



Third Presbyterian Church Adult Faith Development Catalog 2010-2011



Adult faith development is always a work in progress.

A Word of Welcome and Invitation

Welcome to Adult Faith Development at Third Presbyterian Church.

Third Church participates in the Presbyterian Church (USA) Commitment to Peacemaking. Our intention is to pursue avenues of peace and justice for ourselves, our families and communities, for all people in the world in which we live. We seek to be agents of reconciliation.

Third Church has joined with other Presbyterian congregations in declaring ourselves to be a “More Light” church. We are committed to the full participation of all persons in our church community without regard for sexual orientation, personal background or human condition.

Third Church, a member of Presbyterians for Earth Care and NYS Interfaith Power and Light, is a congregation that strives to see more clearly the connection between our faith, our daily life, and environmental concerns. We endeavor to become informed and thoughtful stewards of God’s creation.



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Adult Faith Development Committee:

Beth Aten, George Cheatle, Lila Ford, Ronna Grimes, Gregg Hamberger (Chair), Jane Liesveld, Paul McArthur, Paul Wlodarczyk (catalog editor), Roderic P. Frohman (staff support)

You can download more information on Adult Faith Development, including copies of this catalog, from the Third Church Web site: www.thirdpresbyterian.org/education

Adult Faith Development at Third Church

2010-2011 Class Locations and Times

Because construction is expected to conclude in late 2010, Johnston Hall and Celebration Center are expected to be available for classes in 2011. However, our January classes may continue to be held at the Bausch Auditorium at the Rochester Museum and Science Center. The eventual locations will be announced shortly before the classes begin. Please watch the weekly Bulletin and Congregational Update emails for up-to-date class location and time information.

Meeting Your Needs

Third Church's curriculum offers a variety of classes for youth and adults. Choose a class that is of interest to you and join us each week. You will find many opportunities to meet and enjoy the company of others interested in growing and learning together, sharing our questions and doubts, as well as our hopes and faith. Adult Faith Development Sunday classes begin at 9:30 a.m. during the program year (except during the construction, when they will begin at 10:00). Classes are also offered at other times and days of the week.



All education and worship spaces are accessible via the elevator located near the building entrance to the Arnold Park parking lot. Greeters are available throughout the facility to answer questions and direct you to class locations.

Most classes are recorded and available on audio CD from the Third Church office. This enables you to **catch-up on classes you weren't able to join, or even courses** from previous years. **The Church's library is your source for recommended reading** selections, theological works, and select fiction. Visit before or after worship or during church office hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.).

How Courses Are Organized

Third Church Adult Faith Development classes are offered on an elective basis over five terms which span the program year. Some courses span a term of five or six weeks - but this does not require attending all sessions in order to participate. Other courses are shorter, allowing more choice and variety in both length and content. Biblical Studies consists of a core curriculum that explores every book of the Bible in four years, and the cycle may be entered at any time. Even if you cannot make all the class sessions for a course, please feel free to attend whenever you can. Please join us as you are able. Feel welcome to enter a class late or leave early if you need to.

Each year, the Adult Faith Development Committee offers a balance of courses in each of five areas:

- B** Biblical Studies - Old and New Testaments and their Interpretation.
- CF** Christian Foundations - Theology and Church History.
- SOC** Church & Society - Social Issues, Ethics, and Mission.
- WMA** Worship, Music, & Arts - Sacred Works, Arts & Literature, Alternative Forms of Worship.
- LIV** Christian Living - Family Formation, Spiritual Development.

Each course is listed in one of these five areas, however many courses cover themes that overlap areas. The course area listings serve as a guide to help you plan a meaningful balance of courses over time.

How to Use This Catalog

The Importance of Continuing Faith Development

There is something here for everyone, and in today's world, everyone needs to participate regularly in Adult Faith Development in some way. This is true in our business and professional lives, and it is equally true if we are to nurture and be engaged in a vital, mature, and growing life of faith. Without regular exercise our muscles and minds can atrophy. Without regular exercise our spirits can atrophy. Continuing Christian education is essential for spiritual health.

