

IDLEWILD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WINTER 2012 - SPECIAL SERIES FOR ADULTS

REFLECTIONS ON FAITH AND SEXUAL IDENTITY

JANUARY 22 , FEBRUARY 12, MARCH 25, APRIL 15

12:30–2:00 p.m. [Harlan Room, Sanctuary Building]

A four-part series exploring same-sex relationships in light of our Biblical faith and Reformed tradition, along with the latest scientific and medical perspectives.

A light lunch (\$5) will be served at 12:30 p.m. in the Harlan Room followed by a presentation and discussion. Lunch reservations are helpful but not necessary; childcare provided upon request on the Monday before a particular Sunday (contact Brenda Harris, brenda@idlewildchurch.org).

For information or to register, contact Associate Pastor Gayle Walker, gwalker@idlewildchurch.org or 726-4681.

Sunday, January 22 | Scientific and Medical Perspectives

| This lecture/discussion will speak to two questions. First, where does our sexual identity come from? What are the sciences telling us about the origins and nature of an individual's sexual identity. Second, what effects on health and wellbeing are created by living in a community where one can be honest about who one is? Led by Dr. Jenny Vaydich, Assistant Professor of Psychology at Rhodes College.

Sunday, February 12 | Biblical Perspectives | The first of two presentations will be focused on the biblical texts and how we use the Bible in the Reformed tradition for moral deliberation and decision-making. Led by the Rev. Dr. Kendra Hotz, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Rhodes College; Senior Scholar in Religion and Ethics, Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare.

Sunday, March 25 | Ethical Perspectives

This second presentation by Dr. Hotz will focus on setting forth a spectrum of Christian ethical perspectives on same-sex relationships building on the biblical texts and theological reflection from the previous session.

Sunday, April 15 | Theological Perspectives

This final presentation will address the question: what is the mission and calling of the church with regard to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender folks in its midst? We will look theologically at why we should be a church that commits itself to inclusion and what that might entail for our life as a community. Led by The Rev. Dr. Stacy Johnson, Professor of Systematic Theology, Princeton Theological Seminary, NJ. He is author of *A Time to Embrace: Same Gender Relationships in Religion, Law, and Politics* (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2006).

IRA PROGOFF JOURNALING WORKSHOP: LIFE CONTEXT

For those looking to deepen and nurture their inner lives

Register by January 16: 10 spaces open

Presented by Idlewild Presbyterian and Calvary Episcopal Churches

Gain a perspective on your life. Develop awareness as you explore prior events, interest, and feelings in the privacy of your own journaling. Gain insights about major areas of your life: personal relationships; career, interests, body and health.

JANUARY 28–29

Saturday 8:30–5:30 and Sunday 1:30–5:30

At Idlewild Presbyterian Church

Facilitator Dr. Ellen Faith, professor of teacher education at Christian Brothers University

Cost: \$65 for program fees and materials; generous scholarships available to all participants

More details at www.idlewildchurch.org/journalingworkshop

For further information and scholarships contact:

Rev. Gayle Walker (Idlewild) 726-4681

gwalker@idlewildchurch.org

IDLEWILD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

1750 Union Ave | Memphis TN 38104 | 901-726-4681 | Recreation 725-4165 | Children's Center 725-7941 | www.idlewildchurch.org

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WINTER 2012 - SPECIAL SERIES FOR ADULTS

DISCIPLE: INVITATION TO ROMANS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11–MARCH 14

6:15–7:30 p.m. | Room 304W Jones Bldg.

Led by Pastor Steve Montgomery

It is difficult to overstate the importance of Romans in Christian tradition. Some of the great formers and reformers of church teaching were themselves formed by their reading of Romans.

As a result, Paul's teachings in Romans come to us mediated through the history of the church's interpretations of his letter.

The challenge of reading Romans, then, is to learn to have our own interpretive conversation with the text itself, in spite of centuries of commentary on the text.

One of the aims of this study is to invite us into conversation around several key themes: (1) Paul's emphasis on communal salvation; (2) the centrality of God's righteousness; and (3) the relationship between Jews and Gentiles and the relationship of both to God.

Participants make commitment to study the lesson, which is built around reading assigned passages (about 30 minutes a day). Classes are scheduled around holidays and special church events. Cost of the book is \$10. For more information or to register, contact Gayle Walker, gwalker@idlewildchurch.org or 726-4681 ext. 46.

Childcare available through senior kindergarten. Older children attend the WELL programs.

TESTING THE WATERS...

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18–APRIL 11

6:00-7:30 p.m. | 302W, Jones Bldg.

"It is not often that I engage in something that I know for sure has changed my life, rearranged my thought process, made me look at things in a whole new way; you could say 'the way'. But Servant Leadership has been that experience for me. The questions planted in my brain reverberate, deepening."-Ellen Morris Prewitt, award winning author.

This course affirms that we are chosen as the beloved children of God and called to take on the nature of Christ in all our endeavors and relationships. Embracing this truth is a journey into the very heart of servant leadership. Over a 12-week period, participants will be challenged to...

EXPLORE core servant leadership themes of Being and Becoming the Beloved, the Dream of God, Building the Beloved Community, Power, Money, Reconciliation and Call;

EXAMINE the relationship between the inward journey of prayer, contemplation and study of scripture and the outward journey of relationships with those made poor and/or marginal. During the class we will experience living into the spiritual disciplines of a covenant life;

ENGAGE in weekly assignments, share our stories and reflections as they relate to the one holy story, listen with curiosity to the stories of others and do all of this with commitment and consistency.

The class will read *Cry Pain, Cry Hope* by Elizabeth O'Conner, *Tattoos of the Heart* by Gregory Boyle, and *Let Your Life Speak* by Parker Palmer.

Led by the Rev. Billy Vaughan, an ordained United Methodist pastor and the founder and staff member of the Memphis School of Servant Leadership; and the Rev. Gayle Walker, Associate Pastor at Idlewild Presbyterian Church.

Registration limited to ten people. For further information or to register, check Idlewild's website www.idlewildchurch.org or contact Gayle Walker at gwalker@idlewildchurch.org or 726-4681.

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