

First & Calvary Presbyterian Church
2009 Summer Electives
Course Descriptions
May 31 - August 16

Beloved Disciple: Life & Ministry of John (A Beth Moore Study)
Mark Heffington
Room 015

As the disciples were martyred, John remained to write his sublime Gospel proclaiming Jesus' identity as the eternal Word of God. John left a legacy of divine love to ignite the passion of future believers. While at Patmos, John recorded His risen Lord's revelation of victory and hope. Just as Christ took John on a lifelong journey into the depths of His love, He will do the same for you.

May 31:	Introduction	July 12:	Receiving His Fullness
June 7:	Fresh Winds Over Galilee	July 19:	Life More Abundantly
June 14:	Sights and Insights	July 26:	Letters From the Heart
June 21:	Defining Moments	August 2:	Among the Lampstands
June 28:	Beyond the Limits	August 9:	From the Throne's Eye View
July 5:	No Class	August 16:	Blessed Benediction

Faith: Here and Now
Various Teachers
Room 020

What are the essentials of faith? What are the basic elements that compose and characterize our faith? Beginning with the Source, and continuing on the journey which blends conviction and humility, we will grapple with living our faith, here and now, with bold confidence and freedom.

May 31:-June 14	Images of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit [Chris Wolf & Neil Stenger] Though it is impossible to "define" God, this 3-week study will highlight Biblical and literary-based insights to help expand and deepen our human understanding of God.
	May 31: Who is God? [Chris Wolf]
	June 7: Who Is Jesus? [Neil Stenger] Does my image of God agree with Who He is?
	June 14: Who Is The Holy Spirit? [Chris Wolf]
June 21:	Discernment [Dr. Kevin Pybas] Faithful Christian living requires discernment, that is, the ability to "think Christianity" about everything. This class briefly outlines what discernment means and how we might more effectively develop this skill.

- June 28:** **How to Read the Bible for all It's Worth**
[Dr. Mary Newbern-Williams]
Do you read the Bible or does the Bible read you? Learn how Scripture transforms, engages and empowers your everyday life.
- July 5:** **Prayer: Does It Change God's Mind?** [Dr. Mary Newbern-Williams]
Have you ever prayed for a parking space? Do you use prayer to manipulate God? In this class we will explore the true purpose of prayer.
- July 12:** **Celebrating John Calvin's 500th Birthday** [Rev. Bob Simpson]
The Protestant Reformer, born 500 years ago, can still teach us a few things about life in the 21st century!
- July 19:** **Sin and Satan** [Rev. Bob Simpson]
If the Devil made me do it, how sorry should I feel?
- July 26:** **The Thoughtful Christian and Forgiveness** [Neil Stenger]
As Christian soldiers, are we building a fort or emptying a wagon?
- August 2:** **The Saved Thoughtful Christian** [Neil Stenger]
Atonement and sacrifice or reconciliation?
- August 9 & 16:** **Faith** [Dr. Greg Seckman]
In these two weeks, we will identify the events, experiences and people that have helped influence and shape our faith.
August 9: Forming Our Faith
August 16: The River of Faith

Living Simply: A Life in Balance

Various Teachers

Reception Room 026

Why are we working so hard? All of us yearn for balance in our lives. We seek that precise alignment which will leave our physical, emotional and spiritual lives in perfect harmony. Beginning with the understanding that simplicity is a natural response to loving God, we will seek to understand what it means to require nothing more than we need. Only God can guide us to that balance, which begins with transformation in our hearts.

- May 31:** **Simplicity as a Spiritual Discipline** [Neil Stenger]
As God's created can simplicity point us toward a fuller life?
- June 7:** **The Overload Syndrome** [Carol Chappell]
Overload—our American experience! We maximize until we are beyond our limits emotionally, physically, spiritually and financially. God has prescriptions which keep us healthy and sane and give us a way to take action.
- June 14:** **Stepping Away From Technology** [Jill Wiggins]
Cell phones, computers, texting, e-mailing, IMing, television, Internet, Facebook, Twitter. Let's explore together how we can simplify our lives and use technology wisely.