Just as a healthy diet needs to include portions from all the basic food groups, we also need to include a balance from all the basic study groups for healthy spiritual nourishment. A regular and balanced diet of continuing Christian education is essential for every adult who is intent on growing in the life of faith. The Adult Faith Development Committee has developed a calendar of offerings that reflects this balance.

Planning for Your Own Spiritual Growth

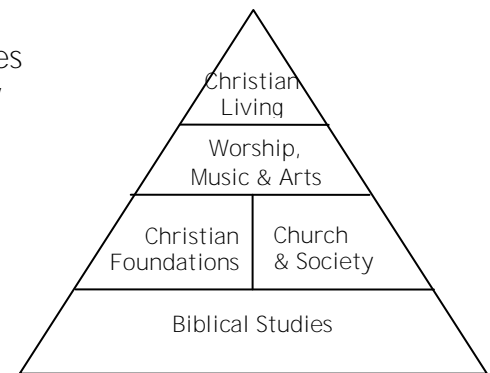
Keep and use this catalog to select and plan a healthy diet that meets your needs. Feed yourself, challenge yourself, and stretch yourself in some way regularly each term. Select courses that best meet your own interests and needs. But also make it a point to branch out beyond your own favorites to enrich your life with a diversity of choices to ensure healthy and well-rounded spiritual nourishment.

We all lead busy lives in a busy world and our personal schedules change often with the circumstances of our lives. It is precisely because we are faced with so many competing demands that it becomes imperative for us to set priorities, and make time to nurture our spiritual health which alone can sustain us. While none of us can participate in every program offering, each of us can find something that meets our personal needs and schedules given the choices in this catalog.

Be as regular and consistent as possible in your participation in each course you choose to ensure the best possible learning experience for everyone involved. An added benefit will be a sense of community, connectedness and mutual encouragement as you join with others in exploring together what it means to live as the people of God today.

In summary, use this catalog as a tool to help:

- Select courses which match where you are in your own faith journey.
- Find times which best fit your own schedule.
- Identify new areas of study that will stretch and challenge you as well as provide you with a varied diet for your personal growth.
- **Plan for a “balanced educational diet” over time.**
- Develop a regular and consistent overall plan to help you grow in the life of faith.



2010-2011 Adult Faith Development Catalog

The State of the Economy in the Nation and in the Rochester Area (SOC)

Kent Gardner

Sunday September 19, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Bausch Auditorium, Rochester Museum and Science Center

We have heard that the economy is up, then it is down, then it is up. Unemployment is lower in NY State than in the US. What is up and down for us? The general economic situation in the US will be reviewed with an emphasis on the Rochester area.



Kent Gardner is President and Chief Economist for the Center for Governmental Research, Rochester, NY. Kent holds a Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts, and Doctorate degrees from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He joined CGR in 1991 as Director of Economic Analysis and became President in 2005. Previously he was Associate Professor of Economics at Potsdam College of the State University of New York, where he also founded the North Country Economic Research Center. His previous experience includes serving as senior economist for a Saratoga Springs-based consulting group.

Kent also has extensive experience assessing the economic and fiscal impacts of major developments, institutions or policy changes on communities, regions, and the state.

Seeking Peace - Israel and Palestine (SOC)

Rusty Olson and Lincoln Spaulding

Sundays September 26 and October 3, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Bausch Auditorium, Rochester Museum and Science Center

Week 1: Seeking Peace: From Balfour to Obama. Over the years, this land has meant many things to many people, and peace and justice has been elusive for the people of Israel and Palestine. The **history of the region is sometimes described as a “multi-narrative” history.** Who are the players? What are their narratives?

Week 2: Ways We Can Seek Peace. **We’ll look at study resources and ways we can get involved in promoting peace and justice for the people of Israel and Palestine. We’ll also cover recent actions of the General Assembly towards Israel and Palestine.**



Third Church members Rusty Olson and Linc Spaulding regularly conduct adult education on Middle East and interfaith topics. They are founding members of the interfaith dialogue group *Faith to Faith: Peace In Israel and Palestine*, which promotes community education and advocacy, hoping for a secure and just peace that is respectful of both Israel and Palestine.

