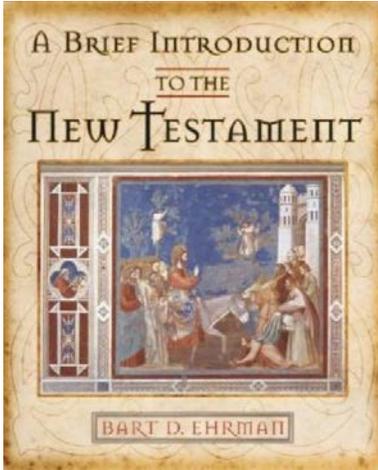


The Seminary at the Fort

Fall 2014 *Updated*

The Seminary at The Fort is a seedbed of learning to plant and tend energetic, intelligent, imaginative, and loving Christian disciples. The content of The Seminary at The Fort will encompass areas of discipleship in Bible, Theology, Church History, Practices of Faith, and Engagement with the World. Every adult member, including college students, at Fort Hill Presbyterian is encouraged to study something in every one of these areas of discipleship every year.



A Brief Introduction to the New Testament by Bart Ehrman published by Oxford University Press and his dvd **The New Testament in the Great Courses** series will be the focus of the Contemporary Issues class. Whether you consider it a book of faith or a cultural artifact, the New Testament is among the most significant writings that the world has ever known. Scarcely a single major writer in the last 2,000 years has failed to rely on the web of meaning contained in the New Testament to communicate. Yet the New Testament is also among the most widely disputed and least clearly understood books in history.

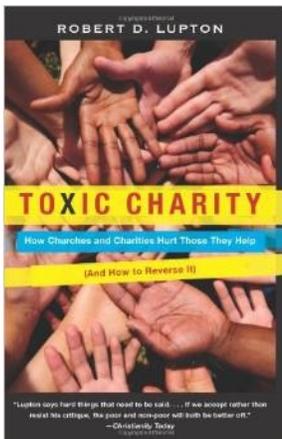


Location: Library, 2nd floor Educational Building

Leader: Lin Dearing begins **Sunday**, Aug 24 @ 9:15-10:15 AM

Seminary at the Fort area of study: **Bible**

Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help, And How to Reverse It by Robert D. Lupton



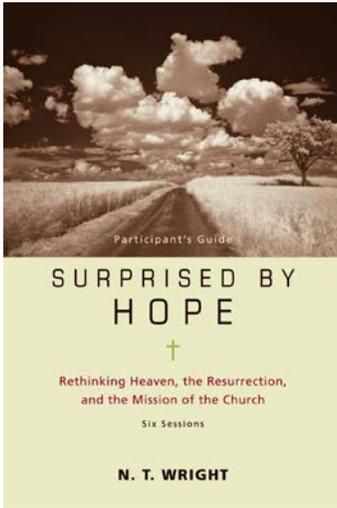
Veteran urban activist Robert Lupton reveals the shockingly toxic effects that modern charity has upon the very people meant to benefit from it. *Toxic Charity* provides proven new models for charitable groups who want to help—not sabotage—those whom they desire to serve. His groundbreaking *Toxic Charity* shows us how to start serving needy and impoverished members of our communities in a way that will lead to lasting, real-world change. Netmenders class will host this study of the 10-chapter book.

Location: Netmenders meet in Bethlehem Hall #2 under the sanctuary

Leader: Bo Crader begins **Sunday**, August 24 @ 9:15-10:15 AM

Seminary at the Fort area of study: **Engagement With the World**

Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church by N. T. Wright published by HarperCollins.