- June 21:** **Balancing Act: Mind, Emotions, Spirit [Dr. Brenda Williams]**
A new look at stress and stress management from a Christian perspective, with time to experience some relaxation and meditation practices.
- June 28:** **Health and Wellness [Sarah Bowman & Tara Stulce]**
Starvation diets? Supplement cocktails? Cabbage soup? We'll discuss some sensible and practical approaches to staying healthy.
- July 5:** **No Class**
- July 12:** **Financial Peace [Luke & Krystal Simon]**
Tough economic times breed financial anxiety. Join Luke and Krystal Simon for a casual walk through Dave Ramsey's "Steps to Financial Peace".
- July 19:** **Blessed Are the Treehuggers...“Creation Care” [Lois Zerrer]**
What does the Bible say about the environment and our place in the natural world? How are we to interact with the natural environment in a Christian way? We will discuss biblical and theological aspects of God's creation.
- July 26:** **Blessed Are the Treehuggers...“Going Green at Home and the Church” [Lois Zerrer]**
“If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem”. Small changes can make a big difference. Big changes can make a bigger difference. We will discuss what can be done in our homes, at work and at church to lessen our footprint on the environment. Save some green—on the planet and in your wallet, and walk the Christian talk about caring for God's creation.
- August 2-16:** **Sanctifying God in Time [Marc Turnage]**
Our God is Holy. Is your life in balance—a reflection of time spent with God as part of a higher calling?

Now What? Faith in Transition
Various Teachers
Fellowship Hall

The boat is rocking!

We often fear we won't be strong enough to live through times of transition, but that we will make a shipwreck of our faith. But the truth is our belief in God has nothing to do with His actual existence or His faithful presence. Beginning with Whose we are, we will explore the quiet and patient life that acknowledges the promises of faith in a sovereign God, whom we worship and praise.

- May 31–June 7:** **Claimed By God [Sandy Rush & Judy Simpson]**
We have been claimed by grace and love that are free and absolutely unearned. What is our response to this claim on the core of our being? How does it shape the way we live in this world and face the challenges that face us daily?

June 14 - 28:

Reading and Studying the Psalms [Dr. Jim Moyer]

These three sessions will seek to enhance the reading and study of the Psalms by studying the background and by learning the various types of Psalms and how they were used in ancient Israel.

July 5-19:

Taking a Nap with Christ in the Storms of Life

[Dr. Cal LeMon & Todd & Kathy Morriss]

July 5 & 19: [Dr. Cal LeMon]

When money is sparse, sickness rules and despair reigns, it is time to find a place of rest and renewal. This course will trace the interaction of Christ with people in Scripture who were tossed around in a chaotic world.

July 12: [Kathy & Todd Morriss, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance]

Todd & Kathy Morriss, leaders of the JCPDA from Southminster Presbyterian Church, share how 16 people (4 from First & Calvary!) faced the natural storms of life as they trekked to St. Charles, LA in March 2009 to work on devastated homes.

July 26:

God's Presence in the Physical World [Jay Swartz]

Accepted scientific facts, rather than being mutually exclusive from religion, help validate instead of disprove the existence of God.

August 2-16

Praising God Through "Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs:"

A Historical and Experiential Sampler Platter

Paul implores the Early Church to "speak to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (Ephesians 5:19)." Words spoken or sung in devotion are clearly important to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. But do we truly "enter in" to our public and private experiences of sacred music, poetry, and hymns? Together, we will read, sing, hear, and study some of the finest examples of these art forms.... So that we may better "... make music to the Lord in our hearts (Ephesians 5:19)' as we travel our journey of Faith.

August 2: Praising God through the "Great Hymns of the Church" [Dr. Mark Ellis]

August 9: Praising God through Sacred Music [Sheila Grisham Pippin & Dr. Mark Ellis]

August 16: Praising (and Sometimes Wrestling with) God through Devotional Poetry [Dr. Jake Stratman & Dr. Mark Ellis]