

2010 ADULT SUMMER SERIES

JUNE 13 - SEPTEMBER 5

IDLEWILD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAYS, 9:40–10:40 A.M. - HARLAN ROOM

SUNDAY, JUNE 13

Presbyterians and Israel: Friends or Foes?

The Reverend Dr. Steve Montgomery

Historically, Presbyterians and Jews have been strong ecumenical partners, working together for common causes of social justice and compassion. Recently, however, the Israeli–Palestinian conflict has tested those relationships. At this year’s General Assembly of the PC(USA), commissioners will be debating a paper on the Israel–Palestine situation guaranteed to cause controversy. What does this paper say?

If you would like to find out more you can read the report at www.pcusa.org/middleeastpeace. Another helpful report on Jewish-Christian relations is at pcusa.org/gamc/business/feb10/actions/C104.pdf.

Led by Steve Montgomery, Pastor of Idlewild Presbyterian Church.

SUNDAY, JUNE 20

Simply Christian

Ms. Stephanie Rodda

Explore the concept of simple living as it applies to Christians in the contemporary world. What motivates us to complicate our lives? How does the Bible guide us to simplify them? Class members are invited to discuss their own struggles and successes with simple living.

Stephanie Rodda serves as an elder at Idlewild Church and is a member of the Stephen Church School Class. She is librarian at Idlewild Elementary School.

SUNDAY, JUNE 27

Philemon: The Letter Nobody Reads

The Reverend Casey Thompson

Philemon, Paul’s shortest letter, is a fascinating introduction to the ministry and thinking of Paul. Come discover how this shortest of letters provides a window into Paul’s leadership style, his theology of slavery and freedom, his radical notions of the kingdom of God, and his willingness to both badger and plead with a patron.

Led by Casey Thompson, Associate Pastor for Congregational Life at Idlewild Presbyterian Church.

SUNDAY, JULY 4

Faith of our (Founding) Fathers

Ms. Lucie Bridgforth

Was the United States of America founded as a Christian nation? Those on the Religious Right emphatically claim “Yes,” while their counterparts on the Left stress the deistic tendencies of Thomas Jefferson and his insistence on separation of church and state. This class will look at the beliefs expressed in both public and private writings of several of the most notable Founders, then examine the iconography and symbolism evident in important public buildings such as the Capitol and the Supreme Court.

Lucie Bridgforth is on the editorial board of the *Commercial Appeal*. She taught history for 25 years at Northwest Mississippi Community College at Senatobia.

SUNDAY, JULY 11**Walking Architectural and Symbolism Tour of Idlewild****Mr. Jim Eikner and Ms. Adrienne Davis**

What does Idlewild Church have in common with the Great Wall of China or the famous Passion Play of Oberammergau, Germany? What are all those stone images at the top of our sanctuary columns? Where is the only gold cross in the sanctuary? The wonders of George Awsumb's gothic architectural genius are explained in this church tour. (A DVD entitled *Architectural Tour and Guide to Symbols of Idlewild* is available (\$15) in the office.)

Jim Eikner serves as an Idlewild elder and chair of the Worship and Music Committee. Adrienne Davis is a member of the Worship and Music Committee and A Covenant Conversation church school class.

SUNDAY, JULY 18**Life Lessons from the Garden****Mr. Carl Awsumb and Ms. Clare Stallings**

Share the many lessons and stories gained by working with our Binghamton neighbors in the McMerton Gardens, at the corner of Merton Street and McAdoo. We thought we knew what we were doing through community gardening—In our fourth year, we are still learning valuable lessons.

Carl Awsumb is a community activist and a member of the Mexico Clean Water Team. Clare Stallings is a community activist and a member of the Ghana Clean Water Team.

SUNDAY, JULY 25**Communion 101: Offering Thanksgiving to God****Mr. Daniel Edwards**

This sacrament of thanksgiving for God's gift of life to us has been practiced since the beginning of the church, defining the faith and practices of Christians throughout time. Why is the eating and drinking so important in the life of the church? Consider the historical interpretations of this practice, and think about the relationship between communion and hospitality in our church.

Daniel Edwards serves on the Adult Ministry Committee and is a member of A Covenant Conversation church school class. He is a mechanical engineering at Hunter Fans.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1**Women's Encounter with Jesus: Back to the Well****The Reverend Anne H.K. Apple and the Reverend Dr. Elizabeth Gayle Walker**

Biblical stories are texts of transformation and chronicles of faith. Join Gayle Walker and Anne Apple in a discussion of the story of Martha and Mary (Luke 10:38–42) through a lens of feminist biblical scholarship which explores different angles of interpretation.

Anne Apple is Parish Associate. Gayle Walker is Associate Pastor for Adult Ministry.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 8**The 219th PC(USA) General Assembly: "Rivers of Living Waters"****The Reverend Dr. Will Jones**

"Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water." –John 7:38 NRSV

Important church business is accomplished at the General Assembly, but the context for this work is worship, celebration, remembrance, and hope for the future. Hear a first hand report from Commissioner Will Jones, representing the Presbytery of the Mid-South, on the spirit and actions of this year's assembly, held July 3–10 in Minneapolis. (Follow this year's General Assembly at www.pcusa.org/ga219.)

Will Jones is Professor of Philosophy and Religion at the University of Mississippi at DeSoto.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15**Reconciliation, Not Just Recreation****Ms. Ashley LaRue and Mr. Anthony Albonetti**

Our Recreation Ministry has reached out to the Memphis community for years, weaving relationships among peoples with different ethnicities, socio-economic levels and beliefs. In response to the community's changing needs, this class will examine how recreation ministry is growing and developing new programs to reach out to those around us, including a partnership with the KROC Center that benefits both missions.

Led by Ashley LaRue, Director of Recreation Ministry, along with Assistant Director Anthony Albonetti.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22**The Mississippi River as a Sacred Trust****The Reverend Jim Boyd and Ms. Blanche Deaderick**

Is our mighty Mississippi River threatened? How can we make a difference? See how people of faith cherish the Mississippi River as a sacred trust, and discuss how each of us might address issues facing the river and our local environment.

Jim Boyd is President of Bridges and member of Gather at the River. Blanche Deaderick is a member of Idlewild and of Gather at the River. She is Associate Director of the Governor's School.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29**The Churches and the Civil Rights Movement in Memphis****The Reverend Dr. Steve Haynes**

Dr. Haynes will share from research for his upcoming book *The Most Segregated Hour* (Oxford University Press) as he examines the attitudes and actions of churches, church people and church leaders during the years of the Civil Rights Movement in Memphis. The focus is on the attempts to test white churches' toleration for integrated worship, with special attention to the controversial "knee-ins" at Second Presbyterian Church in 1964-65.

Steve Haynes is Professor of Religious Studies at Rhodes College, and Idlewild's Theologian in Residence.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5**Rediscovering Vocation: Bringing Harmony to the Parts of Our Lives****Dr. Matt Mathews**

For many of us the term *vocation* is synonymous with *work* or *career*, but Christian theology has a far richer understanding of vocation. Rediscover the theological richness of vocation and explore how this concept might provide a fresh perspective on our lives.

Matt Mathews is the Edward G. Humphreys Associate Professor of Theology at Memphis Theological Seminary and a church elder working with Adult Ministry.
