

PeaceFest '09

A Community Gathering in the Spirit of St. Francis

Sunday • October 4 • 7:00 p.m.



Pray for Peace on Earth
Rock • Folk • Jazz • Reggae

FALL FORUM

Seeing the World through the Word: Reading Creation Anew

Presented by William P. Brown

Professor of Old Testament Literature, Language, and Exegesis, Columbia Theological Seminary

Saturday, October 24, 9:30–12:00 noon; Sunday, October 25, 9:15–10:15 a.m.

William Brown will offer fresh ways of understanding the ancient tales of creation. On Saturday he will address *In the Beginning* and *In the Garden*, Genesis 2:4a–3:24 and Genesis 1:1–2:3. Sunday, he will explore *In Wisdom's Playhouse*, Proverbs 8:22–31.

Brown has taught at Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education and at Emory University. He is the author of several books and numerous essays on biblical interpretation and theology. He is also co-founder of Earth Covenant Ministry, an emerging organization of Presbyterian churches in the Atlanta area dedicated to creation care. But most importantly, he teaches Sunday School at North Decatur Presbyterian Church near Atlanta.

THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

Join in this group discussion on the essential Christian practice of *forgiveness*. We will view segments of the documentary film *The Power of Forgiveness* by Martin Doblmeier, which moves from Northern Ireland to Ground Zero to the Amish countryside, as we explore together this timeless issue. Two more sessions, Sundays, **October 4 and 11**, 9:15–10:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Childcare will be provided.

THE ENLIGHTENED HEART OF ISLAM

Sundays, **November 1–December 13** (no class November 29), 9:15 to 10:15 a.m., Classroom 1.

"The Jesus of your spirit is within you: ask his aid, for he is a good helper." —Rumi

We will explore the writings of Islamic scholars and prophets, which take the form of stories, quotes and verse. We will seek to both deepen our understanding of Islam, as well as attempt to discover the universal wisdom aspects of this deep faith tradition. We will use the book *The Fragrance of Faith*. There is no need to purchase the book to participate in the class, but if you would like to read the first 28 pages free go to http://www.thebook.org/books_pdf/fragrance.pdf.

Why should we as Christians study Islamic writers? Just like us, Muslims are children of God. Also, Islam is the second largest religion in the world with over a billion adherents. Muslims trace their lineage back to Abraham. They consider Jesus to be one of their main prophets and the teachings of Jesus comprise several chapters of the Koran.

—David Scott

Yootz Corner...

For youth grades 6 through 9:

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE! September 30 through November 18, 5:30–7:00 p.m. Share a meal, move your body, and perhaps experience a bit of spiritual growth.

If you have questions or need more information on youth activities, contact Natasha Baihly, natashabaihly@yahoo.com.

Mark Your Calendars...

THE SPIRIT OF FIBER Meditative Arts Retreat at Rolling Ridge Study Retreat Community, **October 9–11**. Create **Braided Rugs** in community using a variety of fibers. All participants will work on a braided rug to be left at Rolling Ridge in gratitude of the land. In addition, you will be given enough material to start your own rug. The retreat will be balanced with creative play, study, meditation, stretching, eating and free time for hikes. To register, contact Rachel Dickerson at ama1016@yahoo.com or 202-494-1482.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS October 4–November 15 at 9:15 a.m. (No class Oct. 25) Please let the Pastor know if you plan to attend. Childcare provided in nursery.

SPC Monthly Activities...

FIRST THINGS FIRST SUNDAY Coins for relief of hunger, and non-perishables for JCCM, Shenandoah Women's Center and the Hispanic Mission (see lists under **Mission**). **Next: October 4.**

EVENING PRAYER. In the way of Taizé. First Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. A Service of Prayer in song, silence and candlelight. **Next: October 7.**

WOMEN'S CIRCLE First Thursdays, 10:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall. Bible study book is titled *Joshua: A Journey of Faith*. Pick up your copy in the church office. All women of the church are welcome. **Next: October 1.**

ROUNDTABLE WITH ETHEL HORNBECK Conversation and reflection with and around scripture, poetry and other selected texts. Third Thursdays, 10:00–11:00 a.m. in the balcony. **Next: October 15.**

