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# ADULT EDUCATION

Winter/Spring 2010

## Welcoming & Forgiving



*But the Father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe — the best one — and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!"  
And they began to celebrate.*

— Parable of the Prodigal Son, Luke 15:22-24

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# Welcoming & Forgiving

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How do we share God's gifts of hospitality and reconciliation?

We hope that you will be led to be part of a small group at North Church this winter and spring. Our theme for 2010 is Radical Hospitality, and we're excited to explore what it means to welcome with lavish love. In Lent, we'll be revisiting the Prodigal Son story and how we receive forgiveness from God and offer it to others.

The following list provides a variety of options for growth. We're all on different journeys, and there is no fastest or shortest way to our destination. We hope you will try several options until you find the best direction for you. We pray that ultimately you will be guided down a path of growing in love for God, neighbor, and self.

If you have questions, please contact Lisa Schubert (924-2612; [lschubert@northchurchindy.com](mailto:lschubert@northchurchindy.com)).

Blessings on your journey!



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## ***Sunday Morning Opportunities — 9:45 a.m.***

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Unless otherwise indicated,  
all classes will start on Sunday, Jan 3.

***Studies:** We hope you will explore different options that meet your passions and interests. The following classes engage with Biblical topics; the intersection of popular culture and faith; mission and social justice; and deepening our relationship with God and one another.*

**Amazing Grace (Conference Room):** This ongoing class, now in its sixth year, reads a book chosen by participants that then is a framework for sharing of personal experiences and insights on the faith journey. Participants typically read a few chapters each week and discuss their questions, learnings, and experiences. This class is ideal for anyone who struggles with the traditional historic views of theology, the Bible, and church history and who wants to deepen his or her own spiritual journey as a Christian in an increasingly complex world. Beginning Dec. 27, we will explore Eboo Patel's book, *Acts of Faith: The story of an American Muslim, the struggle for the soul of a generation*. The themes are relevant for every age. Class facilitation is shared among participants. Contact Marcia Knight (858-5849; [mknight2@indy.rr.com](mailto:mknight2@indy.rr.com)).

**Bible 101 (Room 007 – east side of Game Room):** If you've been looking for a simple yet intriguing introduction to the Bible, then this ongoing class is the one for you. We will study Scripture passages that connect to the sermon series on hospitality, forgiveness, and the minor prophets. The class will run from Jan. 10 until May 23 and rotate leadership. Contact Lisa Schubert ([lschubert@northchurchindy.com](mailto:lschubert@northchurchindy.com) ; 924-2612 ).

**Contemporary Biblical Forum (Room 009 - west side of Game Room):** Join us for new understandings of the Bible - extra books not in the canon; new meanings for treasured prophecies; the latest archaeological discoveries; the Bible on vexing questions such as the justice of God and homosexuality; and basic themes of covenant, law, and prophecy. This winter we are studying the books of the New Testament. The results of contemporary study of the Bible are presented by scholars, archaeologists, and other specialists in Biblical Studies. Contact Austin Ritterspach (924-4661; [aritterspach@aol.com](mailto:aritterspach@aol.com)).

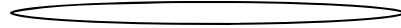
**New Corinthians (Parlor):** This class devotes itself to understanding the intersection of faith and culture. Topics vary weekly and cover subjects from popular culture in literature (books, magazines, news stories), media (films, television, videos), and music. Contact Dan and Suzette Mathis ([danieljmathis@netzero.net](mailto:danieljmathis@netzero.net)); or Kevin and Natalie Dempsey (769-3815; [kipbernson@aol.com](mailto:kipbernson@aol.com); [natdempsey@aol.com](mailto:natdempsey@aol.com)).

**Cornerstone: New Member Class (Club Room):** Perhaps you've been worshipping with us at North for awhile. Maybe you first ventured through the doors in December. Or perhaps you've been a member of North but would like a refresher course. If you want to learn more about the current people, missions, and ministries of North Church, we invite you to be part of our Cornerstone New Member Class. **We will meet every week from Sunday, Jan. 24 until Sunday, Feb. 21 at 9:45 a.m. in the Club Room.** These Sunday morning times will offer a brief exploration of Christian discipleship, the Body of Christ, The United Methodist Church, the history of North Church, and current programs, groups, and activities at North Church. On Sunday, Jan. 31 at 4 p.m., we will meet at the home of Nancy and Kevin Armstrong. On Sunday, Feb. 21, we will welcome those who become new members. Contact Lisa Schubert (924-2612; [lschubert@northchurchindy.com](mailto:lschubert@northchurchindy.com)).

