



WORKSHOP OFFERINGS

PW of New Covenant Spring Gathering

April 21, 2011

Workshop 1: *Joy in the Chaos* presented by Kathleen Kendall Davies

Where do you find joy in your daily struggle? Come and join Kathleen for laughs, fellowship and some tips and tools to keep the spring in your step when the road gets rocky.

Kathleen Kendall Davies is a Candidate for Ordination and a lover of all things interesting and joyous. She lives in Clear Lake with her Rocket Scientist husband, two children and hilarious dogs. She holds degrees from both Baylor University and Yale Divinity School and is passionate about teaching and proclaiming God's good news to this broken world. She is a blogger {www.joyinthecaos.com} and retreat leader, and loses whole days to great books and deep conversations.

Workshop 2: *Faith and Film* presented by Bill Hargrove

The culture speaks to us through the arts - visual arts, literary arts, performing arts. It has been said that the function of theater is to hold a mirror up to society, so that we can look at ourselves. If that is true, then film (cinema), a combination of visual and performing arts, can at least occasionally be said to do the same. How does the church see itself reflected in these images of our culture? Are we outsiders looking in? Are we participants, mingling with our unchurched brothers and sisters in the middle of the story? Or are we, in fact, at the center of the story? How does the gospel inform our perspective on the world in which we live? And what challenges do these stories present to a thoughtful, real-world Christian? This is not Bible study, although I love to do that, also. It's not a critique of the society in which we live. It's an attempt to examine who we are in light of what the world thinks about itself - and us.

Bill Hargrove has been a member of First Presbyterian, Houston, since the late 1970's. He grew up in the Second Presbyterian Church and began coming to First with his wife, Lynn, following graduation from Trinity University. Bill is a member of the Galilean Sunday school class, participates in a Thursday morning small group study, and is active as a teacher. As a session member, he has served on the Worship Committee and the Courts Committee, and is currently serving as the Session liaison to the Small Groups Ministry. In addition, he has also served on the Permanent Funds Ministry, was chair of the Standing Committee on Nominations, and was a member of the *ad hoc* Committee on Reconciliation and Fellowship. He also served as a member of the Pastor Nominating Committee that called Jim Birchfield to the pulpit of First Presbyterian, Houston.

WORKSHOP OFFERINGS, cont'd.

Workshop 3: And now for a little advice... What can we look forward to in the next Horizons Bible Study?

Dispatches to God's Household: The General Epistles (based on *1 and 2 Peter, 1–3 John, Jude*) presented by Mary Marcotte

Called “General Epistles” because they are letters written to groups of Christians, these six short letters – a total of 16 chapters of scripture – are filled with heartfelt wisdom on what it means to live the Christian life. First Peter offers guidance to new Christians; Second Peter addresses how to listen for Truth. John’s three letters explore God’s love and the response of walking in that love and truth. Jude addresses standing firm in faith in the midst of adversity. While many aspects of our lives today are quite different from that of those who lived in the early Roman Empire, we continue to deal with many of the same issues as we seek to be faithful in all our responses. Catch a preview glimpse of our next great study!

Mary Marcotte serves New Covenant Presbytery as Associate General Presbyter. By training, passion, certification and call she is a Christian Educator. A graduate of Rice University (1974) with a double major in English and history, Mary’s first career was teaching at Houston’s High School for Performing and Visual Arts. She has served congregations in Dallas and northern VA before coming to serve in New Covenant in late 2004. A Ruling Elder and Certified Christian Educator in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Mary is deeply committed to nurturing learners of all ages for a lifetime of deepening discipleship that touches all aspects of life.

Mary resources and supports educational ministry and leadership development in our presbytery and has recently taken on responsibilities in the area of evangelism, renewal and new church development. She works in consultation with individuals and churches and through ministries of the presbytery that equip and encourage congregational vitality. Mary particularly enjoys working with individuals and congregations to resource planning for intentional and holistic Christian Education and Spiritual Formation based on lifelong learning and nurture. She occasionally serves as an inspirational speaker and preacher, frequently leads workshops and retreats, and always is passionate about the ministry of Christian formation and discipleship.