MEN'S BREAKFAST Third Saturdays. Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Discussion, 8:00–9:00 a.m. **Next: Oct. 17.**

CONTEMPLATIVE AND CENTERING PRAYER Third Sundays, balcony, 7:00 p.m. **Next: October 18.**

SHEPHERD PRESBYTERIAN CONNECTIONS with college students. Includes dinner and discussion with Pastor Tremba and Ethel Hornbeck. Second and fourth **Tuesdays** at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. **Next: October 6 and 20.**

SUPPER GROUPS

Moveable Feast, **Saturday, October 3**, 6:30 p.m. hosted by Becky Phipps, 304-876-0298.

TGIF, **Friday, October 16**, 6:30 p.m. hosted by Rie Wilson, 304-876-6591.

Notices...

SUNDAY STUDIO has started this new year with Genesis, learning Bible stories and using hands-on activities and interactive methods. Please check our bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for monthly stories and updates.

Anyone can help shape the lives and faith of our children. Please consider giving just one Sunday a month. For teaching contact Wendy Ransom at wransom@gmail.com or Karen Waugh at lkwaugh@comcast.net.

SHEPHERDSTOWN VISITORS CENTER (VC) seeks volunteers to welcome tourists and neighbors for a few hours each month. Several SPC members

serve on the VC Board or as regular greeters. Lily Hill, one of the greeters says, "The Center is a relaxing place to meet people and learn on-the-job about Shepherdstown. And there's free parking while you volunteer!" Questions? Call Lily at 304-876-6227 or VC Director Cheryl at 304-876-2786.

EDUCATIONAL MOVIE NIGHT *The Future of Food*, a 2004 documentary film, is an in-depth investigation of food in the United States. Wednesday, **October 7**, 7:00 p.m., Storer Ballroom, 3rd floor, Student Center, Shepherd University. Film is 88 minutes followed by a discussion and refreshments. Questions? Contact Robby Glenn, 304-839-9317 or rglenn51989@gmail.com.

SIRIOUSLY DOWN IN THE WEEDS Are you missing a satellite radio? One was recently found in the church flower garden. It's sitting on the small table outside the church office.

PAPER RECYCLING 4-H group at Christ Reformed Church, 8–9:15 a.m. Paper, cardboard, magazines, books. Place in paper bags, boxes, or tie securely. **NO PLASTIC BAGS. Next: October 3.**

THINKING OF SINGING WITH THE CHOIR? It's almost time to begin music for Advent and Christmas, so now is a great time to join! Rehearsals are Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. Contact Director Georgiann Toole at 301-432-6964 or Georgiann1@aol.com.

KNOX COMES TO SPC! Right beside our King Street Entrance, Knox is mounted in the wall. Well actually, it's a Knox Box. The Knox Box is like a realtor's lock box. It contains keys to all areas of our church, and can be opened only by the Fire Department. In addition, it contains a list of persons to call in the event of a fire emergency at the church. Should you be present when such an emergency occurs at SPC, please make sure the fire fighters are aware of our Knox Box. Questions? Please call John Burns.

Mission...

Place items for these three missions in the plastic containers at the bottom of stairs on the way to the nursery:

JCCM (Jefferson County Community Ministries) The need has increased greatly with many hungry families. Current pantry needs: toothpaste, toothbrushes, canned fruit, canned meat, canned soups, jelly, pancake mix, pancake syrup, instant coffee, tea bags. SPC contact: Sally Fitzgerald, 304-725-3795.

SHENANDOAH WOMEN'S CENTER (SWC) The Center is very busy these days. Paper products: towels, toilet paper, boxes of tissues, plates, cups, napkins. School supplies: #2 pencils, loose notebook pa-

per, crayons, glue sticks, colored pencils, hand wipes, small bottles of hand sanitizer. **Please do NOT bring any clothing. SWC has no room for storage.** SPC contact: Rie Wilson, 304-876-6591.

HISPANIC MISSION FOOD OUTREACH Most requested items include: rice; dry (not canned) pinto beans, potatoes, salt, sugar, cooking oil, and coffee. SPC contact: Jeff Hornbeck, 304-876-0566.