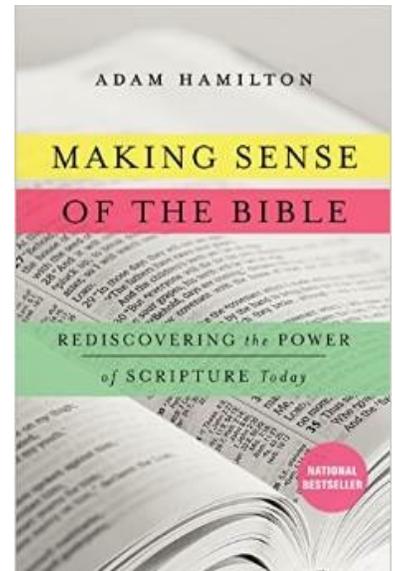


In *Surprised by Hope* top-selling author and Anglican bishop, N.T. Wright tackles the biblical question of what happens after we die and shows how most Christians get it wrong. We do not “go to” heaven; we are resurrected and heaven comes down to earth--a difference that makes all of the difference to how we live on earth. Following N.T. Wright’s resonant exploration of a life of faith in *Simply Christian*, the award-winning author whom Newsweek calls “the world’s leading New Testament scholar” takes on one of life’s most controversial topics, a matter of life, death, spirituality, and survival for everyone living in the world today. Hosted by Sojourners class.

Location: Club Room in the Administration Building
Leader: Carol Stout begins **Sunday**, September 7 @ 9:15 -10:15 AM
Seminary at the Fort area of study: **Theology**

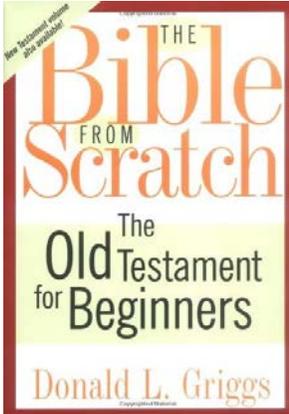
Making Sense of The Bible: Rediscovering the Power of Scripture Today by Adam Hamilton published by HarperOne.

Join the Seekers class as they explore *Making Sense of The Bible* through a DVD study. Denominations from evangelical to mainline continue to experience deep divisions over universal social issues. The underlying debate isn’t about a particular social issue, but instead it is about how we understand the nature of scripture and how we should interpret it. In *Making Sense of the Bible*, Adam Hamilton, one of the country’s leading pastors and Christian authors, addresses the hot-button issues that plague the church and cultural debate, and answers many of the questions frequently asked by Christians and non-Christians alike.



Did God really command Moses to put gay people to death? Did Jesus really teach that everyone who is not a Christian will be assigned to hell? Why would Paul command women to “keep silent in the church?” Were Adam and Eve real people? Is the book of Revelation really about the end times? Who decided which books made it into the scriptures and why? Is the Bible ever wrong? In approachable and inviting language, Hamilton addresses these often misunderstood biblical themes leading readers to a deeper appreciation of the Bible so that we might hear God speak through it and find its words to be life-changing and life-giving.

Location: Room 205 in the Education Building
Leader: Denise Anderson begins **Sunday**, August 24 @ 9:15 -10:15 AM
Seminary at the Fort area of study: **Bible**



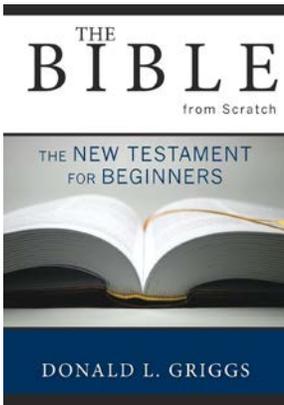
Traditioning the Faith: Part 1-The Old Testament from Scratch, Part 2-The New Testament from Scratch

both by Donald L. Griggs and published by Westminster John Knox Press.

This three-part course is designed for the inquiring mind, anyone who wants to learn or strengthen their understanding of the scope of the Bible and gain a basic understanding of Christian beliefs from a Presbyterian and Reformed perspective.

Part 1 focuses on The Old Testament for 7 weeks and Part 2 reviews the New Testament for 8 weeks. Using the Bible as the primary text and *The Old Testament from Scratch* and *The New Testament from Scratch* as guides, both novice and experienced students of the Bible will benefit from this survey approach. Well-known educator Don Griggs has written an accessible, easy-to-understand overview of the Bible for adults who have--or fear they have--little or no Bible knowledge. In two volumes, one each for the Old and New Testaments, Griggs guides us through the Bible and introduces basic tools and skills for Bible study.