Faith to Faith Planning Group. From left to right, Michael Argaman (TBK), Rusty Olson (TPC), Anees Masood (ICR), Linc Spaulding (TPC), Noa Baum, Alison Elder (TPC), Bruce Pollock (TBK), and Farzana Razvi (ICR)

Faith and Money **LIV**

Third Church Financial Team

Sundays October 10, 17, 24, and 31, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Bausch Auditorium, Rochester Museum and Science Center

Money was one of Jesus' favorite topics. It is also one of ours - both in the church and in our culture. In October, the Stewardship and Planned Giving Committees will offer four sessions on faith and money. Each session will begin with a brief reflection on scripture before delving into the topic of the day.

Week 1: The Third Church Endowments and Investment Approaches. Rusty Olson and George Gotcsik

Week 2: The State of Stewardship. Susan Rupp and Rodney Perry

Week 3: Trends in Endowments and Giving in American Culture. Douglas Phillips

Week 4: Wills and Other Planned Giving Opportunities. Peter Weishaar



Rusty Olson **served for many years as the head of Kodak's pension fund**, and has written several books on the topic. He very ably and faithfully has managed the Third Church endowments for several decades. George Gotcsik has extensive experience with not-for-profit endowments and recently created a new Third Church planned giving policy. Susan Rupp, current chair of the Joint Budget and Finance Committee, and Rodney Perry, past chair of the Stewardship Committee, will explore themes and challenges. Douglas Phillips **oversees the University of Rochester's investments and has extensive** experience in higher education. He is a former chair of the Third Church Stewardship Committee. Peter Weishaar is a partner in the law firm of McConville, Considine, Cooman and Morin, PC, a general practice firm representing businesses and individuals across a broad

spectrum of matters, including estate planning. Peter is a former president of the Third Church Board of Trustees.

2000 Year Road to the Holocaust SOC

Anthony Sciolino, Steve Hess, Morris Wortman

Sundays November 7, 14, and 21, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Bausch Auditorium, Rochester Museum and Science Center

This series is a “sampler” of the larger Holocaust series offered **each year by Temple B’rith Kodesh** (see <http://holocaustroad.org/> for more information).

Week 1: The Red Thread: Anti-Judaism Within Christianity Through the Centuries. Anthony Sciolino

Week 2: The Rise of Facism in Germany - from The Great War to 1938. Steve Hess

Week 3: The Shoah (1938-45) and its Immediate Aftermath (1945-48). Morris Wortman



A Deacon in the Roman Catholic Church, Anthony Sciolino is the former Monroe County District Attorney and Family Court Judge, retired, and a Holocaust scholar. Steve Hess is a Holocaust survivor and a Holocaust scholar. Morris Wortman, MD, is a child of survivors and Holocaust scholar.

What is *AIDS Care* and Should I Care? SOC

Steven Price

Sunday, November 28, 2010, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Bausch Auditorium, Rochester Museum and Science Center

AIDS Care is the leading provider of HIV/AIDS services in Rochester and the Finger Lakes and was formed by the January 2010 merger of AIDS Community Health Center and AIDS Rochester. AIDS Care offers a wide array of HIV/AIDS medical, social, and prevention services, in a calm, comfortable, and welcoming environment. You are invited to learn about this newly formed agency and the importance of its work in our region.



Steven Price is the Director of Prevention at AIDS Care and has served in this capacity since 1995. Prevention involves HIV related education, outreach to individuals on Rochester **streets, HIV testing, and maintaining Rochester’s only syringe exchange** program. Steven is also an ordained minister with the United Church of Christ and is the vice-chair of the Regional Committee on Ministry.

Advent Special Music: *St. Nicolas*, by Benjamin Britten WMA

Justin Lundberg

Sunday December 12, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Bausch Auditorium, Rochester Museum and Science Center



Justin Lundberg, a member of the Chancel Choir and a candidate for a Ph.D. in Music Theory at the Eastman School of Music, will present **a preview to this season’s special** music, which will performed immediately afterward at the 11:15 worship service.