Mary and her husband Mike live in a loft in the heart of downtown Houston and have two grown children, Matt and Meg. She is a member of Pines Presbyterian Church in Houston.

Workshop 4: Now is the Day of Salvation - 2 Corinthians 6:2

presented by Rev. Linda L. McCarty

St. Paul tells us that we are entrusted with Christ's ministry of reconciliation. All of us are called to witness to, and participate in, establishing God's kingdom on earth each day of our lives. There are many ways in which we can play a part in God's greater plan. Please join us in hearing how Faith In Practice, a Christian not for profit, humbly seeks to play its part in this greater plan through medical mission in Guatemala. Discussion will also include ways in which you might prayerfully listen for God's call and more intentionally play your part, in big or small ways, in God's plan. For surely, God is calling you to be a part of God's kingdom on earth this day. For *this* day is the day of salvation.

Rev. Linda L. McCarty is an ordained minister in the PCUSA and an attorney, earning degrees from the University of Chicago Divinity School and DePaul University College of Law. While working in the law, she was involved with missions and as her calling grew, she returned to divinity school and ordination. Leading many mission groups in Guatemala, she also volunteered with Faith In Practice for many years before relocating to Houston to accept the position of CEO in 2007. She has a strong passion for the work and a love for the people of Guatemala. The mission is a calling for Linda. She is continually humbled by God's presence in the work and considers herself blessed to be a part of God's reconciling work that is present in so many ways through Faith in Practice.

Workshop 5: Developing a Gospel Lens presented by Jeremiah Morris

The content of the class will be explaining the importance of seeing all of life through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We will discover that this is the historical, biblical thrust for all of our church ministries and should be the thrust for the whole of our lives.

Jeremiah Morris, 27, is passionate about teaching God's Word faithfully and training up disciples in the young adult ministry of First Presbyterian through preaching, mentoring relationships, small groups and service projects. He and his wife, Ashley, with their baby boy Finn, long to love and serve the city and people of Houston as best they can.

A Texas native, he was raised throughout the eastern United States but then returned to attend Texas Christian University in Fort Worth. It was during his time at TCU that he became connected with First Presbyterian Houston through his position as the summer Youth Intern. In 2005, upon completing his Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and minors in religion and business, he was hired at First Presbyterian as the High School Director. He loved the relational focus of the ministry and spent much of his time teaching a weekly Sunday school class and meeting with high schoolers, helping them mature in their faith and pushing them to pursue Christ daily.

In August 2008, Jeremiah and Ashley moved to South Hamilton, MA so he could attend Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary. While studying, Jeremiah made time to continue developing in ministry through preaching at his local church and speaking at various high school and college conferences. He finished his studies at GCTS in May of 2010, receiving a Masters of Divinity degree. Jeremiah returned to First Presbyterian as the Director of Young Adults in August has a vision to make disciples of young people in the city of Houston to the glory of God. He loves spending his free time with his family and friends, reading, or playing basketball and sand volleyball.

Workshop 6: Confessions of a Back Pew Presbyterian presented by Karen Young

We Presbyterians believe our faith is an ongoing journey. Karen, a successful author, tells how her journey "stalled" for many years as she pursued her interesting career and raised a family. But when her circumstances changed, so did her life. Hear her tell how her newly awakened faith surprised and enriched her life beyond anything she ever dreamed.

Karen Young is the international bestselling author of 38 novels. She has more than 10 million books in print and is the recipient of the coveted RITA award from Romance Writers of America and the Career Achievement and Reviewer's Choice awards from Romantic Times magazine. She is known as "a spellbinding storyteller who writes with sensitivity about issues facing contemporary women."

Karen's career in writing fiction for women has run the gamut from traditional romance to mystery thrillers to inspirational fiction. In her relationship-driven plots, she creates characters that could easily be her readers, and then places them in extraordinary circumstances while adding suspense to the mix.

For more information, visit www.KarenYoung.net.