In the Spring, Part 3 will focus on Christian beliefs from a Presbyterian and Reformed perspective.



Location: Conference Room upstairs of the Administration Building
Morrison begins **Sunday**, August 24 @ 9:15-10:15 AM

Leader: Mary

Seminary at the Fort areas of study: **Bible**

College coffee hour at the Presbyterian student center

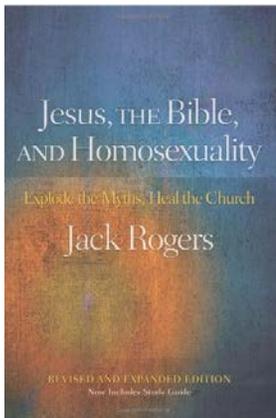


The Wired WORD provides focused discussion of a current event in the news to be analyzed in a biblical context each week. Take time to converse with other college students about The Big Questions and Confront the News with Scripture and how you can apply the text in your daily life.

Location: Presbyterian Student Center, College Avenue

Leaders: Hugh and Nancy Spitler begin **Sunday**, August 24 @ 9:30 AM

Seminary at the Fort areas of study: **Bible, Engagement with the World**



Jesus, the Bible, and Homosexuality by Jack Rogers, published by Westminster John Knox Press.

Rev. Rogers served as the 213th Moderator of the GA of the PC(USA) and is professor emeritus of theology at San Francisco Theological Seminary. He also taught philosophical theology at Fuller Theological Seminary and is a foremost scholar in the confessions of the church.

Jesus, the Bible, and Homosexuality describes Rogers' own change of mind and heart on the issue, charts the church's history of using biblical passages to oppress marginalized groups, argues for a Christ-centered reading of Scripture, debunks stereotypes about people who are LGBT, refutes the conventional wisdom about the texts that are often used against people who are LGBT, and presents ideas for how the church can heal itself and move forward again.

Even if we do not all agree with Rogers' conclusions, hopefully we can all agree that healing is critical. We are in a season for dialogue and discernment. Some may ask about choosing a book to study that presents primarily a shift from the traditional view of heterosexuality only as normative. The reason for the selection of this book is that the biblical viewpoint Rogers presents is less understood by many in the church. Additionally, in order for educated, thoughtful, and faithful conversations, studying a variety of viewpoints provides for deeper understanding and discernment.

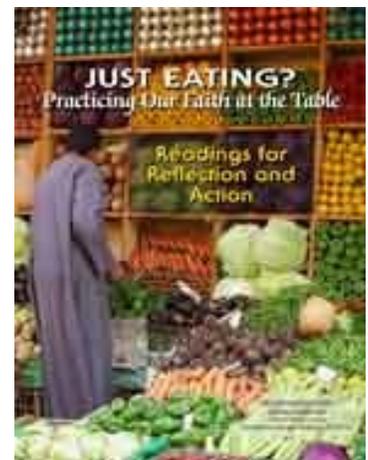
Location: Club Room of the Administration Building
Leaders: Laura Conrad, Mary Morrison

Register by August 24th: 864-654-2061

one group meets **Wednesday mornings**, Aug 27, Sept 3, 10 @ 10:00 AM -12:00 Noon
another group meets **Wednesday evenings**, Aug 27, September 3, 10 @ 5:30-7:30 PM
Seminary at the Fort areas of study: **Bible, Church History, Engagement With the World**

**Just Eating? Practicing Our Faith at the Table:
Readings for Reflection and Action** published by the
Presbyterian Hunger Program.

This 7-session curriculum explores the relationship between the way we eat and the way we live. The study uses scripture, prayer and stories from the local and global community to explore five key aspects of our relationship with food: the health of our bodies; the challenge of hunger; the health of the earth that provides our food; the ways we use food to extend hospitality and enrich relationships; the opportunities for action, renewal and transformation in our eating practices--as individuals and as faith communities.



