

Welcome to Village University, a “university inspired layout” of topical short-term courses for people wanting relevant, in-depth and balanced education on a variety of subjects. The following is Village University’s 2010 Lenten Term schedule featuring the *College for the Devoted Life*. We invite you to enroll in any and all classes you would like to take. Enrollment in Village University is open to everyone!

You may enroll for all courses in person at the Adult Ministry office (Room 119), by telephone (call 913-671-2333), by e-mail to marianne.weber@villagepres.org or by mail to the Village Presbyterian Church address. **ON-LINE REGISTRATION IS NOT AVAILABLE.**

NOTE: THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR THE COLLEGE FOR THE DEVOTED LIFE CLASSES.

Registration began February 1 and remains open through the entire term.

We look forward to seeing you at Village University!

The College for the Devoted Life: **What a Christian Needs to Know Today**



In the Shadow of the Galilean

Jesus, often called “rabbi” by his contemporaries, was a preeminent teacher of wisdom. Among the many forms of his teaching, one that can be identified as uniquely his own and that most touched the lives of his listeners was apocalyptic. What was this teaching all about and what impact does it have for our lives of faith today? This class, taught by Rev. Dwight Tawney, will explore some of the most powerful lessons Jesus shared with others.

A Tuesday morning breakfast at **6:45am.**, prepared by Chef Emily, will precede the class. The cost for breakfast is \$6 per person. To register, please call Marianne at 913-671-2333 or e-mail marianne.weber@villagepres.org. **RESERVATIONS MUST BE TURNED IN 8 DAYS BEFORE THE CLASS ... AT THE LATEST!**

February 16	“Growing Up Jewish”
February 23	“In the Shadows of Galilee”
March 2	“One Amazing Sermon”
March 9	“Lessons from the Lake”
March 16	“Challenges at the Temple”
March 23	“Around the Jordan Valley”
March 30	“Final Teaching in Jerusalem”

These classes will be repeated at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesdays – February 17, 24; March 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 – in Room 232.



***Peasants, Widows, Bandits and Beggars:
The Everyday World of Jesus***

Life has changed a great deal since Jesus' day. In our world 98% are literate; in his world 98% were not. It was a world inhabited by peasant farmers, city artisans, rich patrons, desperate widows, serial bandits, absentee landlords, and corrupt judges. Through a brief video presentation, Professor Richard L. Rohrbach of Lewis and Clark College will discuss the social and cultural context of the earliest Christian writings. Rev. Dwight Tawney will then lead the class on further exploration of how this knowledge can enrich our understanding of the New Testament.

- Feb. 21 "A Dysfunctional Family and its Neighbors"
- Feb. 28 "Who Did Jesus Think He Was?"
- March 7 "Purity and Pollution in Ancient Israel"
- March 14 "Anti-Language in the Book of John"
- March 21 "Getting the Bible into English"
- March 28 "Honor and Shame: Core Values of the Mediterranean World"
- April 11 "The Evil Eye: Core Belief in the Biblical World"
- April 18 "Jesus: Village Artisan"
- April 25 "Was Jesus Really a Capitalist?"

Taught by Rev. Dwight Tawney. Sundays at 9:30am. Room 15.



Smoke on the Mountain; Water from the Rock

Throughout the ages human communities have gathered for worship. They may have found themselves perched on mountaintops, bowing in awe before cultic vessels, or singing hymns in grand cathedrals. Worship has taken many forms and communities have assembled for many reasons, but principally out of a deep and enduring devotion to the reality of God's presence in their lives. This class, led by Rev. Dwight Tawney, will explore the many faces of worship from the earliest expression of Israel's faith to our own protestant tradition.

- Feb. 21 "Smoke on the Mountain": Why Worship?
- Feb. 28 "Let Us Go Up to the House of the Lord."
- March 7 "How Shall We Worship in a Foreign Land?"
- March 14 "As They Were Eating..."
- March 21 "Here Am I Among You as One Who Serves."
- March 28 "That You May Have Life in His Name."

Taught by Rev. Dwight Tawney. Sundays at 11:00am. Room 15.



Breaking Bread: Nourishment for the Lenten Journey

Join other families, parents and elementary children, for conversations around the table. Each week will begin with a brunch meal together (**no charge for the meal**), followed by topics that will enrich your spiritual journey during Lent. Weeks 1 and 2 are for parents and children of any elementary age, but week 3 is specifically designed for parents and children of Kindergarteners and 1st graders who are considering taking their first communion. You will be fed – body, mind and spirit. These courses will be taught by Ruth Davidson, Director of Children’s Ministry.

Week 1 - February 21, 2010, 10:30-12:00 noon in room 202

Join us for Family Conversations about prayer. Following brunch, we will discover many ways the family can pray together. Every family will receive a Lenten devotional piece called “Gather Round the Cross,” which can be displayed on your family table as you share devotional prayers and Bible readings. Other table activities will include prayer tools such as blessing bowl, prayer flowerpot, prayer cube for mealtime graces, and prayer rock for bedtime. We will close our time together with singing!

Week 2 - February 28, 2010, 10:30-12:00 noon, in room 202

Join us for Family Conversations about the Bible. Following brunch, we will use a clever little book called “What Color Is Lent?” that tells the Biblical salvation story with devotions, riddle, and object search activity. As we discover the stories, we will create a Bible beading piece to keep as a visual memory of the Holy Week and Easter events.

Week 3 - March 7, 2010, 10:30-12:00 noon in room 202

Join us for Family Conversations about Holy Communion. Following brunch, we will explore the sacrament of Holy Communion. We will remember Jesus, learn about the communion elements, and understand how it is that children are welcome at the table.

