

The fall semester 2008 begins on Tuesday, September 16th and continues through November 18th with the following:

September 16th - September 30th
World Religions

As our world gets smaller, we often find ourselves unaware of the differences and diversity in the faith communities around us. This class will help us gain a better understanding of Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism.

Facilitator: Rev. Gary Hakes

Rev. Hakes began his ministry at age 15 by earning his License to Preach from Emory University. Rev. Hakes attended Ohio Wesleyan University and National College for Christian Workers. He obtained his Masters of Sacred Theology from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.

While at Ohio Wesleyan University, he became close friends with both a Confucianist and a Buddhist and became fascinated in the depth of their spirituality and concern for others. That led him to an interest in world religions, studying them in seminary, and subsequent teaching over the years at various times. Rev. Hakes is now retired and resides in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

September 30th - October 7th
Thumpin' It/Book discussion

Thumpin' It: The Use and Abuse of the Bible in Today's Presidential Politics by Jacques Berlinerblau. This engaging book looks at the recent history of how Scripture has influenced public policy debates; how recent U.S. presidents have employed the Bible; and how each of the major candidates in the 2008 presidential elections is using and often misusing the Bible in their race for the White House.

Facilitator: Charlie Cole

Charlie Cole has been an active leader at Fairfax Church since 1989 serving as Lay Leader, on the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, LRP Committee and as a delegate to the VA Annual Conference.

He has always had a passion for politics and the political process. Following his retirement from Mobil Oil, Mr. Cole served as a full-time volunteer in the Clinton White House as the Associate Director in the Presidential Personnel Office. Later, he volunteered at the United Methodist General Board of Church and Society working on issues related to Social Security and health care.

October 7th - October 28th
Practicing the Faith

How do we enter the Christian faith? How do we grow in faith? How do we live out our faith? When describing their faith, Christians are increasingly speaking not only of belief, but of faith practices - actions, disciplines and works of piety and mercy - that inspire (and are inspired by) faith. We will ask what it means to learn and live practices of the Christian faith, including worship, forgiveness, prayer, biblical study, hospitality, justice, and honoring our neighbors. Come explore, re-imagine, and practice various paths of faithful living that nurture discipleship and renew your mind, body and spirit.

Facilitator: Rev. Jessicah Duckworth

The Rev. Jessicah Krey Duckworth is Assistant Professor of Christian Formation and Teaching at Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, D.C. Jessicah is also a doctoral candidate finishing her dissertation in Practical Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary. Professor Duckworth lives in Fairfax, Virginia and is married with 3 children. When she is not working, Jessicah enjoys reading, watching baseball, camping, exploring large cities and spending time with family.

September 16th - November 4th
DISCIPLE - Invitation to Romans

This eight week short-term DISCIPLE Bible study will discover how Paul's letter to the Romans has shaped the church for 2000 years and explore ways it can shape our current faith community.

Facilitator: Debra Godwin

Debra Godwin is a long time member of Fairfax Church who has a passion for deepening her relationship with Christ through discipleship, spiritual growth and formation. She serves the Lord by facilitating numerous studies aimed at sharing her passion and contributing to the life of the church. Debra is a wife, mother and county employee who also enjoys quilting, reading and stimulating conversations.

November 4th - November 18th
What's God Up To? Bible Stories Through New Eyes

Why would God put a tree in the Garden and tell Adam and Eve not to eat its fruit? The stage for this study of three Old Testament scriptures is set by a video presentation by Dr. A. J. Levine, popular biblical scholar and professor at Vanderbilt University Divinity School. Dr. Levine asks edgy questions of familiar stories that causes them to lose their familiarity so we gain a fresh outlook. The Old Testament stories are: The Temptation in the Garden, the Sacrifice of Isaac and David and Bathsheba.

Facilitator: Doug Barricks

Doug Barricks has taught various classes at Fairfax Church for over thirty years. His gift for teaching and passion for Jesus Christ make for an energized and inspired class experience.