**Power and Light (Room 205):** This class is a welcoming, diverse group of individuals united in fellowship, social service, and personal support in the mutual pursuit of spiritual growth. Contact Kathy Beck (251-9143; [beck305@hotmail.com](mailto:beck305@hotmail.com)).

**Servant or Sucker (Club Room):** We've all been there. Someone who is obviously poor or homeless approaches you and asks for money. What do you do? Do you give money knowing there's a good chance it will be used on drugs or alcohol, or do you say "no" or even ignore the person as you walk by? No one wants to be a sucker in these situations, but at the same time Jesus' call to help the poor echoes in our hearts and minds. *Servant or Sucker?* will help participants discern appropriate, Christ-centered actions when it comes to addressing poverty on a personal or organizational level. This five-week class will run from Feb. 21 to March 21 and be led by Brian Williams (924-2612; [bwilliams@northchurchindy.com](mailto:bwilliams@northchurchindy.com)).

**Sojourners (Room 005):** Sojourners is a year-round, intergenerational adult Sunday School class. Members talk, pray, work, and play together. The group selects varied studies - some Bible books or subjects and some contemporary works. Discussion leadership is shared by volunteers. At the start of each calendar year, the class creates its plan for service and social events. You are invited to join us! Contact Eric Galloway (843-9263; [egalloway@northchurchindy.com](mailto:egalloway@northchurchindy.com)) and Karen Kay Leonard (253-0403; [KKBLEonard@sbcglobal.net](mailto:KKBLEonard@sbcglobal.net))



***Support Networks:*** *The following group meets to provide each other with encouragement, prayer, and a safe place for sharing together.*

**Building Strong Foundations (Room 004):** This ongoing class is geared for parents of children from infants through teenagers. It has a casual setting and lighthearted approach where participants discuss issues affecting young families. Share your milestones and challenges with other young families as we build traditions together. Contact Judy Workman (573-9535 or [judy@workmanfamily.com](mailto:judy@workmanfamily.com)).

### Morning Hospitality

Community Room – 8:30–9:45 a.m.

Parlor – 12:00–1:00 p.m.

Join us for a time of fellowship  
over pastries, coffee, and juice.



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## ***Weekday Education Opportunities***

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To sign up for classes, please contact the leaders directly.

If you are in need of child care on Tuesday or Wednesday evening, please contact Kat Russell (506-4882; [krussell@northchurchindy.com](mailto:krussell@northchurchindy.com))

***Bible Studies:*** *The psalmist reminds us that God's Word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. The following study will illuminate deeper understandings of the Bible for our daily lives, helping us to be shaped and transformed into more faithful disciples.*

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study:** This ongoing group continues to select a book of the Bible and then study it chapter by chapter. Participants seek to understand the Scripture and how it applies to their lives.

**Facilitator:** Chuck Johnson (291-4731; [csjoyful@sbcglobal.net](mailto:csjoyful@sbcglobal.net))

**Meeting:** 6:30 a.m. on Wednesdays (all year)



***Faith in Action:*** *What does it mean to live out our faith in the broader world, to be passionate about social justice concerns and share God's love with all people? The following courses provide broad opportunities to expand our knowledge, prayer lives, and commitment to transforming the world into the place God hopes it will become.*

***Companions in Christ: The Way of Forgiveness:*** When it comes to forgiveness, how do we release shame and guilt? How do we transform our anger? What does it mean to receive God's forgiveness and extend that to others? This six-week class will explore the spiritual and practical implications of forgiveness, including forgiveness in the workplace.

