

Adult Spiritual Formation Update

by William Custer

We have an exciting lineup of classes for the winter months! On January 4 there will be just one class, Fireside Chat With a Dog Theologian. Then the new series of classes below begins on Sunday, January 11. Several of these classes run for 11 weeks until Palm Sunday, others run for 6 weeks followed by different classes for 5 more until Palm Sunday. After Easter we will begin a six-week all church study.

Fireside Chat With "Dog" Theologian Luke Kuepfer – January 4 Only

Many of you were intrigued and blessed by the class on Cat and Dog Theology. One of the creators of this series, Luke Kuepfer will be at CHPC on January 4 for an informal question answer session in the Fireside Room at 10:10am. This is following the first service during the 10:10am Adult Spiritual Formation hour. Experience Luke's creativity first hand and hear about the work of his organization Unveiling Glory. Luke will also be speaking during both worship services that Sunday. Due to this unusual opportunity to chat with Luke, the previously announced class Finding God in Ancient China will be rescheduled to some future date.

**The winter series that begins January 11 will include the following:
Visit the registration desk in the Atrium for more details and to sign up.**

BT11a: Intro to the Life and Teachings of Jesus

Who is Jesus? And what did he really teach? This class is primarily an introduction to Jesus' life but there will be insights even for the experienced. We'll make no assumptions about prior bible knowledge. Based on study materials called "Mark for Everyone" we hope to understand the circumstances, themes, and interactions of Jesus in his three years of public ministry (along with application of this to our lives). Led by Mark Evans and Fran Kelley at 10:10am. Class limited to 15 people and goes for 11 weeks.

BT11b: Hosea: Prophet of God's Love

The Minor Prophets are known for dramatizing the character of God as few other books do. The prophecy of Hosea comes first in the biblical order of the Minor Prophets. Rightly so. It is not the first of the twelve either to be written or spoken, but it is first in regard to its message, being what has been called "the second greatest story in the Bible." Come here what Hosea has to say to us today. Led by Scott Rice and Helen Brooks at 10:10am. Class limited to 15 and goes for 11 weeks.

FA10: The Five Languages of Love

Did you know that there are five love languages? And we don't mean French, Italian Really! Different people express and hear love expressed differently. Do you know the love language of those you love? Your children, your spouse, those special people in your life. Come learn how to express love so that you will be heard. Led Jeanne Schneider at 10:10am. Class limited to 15 people and goes for 6 weeks.

SP24: Cat and Dog Theology

Most of what you know about the Bible is not incorrect...it is incomplete! This DVD-driven class is full of humor and Scripture that will drastically change your life's priorities. Warning: This material has a proven track record of altering long-term goals and dreams. It's for those serious about obeying what God reveals to them. Invite a friend to share the 90-second discussions and a prayer covenant, or make a new friend through the class. A Team led by Sam & Barry Stare at 10:10am for 11 weeks. Alumni of previous classes welcome. Watch the Sunday bulletin for a listing of class themes each week.

Bill Custer will also offer the **Cat & Dog Theology** class at the 9am hour. The themes for the 9am class will be the same, but will be offered one week later. This way attendees can make up missed classes from the 10:10am class.

BT10: A Brief Look at the Apostles Creed

"I believe in God the Father and ..." Christians all over the world repeat this creed; we say it often in our worship service. Although it does not likely date back to the Apostles it is one of the earliest creeds used widely in the churches. Our denomination ECO has agreed to focus on one creed each year, and this is the year of the Apostles Creed. Based on materials supplied by ECO. Led by Don Carlson at 10:10am. Class limited to 15 people and goes for 6 weeks.

"...BUT ONLY GOD CAN MAKE A TREE"

By Marybelle Chapman

The last Christmas we spent in Sierra Leone, we had a very unusual Christmas tree. After days of begging Daddy to get the tree up, our four sons excitedly stood around as he got out the box holding our artificial tree. As he pulled it out of the box, we all sighed. During the last rainy season the tree had rusted. The metal coils that held the little green "needles" had rusted so badly that when the tree came out of the box, all we had was an ugly brown metal skeleton of a tree. All the green stayed in the box.

What a disappointment! I had to hold back the tears. It was hard to make it feel like Christmas in the scorching hot dry season of West Africa, and this felt like a real tragedy.

"It's OK, boys, we'll make a Christmas tree," was Dad's optimistic comment. They all piled into the Land Rover and came back from the carpenter's shop with a 6 ft. tall 2" by 2" pole, a heavy stand to nail to the bottom and a dozen or more 3-4-5 right angle pieces of plywood of various sizes.

Big triangles nailed around the bottom of the tower and smaller and smaller triangles going around to the top made a perfectly formed "tree." Then everyone went down to the village to get some green paint.

"Sorry, no green paint, but we have some English-red mailbox paint," the man at the market said.

So we had a red Christmas tree. After the paint dried, we attached white candles to each triangle point. Then we used only white and silver ornaments, and lots of tinsel and garlands. When we lit the tree, it was absolutely magnificent. [Remember we lived in a cement block house with a corrugated roof and cement floors, and no fire marshals within hundreds of miles.]

One of our friends said he felt so badly when he heard that our American artificial tree was spoiled, that he said to his wife, "Maybe we should let them have our tree this year. After all, they have children and we don't." But when he saw our tree, he said, "That's more beautiful than ours."

Because one triangle caught fire during a New Year's Eve party, we threw the tree in the trash. We learned later that it was balanced on the head of the leader of the Ramadan parade.

When we came back to America the next year, we made sure we got a real tree for our boys. When our five-year-old saw it, he said, "That's not a real Christmas tree. It's green! Christmas trees are red!"

December 28 - January 3 calendar

28. sunday

8:00am	Morning Prayer	Prayer Room
9:00am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:10am	Foundation Hour	
	• Children's Classes	Barnabas Ctr
	• Jr. High	BC 204
	• High School	BC 206
	• ASF	Various
11:15am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
1:30pm	ACA Meeting	Clubroom

29. monday

30. tuesday

9:30am	Tuesday AM Bible Study	Parlor
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31. wednesday

9:30am	Library Work Day	BC 103
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1. thursday

CHPC Offices Closed
New Year's Day

2. friday

3. saturday

The following assistive devices are available
Please ask the ushers if you need wheelchair seating or special hearing equipment. Also, handicapped accessible bathrooms are located to the right of the platform in the hallway leading to the White House parking lot.

Children and Worship

Children ages Kindergarten through third grade are invited to a Children's Worship service each week. Start off with your families in both the 9am and 11:15am service. Then listen for the announcement dismissing the kids to their special service.

This week's helpers are:
9:00am Jason McSwain
11:15am Nate Smith & Sarah Lowe

Next week's helpers are:
9:00am Ian & Joshua Scheid
11:15am Michael Fox & Nathan Lowe

