

Adult Education 2011-2012 Session IV

**Sundays
9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.**

**January 8, 15,
22 & 29**

**Ladue Chapel
Presbyterian Church (USA)**

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Ever Ancient, Ever New: Spiritual Practices in a Digital Age Leutwiler Room

How can we retrieve ancient spiritual practices in the Christian tradition and renew and adapt them to our contemporary situation? This four-week workshop brings together history, psychology, theology, and contemporary analysis upon our "digital age" in order to discover the role everyday practices can play in deepening our relationship with divine mystery. Focusing on classical exercises for cultivating attention, wonderment, and compassion, as well as practices of meditative reading, discernment of desires, and contemplative prayer, this workshop is designed to help us think about ways we can foster a mature spiritual life in a fast-paced, media-saturated world.

Leader: Brian D. Robinette is Associate Professor of Theology in the Department of Theological Studies at Saint Louis University. He is the recent author of the award-winning *Grammars of Resurrection: A Christian Theology of Presence and Absence* (Herder & Herder/Crossroad, 2009). He researches and teaches in the areas of philosophy, theology, and spirituality, and has given many public talks on subjects related to his work. Professor Robinette is currently working on an interdisciplinary book project on the role of contemplative practice in Christian life and theology.

Family Matters: All About Kids Mellow Library

We discuss issues that matter to families.

Do you want things to be different in your home? Would you like additional tools to help create cooperation, respect and responsibility in your child and to put the "fun" back into parenting? This class will give you a foundation to make different choices and get different results. This class will cover strategies to redirect your child's behavior, new ideas to manage tantrums, ways to cope when things aren't going your way, and lots of laughs (guaranteed). Join leader MJ Corcoran for a real look at parenting, including key ingredients in raising respectful and respon-

sible children in a self-indulgent world, setting limits and sticking to them, tips and tools to use in frustrating situations such as attention getting behaviors, power struggles and avoidance. Sibling squabbles will also be discussed.

Leader: MJ Corcoran is Director of Parent Education at Ladue Early Childhood Center.

Lectionary Learners Perspectives on Sunday Scripture Readings Fellowship Hall-North (please note new location!)

This class focuses on weekly scripture readings from the Lectionary Guide with discussion and reflection to stimulate the heart and mind. We study one week ahead of the Lectionary Guide. Lectionary Learners provides an opportunity for scripture reading, study and discussion, and adds to the worship experience. Come join us!

Various Discussion Leaders; Facilitator: Greta Talen, member of Ladue Chapel.

Our Changing Planet: Goodbye Holocene; Hello Anthropocene? Gulick Room

This series of four talks will briefly review the history of the Earth and then focus on the impact humans have had on the Earth over the last two centuries. Topics to be covered will include human population growth, water quality and quantity, food production and land degradation, air quality and global climate change. The program will emphasize the time and space scales of these impacts in relation to the history of the Earth.

Leader: Dr. Patrick Osborne is the Executive Director of the Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He obtained his Ph.D. in aquatic ecology from the University of East Anglia, United Kingdom in 1978. He has 35 years experience in tropical ecology research, education and environmental consultancy in Zimbabwe, Malawi, Papua New Guinea, Australia, the Philippines, Kenya and the United States. He has recently published the second edition of his textbook, *Tropical Ecosystems and Ecological Concepts* (Cambridge University Press) and in 2007 he received the Science Educator Award from the Academy of Science-St. Louis.

What Every Christian Should Know About the Bible Fireside Room

The Session has designated 2012 as the Year of the Bible for Ladue Chapel. The Bible is the rule of our life and faith, the guide to our journey as the people of God, and an indispensable source of our knowledge of God and Jesus Christ. But it's also a complex book, made up of many books, and many different types of writings, which require our attention, our devotion, our faith, and our intellectual rigor, to mine the contents for our spiritual benefit. Join Dr. Thomas as he engages us both seriously and lightheartedly in understanding what every Christian should know about the Bible.

Leader: Mark Thomas, Pastor and Head of Staff at Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church.