LISTENING

Listening is in many ways so basic it may seem odd at first to think of it as something that we *practice*. But if you pay attention, you will probably notice that real, authentic listening—as opposed to passive hearing—takes some concentrated effort. In our increasingly frenetic and self-absorbed world, active listening is also becoming relatively rare. Stop for a moment and consider—when was the last time you experienced *being listened to*?

Active listening is "a holy work" that incorporates other key spiritual practices including attention, being present, openness; it is a component of devotion, nurturing and wonder.* And, it is an essential expression of hospitality—not just to others, but to God as well. Listening, then, is not just *a* practice, it may be *the foundational* practice of a healthy spirituality.

"God speaks to us every day," Ghandi once said, "only we don't know how to listen." In spiritual community, we have the opportunity and the privilege of practicing our listening together. We listen to God in Word and sacrament and in prayer; we listen in silence to the holy within. We listen, with intention, to one another, and sometimes we listen to God, for and with one another in a holy three-way conversation.

This kind of listening is a dimension of many of the groups here at SPC—it is part of our Taize experience (first Wednesdays), our contemplative prayer gatherings (third Sunday evenings) and what has been called the "Thursday Roundtable" (third Thursday morning). It is also a practice we would like to expand in the form of additional "listening groups," small groups that meet for the sole purpose of listening for and with one another, for and with the Holy. We are in the process of exploring how this might happen in the life of SPC. If you feel drawn to this type of small group experience, or just want to know more, please contact me, ehornbeck@frontiernet.net, and we'll explore together!

—Ethel Hornbeck, Director of Spiritual Formation

*See Frederick and Mary Ann Brussat's *Spiritual Literacy: Reading the Sacred in Everyday Life*.

For more information on "Listening Groups" also called "Circles of Trust," see Parker Palmer's *A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey Toward An Undivided Life*.

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CHURCH LIBRARY TREASURE

The second floor of the Fellowship Hall houses the Church Library. It contains of a number of interesting Bible study concordances, histories and biographies, spiritual self-help books, general theology, philosophy and psychology books, some children's books and even some fiction.

Librarian Gordon Gay has spent many hours posting the authors, titles, and subject headings of over 1000 books into a database, which is available on the Library computer. Instructions are posted near the computer to help you look up a specific book or subject.

Approximately 130 books are being used at this time. There is no limit on how long you can keep a book, but we ask you to return it once you no longer need it. Please sign out any books you take and we encourage you to enjoy our Church Library treasure. Questions about using the Library database? Contact Gordon Gay, or Melinda Landolt.

Keeping up with Members

JAY HOLLIMAN has been selected to represent West Virginia at the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, DC. The program, for outstanding high school students, provides scholars the opportunity to interact with a variety of personnel who operate within the three branches of government, the news media and the international community.

ROSEMARIE COY is performing in *John Brown's Body*, a play adapted from the epic poem by Stephen Vincent Benet with performances at Camp Hill United Methodist Church, Harpers Ferry and St. Agnes Catholic Church Chapel, Shepherdstown. Tickets are \$10. For dates and times go to www.HistoricHarpersFerry.com or call 304-535-2030.

Thank You...

Thanks for all the prayers, calls, and cards during my recovery from this recent operation. The mass was successfully removed without injuring any nerves or veins for which I am also very thankful.

—David Eldridge

SPC Congregation,

Thank you so much for the card and the check. The money will very likely go towards purchasing my textbooks for school. It has been truly an honor to watch your children these past two years. I feel so lucky to have been a part of their lives even for so brief a time. Thank you all.

—Hillary Crum

Financial Corner...

GENERAL FUND through September 27, 2009. Expected to date: \$212,625. Actual giving: \$190,249. Building Fund pledged for 2009: \$34,400. Submitted to date: \$22,821.

NEXT NEWSLETTER: October 2009. Announcements, articles or news of our members? Contact the office, 304-876-6466 or <office@spcworks.org>. Copy deadline **October 25.**

VISIT www.spcworks.org on a regular basis for the latest news, podcasts (new), calendar events and much more.