**Facilitators:** Orson Mason (240-2810; [masono1116@sbcglobal.net](mailto:masono1116@sbcglobal.net)); Gene Ford ([gford2@clarian.org](mailto:gford2@clarian.org))

**Meeting:** 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays from February 2 to March 9

**Cost:** \$12 (scholarships available)

**Meditation and Contemplative Prayer:** This is an opportunity to develop a practice of meditation/contemplative prayer by participating in silence with others. A goal is to keep coming back to the present moment, time after time, without judgment. The silent time is preceded by a short reading, an explanation of methods if needed, and any questions you might have. Three gongs initiate and end the silent period. You may practice as you are familiar or try something new. You do not need previous experience to participate. "The root of prayer is interior silence," said Thomas Keating. In a society of much noise and distraction, this is an opportunity to go inside and experience the power of a voice within.

**Facilitators:** Linda Smith (257-7896; [carlinsmith@indy.rr.com](mailto:carlinsmith@indy.rr.com)); Doris Jane Conway (409-6460; [djconway4013@comcast.net](mailto:djconway4013@comcast.net)); and Rick Pickering (924-2612; [rpickering@northchurchindy.com](mailto:rpickering@northchurchindy.com))

**Meeting:** 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. on Tuesdays year-round

***Radical Hospitality: Benedict's Way of Love:*** In a culture where we are suspicious of strangers who appear to be different, the Benedictine way of life encourages us to welcome the stranger into our homes and hearts. These two classes will delve into Lonni Collins Pratt and Daniel Homan's book, which presents a radical vision for a more compassionate world. Come and share this spiritual experience/discussion blended with common-sense wisdom and both uplifting and whimsical anecdotes. Both classes will have a culminating experience of a day-long Saturday retreat at Our Lady of Grace, a Benedictine monastery in Beech Grove.

**Session 1: for young adults**

**Facilitators:** rotating among the young adult participants. Contact Julie Machledt (372-3860; [jmachledt@gmail.com](mailto:jmachledt@gmail.com))

**Meeting:** 7 to 9 p.m. on Mondays, from Jan. 11 to Feb. 1 at the home of Miki and James Hamstra, 2406 N. Central Ave.

**Cost:** \$14 (scholarships available)

**Session 2: for everyone**

**Facilitators:** Cathy Williams (255.8690; [cathymwilliams@lilly.com](mailto:cathymwilliams@lilly.com)) and Dave Damin ([ddamin@northchurchindy.com](mailto:ddamin@northchurchindy.com)).

**Meeting:** 6 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. on Thursdays, January 21 to February 11 with monastery retreat held on a date to be determined.

**Cost:** \$14 (scholarships available)

**Español (Spanish):** Practice that Spanish that you learned many years ago or start to learn Spanish. These classes will be a continuation of the classes given in the fall; new students are welcome to join. ¡Hasta pronto! (See you soon!)

**Facilitator:** Jan Wheeler-Cowen (635-8802; [wheaterjan@alumni.iu.edu](mailto:wheaterjan@alumni.iu.edu))

**Meeting:** Beginner class: 6 to 7 p.m.; more advanced class: 7:15 to 8:15 p.m. on Tuesdays from Feb. 2 to April 13, with no class on March 16. Class meets in library.

**Cost:** \$10 (scholarships available). Beginner class uses *Teach Yourself Spanish* and accompanying CD, which costs an additional \$22.95. Advanced class will continue without a text.



**Save-the-date for spring retreats!**

**Youth Lenten Retreat:** March 12-14 at Camp Allendale.

**Family Retreat:** March 20-21 at Camp Tecumseh.

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## ***Occasional Educational Opportunities***

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**BWB - Amazing Grace and Friends:** An occasional lunch gathering, probably on the second Tuesday of the month, to share a meal at a local restaurant and socialize. This time together will allow participants in the Amazing Grace class and others who'd like to join them to deepen their relationships and continue conversations. Contact Doris Jane Conway (409-6460; [djconway4013@comcast.net](mailto:djconway4013@comcast.net)).

**Leaven Ministries:** This group expresses God's love among those who hunger and thirst for creative ways of extending God's embracing love among gay, lesbian, and bisexual people and their parents, families, and friends. Leaven meets several times throughout the year for study, worship, and fellowship. Stay tuned for more information.

**Leaders:** Linda McClain and Becky VanVoorhis (841-1020; [LMcClain@ecomunity.com](mailto:LMcClain@ecomunity.com); [rvanvoor@iupui.edu](mailto:rvanvoor@iupui.edu)) or Troy Barker and Tim Rankin (578-3705; [troy@comcast.net](mailto:troy@comcast.net); [trankin@comcast.net](mailto:trankin@comcast.net)).