Location: Room 205 of the Educational Building
Leader: Dick Shick begins **Monday**, September 8 @ 7:00-8:00 PM

Register by August 29th: 864-654-2061

Seminary at the Fort area of study: **Practices of Faith**

Please call the church office and register in advance for these week-day studies. 864-654-2061.



Covenant is an in-depth group Bible Study that centers around our relationships with God, with each other, and with the world. It emphasizes the biblical concept of Covenant—the enduring commitment between God and people—as a unifying pattern throughout the entire Bible. It

underscores the unique relationship that God chooses with us as God's people. Three 8-week segments each explore a different aspect of Covenant life. Each will examine what Covenant means, and the progression of a Covenant relationship with God.

Creating the Covenant examines how the Covenant community is created and established.

Living the Covenant focuses on how the community lives out their Covenant in faithful love—how it's applied to actual relationships in everyday life.

Trusting the Covenant looks at the crises that sometimes call Covenant life into question, and how we are restored to trust in God when troubling things happen.

Covenant Bible Study hosted by the Rev. CHRISTINE CHAKOIAN is Pastor and Head of Staff at First Presbyterian Church in Lake Forest, IL, and the Rev. SHANE STANFORD is Senior Pastor of Christ United Methodist Church in Memphis, TN. Covenant Bible Study is published by Abingdon Press.

Location: Club Room of the Administration Building **Register by September 8th: 864-654-2061**

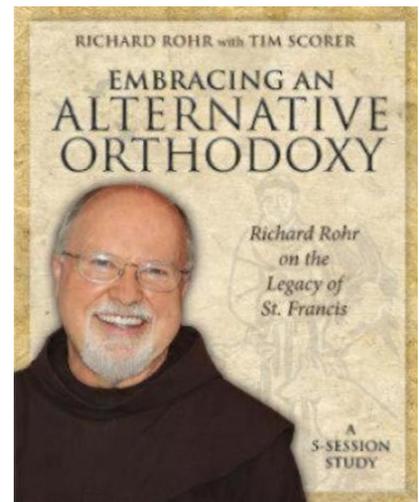
Leaders: Art Williams, Mary Morrison begin **Wednesday**, September 17 @ 10:00—11:30 AM

Seminary at the Fort area of study: **Bible**

Embracing An Alternative Orthodoxy: The Legacy of St. Francis by Richard Rohr with Tim Scorer published by Morehouse Education Resources.

Join this evening study group for five weeks as they learn about the theology and practice of St. Francis. Topics explored and discussed are presented by Father Richard Rohr.

1. Atonement Theory
2. Eco-Spirituality
3. The Christ who Existed before Christianity
4. Orthopraxy vs. Verbal Orthodoxy (Living Like Jesus)
5. Mysticism over Moralism



Location: Room 205 of the Educational Building **Register by October 22th: 864-654-2061**

Leader: Dick Shick begins **Monday**, November 3 @ 7:00-8:00 PM

Seminary at the Fort areas of study: **Theology, Practices of Faith**

Please call the church office and register in advance for these week-day studies. 864-654-2061

Youth and Children's Sunday Morning Classes

9:15-10:15 AM

Senior Highs (9th-12th Grades) Youth Room under Sanctuary

Teachers: Cyndi Davis, Donna McCubbin, Terri Smith

Curriculum: The Wired Word, World Religions

Middle School (6th-8th Grades) Bethlehem Hall #1 under Sanctuary

Teachers: needed

Curriculum: Sparkhouse—Connect

Confirmation (8th Grade) Bethlehem Hall #3 under Sanctuary

Teachers: Dick and Laura Shick

Curriculum: We Believe—Professing Our Faith: A Confirmation Curriculum

3rd-5th Grades Room 206, Education Building

Teachers: Beth Durham, Beth Gregory, Jodie & Kyle Thomas, Mary Stuart

Turner, Joy Van Daele, Heather Wright

Curriculum: We Believe!