Advocates for Justice (B)

Charles Stratton

Sundays January 2, 9, 16, and 23, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Location TBA

Risk-taking for human justice has a long history. Here are four who risked their lives to be advocates for justice:

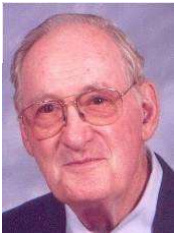
Moses: **“Let my people go!”**

Esther: **“For such a time as this!”**

Jesus: **“Who can stone a sinner?”**

Paul: **“My friend, the slave, must be freed.”**

Charles will explore the message and the method of each of these biblical advocates for justice.



Charles Stratton received a **bachelor’s degree** from Trinity College in Hartford, CT; studied aerospace engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY; and received both a Master of Divinity and a Doctor of Ministry from Princeton Theological Seminary. He served twice as a missionary to Iran, and was Pastor and Pastor Emeritus at The Presbyterian Church in Youngstown, NY.

Islamophobia: The New Normalcy (SOC)

Mara Ahmed

Sunday January 30, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Location TBA

This class will reflect on four questions:

1. **What is “Islamophobia”** and how has it become normalized in the West?
2. Why is this happening?
3. How important is it to understand the faulty constructs that support such irrational hate and stereotyping?
4. What do we need to do to get back to common sense and work together to solve our problems?

A short segment of the film *The Muslims I Know* will be shown.



Mara Ahmed is a Rochester resident and sought out speaker. Mara has a Masters in Economics from the University of Hartford, Connecticut. To see Muslims constantly in the news after 9/11, yet never have a chance to be part of the discourse was frustrating for Mara, a Pakistani-American Muslim. She felt compelled to make the voices of people like herself heard. This led her to produce the film *The Muslims I Know*, which premiered at the Dryden Theatre in 2008. It was part of the High Falls Film Festival in 2009 and broadcast on WXXI in the Rochester area. The film has been screened on countless university and college campuses and at film festivals in

Washington, DC, and Toronto. More information about the film, including press coverage and screenings, can be found at www.TheMuslimsIKnow.com.

Paul: Life, Letters, and Mission (B)

Anne Merideth

Sundays February 6, 13, 20, and 27, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Johnston Hall

A study of the life and thought of Paul through analysis of his letters, with a focus on the first letter to the Thessalonians, the first and second letter to the Corinthians, and the letters to the Romans and Galatians. Special emphasis will be placed upon **Paul's ideas about Jews and Christians, Jesus,** and the nature of church communities.



Anne Merideth returns for her fifth year teaching at Third Church. Anne joined the University of Rochester faculty in 1995 and is Assistant Professor of Religion, teaching **Old and New Testament and Ancient Christianity. Anne is a veteran of the University's** archaeological excavations in Israel, and has lectured about the digs and other topics. In 1997, Anne earned the Abraham Karp Teaching Award shared by the Department of Religion and Classics and the Department of History, as well as the Outstanding Faculty Award presented by the **University's Women's Caucus.**

More Light Series (LIV)

Suzie Kieren, Chair More Light Committee

Sundays February 6, 20, and 27, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Celebration Center

Week 1: *It's Elementary* - Talking About Gay Issues in School. Debra Chasnoff and Helen S. Cohen will lead this session, which uses the film *It's Elementary*, which focuses cameras in classrooms on conversations concerning gay issues. Kids are clearly aware of anti-gay prejudices around them, and want schools to guide them in addressing the lack of tolerance and fairness they see. RCSD has shown the film to teachers in its efforts to stop bullying in schools.

Week 2: Discussion on citizenship and equality in the Presbyterian Church and New York State as seen through the lens of the current discussion on marriage and ordination.

Week 3: Fortunate Families. Catholic Families Advocating Respect and Justice for their Gay and Lesbian Children. Casey and Mary Ellen Lopata are the dynamic local VP and Treasurer of Fortunate Families. There are board members in eight states, Listening Parents in twenty-eight states, and newsletter subscribers in all 50 states, as well as an increasing presence internationally.