**Men's Ministry at North:** Men's Ministry is sponsoring two more gatherings for conversation and fellowship. Put these dates/times on your calendar: Tuesday, January 12 and Tuesday, February 9, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Jack Leonard serves as our conversation facilitator. Light refreshments are served. For more information, contact Perry Kea ([kea@uindy.edu](mailto:kea@uindy.edu)).

**Spiritual Companionship/Direction:** For centuries people who have wanted to deepen their walk with God have sought out a companion to help them explore and clarify how God is moving in their lives. There are many trained spiritual directors in the Indianapolis area, including several individuals who are members of North. Lisa Schubert can provide you with general information and help you find a trained Director.

**United Methodist Women - Miriam Circle:** The United Methodist Women form a community of women who seek to know God and experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ. They develop a creative, supportive fellowship, and expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

**Leaders:** Daphne Chen (839-5135; [hsiaohan@yahoo.com](mailto:hsiaohan@yahoo.com)); Marcia Knight (858-5849; [mknight2@indy.rr.com](mailto:mknight2@indy.rr.com)); Joyce Laetsch (786-4293; [jmlaetsch@aol.com](mailto:jmlaetsch@aol.com)); and Margaret Mayo (299-8566; [mayo5910@comcast.net](mailto:mayo5910@comcast.net)).

**Women of Lydia:** This recently formed group is connected to United Methodist Women. This winter they will engage in a new study and service opportunities to reach out in the community. Meeting time is the fourth Wednesday evening of each month at 7 p.m. in the Parlor. Stop in anytime.

**Contact:** Sue Childers (257-7558; [donsuechilders@yahoo.com](mailto:donsuechilders@yahoo.com)).

**Women's Retreat Group:** Linked to The United Methodist Women, this group will meet monthly to encourage, support, and share with one another following the Women's Retreat.

**Leader:** Marcia Knight (858-5849; [mknight2@indy.rr.com](mailto:mknight2@indy.rr.com))

**Wesley Fellowship:** The group meets on the third Sunday of each month at 5:30 p.m. with a pitch-in meal and a variety of programs. Voluntary donation of \$2.00 accepted for the entrée. Most participants are older adults, but anyone is welcome to join us. Our first meeting of the year will be Jan. 10. Hope to see you there!

**Leaders:** Norma Ritterspach (924-4661 or [normaritterspach@aol.com](mailto:normaritterspach@aol.com)); Emily & Lou Chenette (253-7537 or [lchenette@att.net](mailto:lchenette@att.net))



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## ***Other Opportunities***

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*The following are covenanted groups that have already formed. But we wanted to increase awareness about the diversity of small groups at North Church.*

**Camp Fire:** A covenanted group that meets monthly for an ongoing book discussion and fellowship. Contact Sue Childers (257-7558; [donsuechilders@yahoo.com](mailto:donsuechilders@yahoo.com)).

**Encounter 2010:** As we focus on radical hospitality, this covenanted small group will create a variety of sacred spaces for North church members and our neighbors to engage with each other. For eight weeks this winter, we'll meet at various sites in our community, such as the Martin Luther King Center, IPS 43, Crown Hill cemetery, restaurants, and homes. We'll share pitch-in meals as we exchange stories, learn about each other's gifts, and foster relationships. For more information on future groups, contact Lisa Schubert (924-2612; [lschubert@northchurchindy.com](mailto:lschubert@northchurchindy.com)).

**Wild Geese Women's Spiritual Development Covenanted Group:** A small group of women using a group spiritual direction model to support one another's spiritual formation. For more information, contact Lisa Schubert (924-2612; [lschubert@northchurchindy.com](mailto:lschubert@northchurchindy.com)).

**Tuesday Night P.H. Group:** This covenanted group will begin on Tuesday, Jan. 12 by studying *Hearing the Call Across Traditions* by Eboo Patel and Adam Davis. This book features different perspectives from the world's faith traditions on how we serve, whom we serve, and why we serve. If you have been part of this group in the past, please contact Susan Machledt for more information (257-0513; [smachledt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:smachledt@sbcglobal.net)).



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