1st-2nd Grades Room 209, Education Building

Teachers: Terri & David Bruce, Annette Halbig, Teresa Hollingsworth, Kerri &

Mark Kwist, Sue Limber, Elizabeth Shevlin

Curriculum: We Believe!

4 & 5 Year Olds Room 109, Education Building

Teachers: Donna Crader, Jacqui Hudak, Shannon Quattlebaum, Lauren Russell,

Debbie Vaughn

Curriculum: Walk With Me

2 & 3 Year Olds Room 107, Education Building

Nursery Workers

Infants & Toddlers Room 115, Education Building

Nursery Workers

Children's Substitute Teachers: Teresa Hollingsworth, Shannon Quattlebaum,

Blythe Smith

Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, August 24th

Children, youth, college students, and adults of all walks of life are encouraged to bring your backpacks, brief cases, medical bags, tool boxes, sewing kits, computers and any item that represents your daily work life. Bring your "backpack" to be blessed in worship and your vocation to be celebrated in God's ministry out in the world. Come ready to be commissioned to serve with your gifts, talents,



Blessing
of the
Backpacks



and



ministry!

Bring these items beginning August 24 to help make
Gift of the Heart School Kits
for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

VALUE \$15

- 1 — pair of blunt scissors (rounded tip)
 - 3 — 70-count spiral notebooks or notebooks (total 200-210 sheets of ruled paper; no loose-leaf or filler paper.)
 - 1 — 30-centimeter ruler (12")
 - 1 — hand-held pencil sharpener
 - 6 — new pencils with erasers
 - 1 — large eraser
 - 1 — box of 24 crayons
 - 1 — cloth bag, 12" x 14" to 14" x 16" finished size cotton cloth bag with cloth handles; **pattern available**. Please do not use grocery bags.
- Pack all items in the cloth bag.



Revelation and Resistance:

Reading the Apocalypse in an Age of Empire



The New Testament book of Revelation remains one of the Bible's most troubling texts. Some read it as a prediction of the Antichrist while others dismiss it as a bizarre historical relic. Many choose not to read it at all! This course will argue that Revelation does in fact have an important message for the contemporary church, but not in the way it is commonly understood. Rather, Revelation presents its readers with a call to resist Empire in all its forms, both ancient and modern, having faith in Christ alone. Beginning with its ancient Roman context, we will explore what that resistance meant in its own time, and what it might mean for us

today.

Session 1: “Revelation Then and Now: The Seven Churches of Asia and Fort Hill Presbyterian Church” (Sunday, October 26—9:15-10:15 AM, hosted by Sojourners in the Club Room, Administration Building)

Session 2: “The Heroine and the Whore: Reading Gender in John’s Apocalypse” (Sunday, October 26—6:00 PM Dinner, 7:00—8:00 PM Program, hosted by the Presbyterian Student Association at the Presbyterian Student Center, College Avenue.)

Session 3: “Apocalypse against Empire: Revelation in its Roman Context” (Monday, October 27—7:00—8:00 PM, hosted by Monday Evening Study Group in the Club Room, Administration Building)

Session 4: “Reading Revelation for Today: Possibilities and Perils” (Tuesday, October 28—7:00-8:00 PM, hosted by the Christian Education Ministry in the Club Room, Administration Building)

The Seminary at The Fort is pleased to welcome **Dr. Robert Williamson, Jr.**, as our Visiting Scholar for the Fall of 2014. Dr. Williamson is the Margaret Berry Hutton Odyssey Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Hendrix College in Conway, AR. He holds a Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible from Emory University, as well as a diploma in Jewish Studies from the University of Oxford. A graduate of Columbia Theological Seminary and Clemson University, Dr. Williamson was nurtured in the faith at Fort Hill Presbyterian. He is currently co-editing *Imagination, Ideology, and Inspiration: Biblical Studies after Walter Brueggemann*, anticipated publication in 2014.

