richard Carlson

Gladfelter Professor
of Biblical Studies
Lutheran Theological Seminary
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

April 27

The Apostle Paul on the Cruciform Life
Friday 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

April 28

The Apostle Paul on the Spiritual Life
Saturday 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Dr. Richard Carlson's primary area of teaching is New Testament studies as well as Greek. A native of Minnesota, Dr. Carlson holds degrees from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota; Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa; and Union Theological Seminary in Virginia. Prior to joining the faculty at Gettysburg in 1990, he served pastorates in northern Minnesota. Dr. Carlson has published material on the New Testament and its relationship to such areas as preaching, Jewish-Christian relationships, diaconal ministry, evangelism and ministry in the 21st century, and baptism. His most recent books are *Preaching 1 Corinthians 13* (co-authored and edited with Dr. Susan Hedahl) and *New Proclamation, Year C, 2004, Easter through Pentecost*.