Suzie Kieren is the 2010-2111 Chair of More Light and serves on Session. Suzie is a retired home hospital teacher from the Rochester City School District. She is also a professional free lance musician and a frequent oboe soloist at Third Church.

Advocacy Series (SOC)

Vince Tollers: Series Coordinator

Sundays February 13, March 13, April 17, and May 8, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.
Celebration Center

There is a deep hunger in Third Church to impact our culture, a deep hunger to apply faith to life. Few mainline congregations are involved in advocacy activities that go beyond the church walls. As Third Church **has led in other areas, it's time that we explored ways in which we can institutionalize** advocacy across the church. **It's time that we created "a center that will hold."** This series of four classes will look at four specific advocacy opportunities which relate to our Third Church Outreach programs. The specific issues will be selected by a congregation-wide vote (open through December 1, 2010) on the Outreach page on the Third Church website:

<http://www.thirdpresbyterian.org/outreach-service/index.shtml#advocacy>



Vince Tollers **is chair of Third Church's new Advocacy Committee. He is recently** retired after 32 years as a Professor of English Literature at SUNY Brockport where he taught the Bible as literature and co-authored two books of criticism in this area. He is a member of Third Presbyterian Church. He is a popular teacher in our adult faith development program.

Dialog with Rabbi Kotok (SOC)

Rabbi Laurence Kotok

Sunday March 6, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.
Johnston Hall

This annual class is a much anticipated part of Third Church's weekend exchange program with Temple B'rith Kodesh. This class will focus on current issues of Judaism and Christianity as seen through the multifaceted lens of Presbyterian denominational issues and American/Israel relationships.



Rabbi Laurence A. Kotok, D.D., serves as the Senior Rabbi at Temple **B'rith Kodesh**. Prior to arriving in Rochester in 1996, Rabbi Kotok served the North Country Reform Temple Ner Tamid of Glen Cove for 22 years. He is currently National Chair of the ARZA Rabbinic Cabinet, serves on the Board of the Jewish Child Care Association, and has been active in both the New York and National UJA/Federation.

Bible Basics for Families — An Integrated Unit **LIV**

Becky D'Angelo Veitch

Sundays March 6, 13, 20 and 27, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Whitney Room

Have you ever wished that you knew more about the Bible? Have you ever felt that you weren't qualified to teach Sunday School or Qabats because you didn't have the Biblical knowledge? Do you worry when your child comes to you with a question about scripture? This course will definitely not give you all the answers, but it will provide you with an overview of the structure, content and history of our holy scriptures, introduce you to some resources that will make using a Bible much more accessible, and will whet your appetite for further study of the Bible. This class will run concurrently with our final Qabats rotation on the Bible, and parents who have children in Qabats will have the chance to participate together in one workshop in this rotation. You need not have children in the program, however, to participate!

Week 1: Overview: Content and History

Week 2: The Old Testament

Week 3: The New Testament

Week 4: Bible tools



Children's Ministry Coordinator Becky D'Angelo-Veitch joined the staff of Third Presbyterian Church in the fall of 2001. Prior to that, she served two churches in the Presbytery of Western New York. Becky graduated from SUNY College at Fredonia with a **bachelor's** in Elementary Education. She has continuing education through the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE), Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, and Princeton Theological Seminary, where she earned a Certificate in Youth and Theology. She is currently working towards her certification as a

Christian Educator.

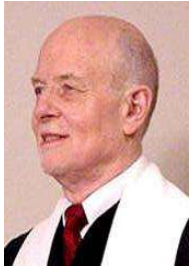
Wrestling with the Bible: Problems of Interpretation and Belief (B)

Theodore Weeden

Sundays March 13, 20, 27 and April 3, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Johnston Hall

How are we to interpret the Bible? **Is it truly the “Word of God,” or only inspired human faith?** Must we take the Bible literally? Is the Bible right: the universe was created in six days (Gen. 1), wives must be subject to their husbands (Col. 3:18), women can only be saved by child bearing (1 Tim. 2:13-15), all governing authorities are instituted by God (Rom. 13:1), etc.? To what extent is interpretation of the Bible dictated by cultural mores and bias? Are there guidelines for interpreting the Bible? How do biblical scholars interpret the Bible?