This will be a preparation for children who wish to take their first communion on Maundy Thursday.



Sack Lunch & Spiritual Practice: The Way of Prayer

Thomas Merton once said, "If you want a life of prayer, the way to get in is by praying. You start where you are and you deepen what you already have."

Come discuss the practice of prayer and try on some new practices for your journey.

February 24- A Theology of Prayer: Why Pray? And to whom are we praying?

March 3- Prayer for Busy Lives: Table Prayers, Breath Prayers, Examen

March 10- Praying with Scripture: Discover the prayers of scripture, and use the Daily Bible Readings as a tool for prayer.

March 17- Prayers & People: What happens for others? What happens to us when we pray?

Taught by Rev. Meg Peery McLaughlin. Wednesdays – February 24; March 3, 10 and 17. 12:00-1:00pm. Room 230.



Partners for the Journey

Tom Are will enable us to “spend an evening” with some of the theologians that have contributed to his faith. They include Dietrich Bonhoeffer who wrote in the face of Nazi Germany. Bonhoeffer was killed in a concentration camp; Reinhold Niebuhr who served a congregation in Detroit in the days when Henry Ford established the assembly line; James Cone, one of the most articulate voices of African American Theology in America today; and Miroslav Volf whose theology was shaped by the horror of the Bosnian conflict.

As Christian people, it is sometimes difficult in our daily lives facing the demands of family life, environmental decay, international violence, and hostility between religious groups to know how to be faithful to the call of God in our lives. Sometimes it is helpful to listen to others who in particular circumstance have wrestled with these questions. Tom Are will share some of the theological insights from some of these faithful thinkers that have been important to him. Taught by Rev. Tom Are. Wednesdays - February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24. 6:30-8:00pm. Chapel.



Portraits of Power

Herod the Great, Herod Archaelus, and Pontius Pilate have been portrayed in various ways in the four gospels. Each of these Roman officials played significant roles in the life of Jesus and his followers. What was the real story behind these individuals and in what ways did their lives of imperial power intersect with the life and teaching of Jesus? This course will explore the challenges to power posed by Jesus and by the early Christian Church.

1. “Kings, Governors and Empires”
2. “Herod the Great”
3. “Rebellion at Sepphoris”
4. “The Sons Take Over”
5. “Pilate in the Gospels”
6. “Potentates, Power and the Church”

Taught by Rev. Dwight Tawney. Wednesdays – February 24; March 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31. 6:30-8:00pm. Room 230.



Seeking the Scriptures through the Eyes of Your Teenager

Parents, why take this class when you are already busy? Having time together as a family can be challenging when members of the family are teenagers. What can we learn from one another as we pass one another at the end of the day? We'll look specifically at how to overcome the distances that families have with scheduling time with one another and reflect upon some of the scriptures that can provide nourishment during these busy times. Taught by Matt Vaughan. Wednesdays - February 24 and March 3. 7-8pm. Room 232.



Looking at the Family with Fresh Eyes

This course will use family systems thinking and the resources of faith to examine inter-generational family issues.

I. *How Does the Family Function?* (February 18)

Looking at patterns of functioning, under-functioning, and over-functioning and their implications for family members and individual health.

II. *The Problems of Triangles* (February 25)

We will look at the way family members use and misuse triangles, how dangerous they can become, and how we can develop healthier relationships.

III. *What Are the Givens of Family Life and How Do I Cope?* (March 4)

We will talk about the implications of birth order and inherited patterns of parenting.

Taught by Rev. Gene Augustine.
232.



Thursdays – February 18, 25 and March 4. 10:00-11:30am. Room

Men's Morning Study - Praying the Scriptures

It's hard to pray - sometimes we don't know how or we don't have the right words, other times we just don't feel God's presence in the silence. All the while we have this gift, the Bible, that exists so that we might have access to God. Psalms, Prophets, Gospels, Letters - how can each of these different types of Biblical writing jump-start our prayer life. We'll study and discuss a text each week over breakfast and then pray that same scripture. Connect with a small group. Connect with God. Taught by Rev. Jarrett McLaughlin. Tuesday mornings - March 9, 16, 23 and 30. 7:00-8:00am. Room 230.



Sack Lunch and Vivent la Difference (Live the Difference)

“So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” – Genesis 1:27

But do we really believe the writer of the Book of Genesis? Discrimination is a reality in our lives. How do we identify, understand and continue to work to eliminate the use of differences to practice discrimination? If we are to follow Jesus, then we will eat with the Gentiles, heal on the Sabbath and celebrate the God-given differences of human beings. Taught by Dr. Ron Patton, HR. Thursdays – March 4, 11, 18 – 12 noon to 1:00pm. Room 230.



A Family on a Mission - Finding Your Families God-Given Purpose

"We will broaden our family circle, we seek to show hospitality to older adults in our congregation."

"As a family we will live our faith openly by participating in one service project a month."

"Together, we will read God's Word and find a single mission focus for our family each year."

Each of these is a mission statement that reflects one family's decision to live faithfully to the best of their ability. Life is full of decisions - amidst the demands of school projects and business trips, friend groups and free time activities, how will you spend time together as a family. No matter what the shape of your family - whether two

parents with kids, a husband and wife with no kids, single parent family or any other combination - every family has a unique, God-given purpose. Village Church wants to help you discover that mission and put it into action.

During this 3-week journey, you will articulate your family's personal mission statement. You will also learn some spiritual practices that will help sustain you in that chosen mission statement. Finally, you will develop your own ritual of recommitment so that, together, your family can constantly renew and reform its mission.

Taught by Rev. Jarrett McLaughlin. Sunday mornings - March 14, 21 and 28. 11:00am- 12:00pm. Room 202.