Ted Weeden returns for a fourth year to our Adult Faith Development program. He received Bachelor of Arts in Divinity from Emory University, and a Doctorate in New Testament from Claremont Graduate School. He is the author of *Mark – Traditions in Conflict*, as well as articles on the Gospel Mark and other New Testament subjects and is a fellow of the [Jesus Seminar](#). Ted has taught at various colleges and seminaries, and has served as pastor to many United Methodist churches. In 1995 he retired from Asbury-First United Methodist Church in Rochester, where he served as pastor for 18 years.

Advent Special Music: *Requiem* by Maurice Duruflé (WMA)

Sunday March 20, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Johnston Hall

Join us for **a preview to this season’s special music, which will** be performed the following Sunday, March 27, at the 10:45 worship service.

President Obama And His Critics (SOC)

Robert Westbrook

Sundays March 27 and April 3, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in Celebration Center

Sundays April 10 & 17, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in Johnston Hall

The Obama presidency has thus far witnessed considerable achievements. Yet, amidst widespread criticism, public support for the President has steadily declined. This class will examine the policies of the first two years of the administration and weigh the objections of its adversaries from the right and left.



Robert Westbrook is Professor of History at the University of Rochester, and received a **bachelor’s degree** in History from Yale and a Ph.D. from Stanford University. As a cultural historian of liberal democracy, his published work has centered on popular political theory and the social history of the American moral imagination - evident, he claims, in documents such as Betty Grable pin-ups and Norman Rockwell paintings. He is the author of a biography on John Dewey, as well as *Democratic Hope*, a study of the political implications of philosophical pragmatism and neo-pragmatism.

How the World Works (And What To Do When It Breaks Down): **B**

Reading Biblical Wisdom

Mark Brummitt

Sundays May 1, 8, 15, and 22, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Johnston Hall

Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes are collectively known as the biblical books of Wisdom. They combine story, saying, and song to comment on the way the world works--its predictability, its moral order, or otherwise. Over four consecutive weeks we shall look at the characteristics of each, and Ben Sirach from the Apocrypha, too, to see what wisdom biblical Wisdom has for us today.

Week 1: Proverbs. Everyday Wisdom

Week 2: Job. Wisdom Beyond the Everyday

Week 3: Ecclesiastes. Wisdom for Everyday

Week 4: Ben Sirach. What Wisdom Did Next



Mark Brummitt, returning for his third year of teaching at Third Church, is Assistant Professor of Old Testament Studies at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. Mark holds a Masters **of Arts from King's** College London and the Royal School of Dramatic Arts, and a Ph.D. from the University of Glasgow, Scotland. He was appointed to the CRCDS faculty in the spring of 2007 and commenced teaching there in September 2007

Jesus To Constantine: An Introduction **CF**

Roderic P. Frohman

Sundays June 5, 12, and 19, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Johnston Hall

The Christian movement emerged from its cradle in Judaism and became a successful established institution in the Roman Empire by the time of Constantine, 325 AD. But it faced a number of challenges. There was cultural, religious and political competition with the Empire. The movement took on forms of self-governance while struggling internally with vast theological diversity commonly known as “heresy.” **This class will examine the struggle to establish an “orthodoxy” of practice and belief amidst an official culture highly resistant to the inclusion of Christians.**



Roderic Frohman, a fourth generation pastor, **is Third Church's Associate Pastor for Church in Society.** A 1967 graduate of the University of California at Berkeley with a degree in American Intellectual History, Rod holds a Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Princeton Theological Seminary. He previously has served four Presbyterian congregations as a pastor/head of staff in Philadelphia, PA; Gary, IN; and Minneapolis, MN, before coming to Third Church in 1998.

Summer Series: Book Reviews

Sundays 9:00 to 9:50 a.m.

Summer 2011



Back by popular demand, the 2011 Summer Book Review Series will repeat the book review format from the last several years. We will select the books and solicit reviewers in the Spring of 2011.