



Small Groups at MPBC

Winter/Spring 2012

Registration begins January 2 and ends January 31

GROUP & FACILITATOR	DESCRIPTION	DATES & TIMES	WHERE	REGISTR.	✓ TO ENROLL
Spiritual Explorations					
Introduction to Richard Rohr Charlie Elberson & Lou Kinard	Father Richard Rohr will be leading a workshop here at MPBC in April 2012. If you don't know his work, join this class for an overview and "greatest hits" of this dynamic spiritual teacher. Topics include mysticism, the Cosmic Christ, new insights on Paul, the Enneagram, and the Divine as masculine & feminine. The class will include audio and video clips of Rohr's talks and classes. If you know Rohr's work, join us and bring your favorite Rohr books, quotes and wisdom to class. Learn more about Rohr at: http://www.cacradicalgrace.org/	Tuesdays, 6:30 – 8:00 pm February 7 – March 13	At home of Charlie & Lou off Fairview near Foxcroft Shopping Center	12	
Seeing with the Eyes of the Heart: Encountering Jesus on the Wisdom Path Pattie Butler, therapist & Pat Adams, spiritual director	Register for either or both of this two-part series. Part 1 will emphasize Cynthia Bourgeault's <i>The Wisdom Jesus</i> that will explore what it means to "see with the eyes of the heart." Part 2 will include Richard Rohr's book <i>The Naked Now</i> that will aid in discovering how to "see as the mystics see." A key question will explore, "How do I die (to the ego or small self) before I die?" Emphasis will be given to cultivating spiritual practices as a way to see with the eyes of the heart. Both Richard Rohr (April 27-29) and Cynthia Bourgeault (October 19-21) will be guest speakers at MPBC during 2012.	Sunday mornings, 9:15-10:45 am Part I: Wisdom Jesus 2/12 – 3/11 Part II: Naked Now 3/18 – 4/15	MPBC TBA	Open enrollment	Part I
		Part II			
Man Salon Andrew Daugherty	A guided and free-flowing discussion group for men who are ready to explore their spiritual journeys and who wish to deepen their conscious contact with God and with other men. The group will learn fuller ways of thinking about masculinity while building friendships with other men in the congregation. Along with time for personal sharing, Richard Rohr's book <i>From Wild Man to Wise Man</i> will serve as a foundation for weekly discussion.	Thursdays, 6:30 – 8:00 pm February 1 – March 29	Off Campus	6 - 8	
On the Authentic Life: Five Films About Getting Real Sheila Ennis & Tom Schultz	We all share a need to belong, to feel at home, and to know that our lives <i>mean something</i> . We share a need to be accepted for who we really are and to step out from behind the masks, put away the costumes and scripts, and live our own truth. What might it cost us to live authentically? What does it cost us when we don't? What might we gain in truly being ourselves? What might we lose? We will explore these questions using five movies: <i>Imitation of Life</i> ; <i>Far From Heaven</i> ; <i>Transamerica</i> ; <i>Batman Begins</i> , and <i>The Secret Life of Bees</i> .	Thursdays, 6:15 – 9:30 pm February 2 & 16, March 1, 15, 29, April 12	Cornwell Conference Center	15	
Reading the Gospels and Writing Your Own Steve Shoemaker	This group will read Reynolds Price's book, <i>Three Gospels</i> , in which he translates Mark and John, then writes his own. A week each will be given to Matthew and Luke and two apocryphal Gospels, The Gospel of Thomas and the Gospel of Mary Magdalene. Participants will be invited to write their own Gospel at whatever length they wish from 10-40 pages. During the last two sessions, the group will share their Gospels.	Tuesdays, 6:30 – 7:45 pm	MPBC TBA Cost \$20 for book and written materials	20	

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Theology Pub (Group 1) <i>Andrew Daugherty</i>	In the tradition of the great theologians who have gone before us, we'll be chatting over a pint of beer, coffee, soda, or water. This will be a casual time of conversation about theology, culture and things that matter.	Mondays, 6:00 – 7:30 pm February 6 & 20, March 5 & 19, April 2	Off campus – Kennedy's Irish Pub in Elizabeth	12 - 15	
Theology Pub (Group 2) <i>Chrissy Tatum Williamson & Justin Williamson</i>	In the tradition of the great theologians who have gone before us, we'll be chatting over a pint of beer, coffee, soda, or water. This will be a casual time of conversation about theology, culture and things that matter.	Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30 pm February 7 & 21, March 6 & 20, April 3	Kennedy's Irish Pub in Elizabeth	12 - 15	

Living Faith

Saints and Villains <i>Donna Nesbitt</i>	Join us for a six-week exploration of the book <i>Saints and Villains</i> , by Denise Giardina. This historical novel evokes the danger and heroism of the Nazi resistance, through a fictional re-creation of the life of German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer. We'll delve into conflicts of ethics, morality, theology and loyalty to one's country---then and now. This "Open Book Club" welcomes all adults---the more diverse, the better! Purchase at Park Road Books and receive 20% discount (mention MPBC Open Book Club.)	Tuesdays, 2:00 – 3:30 pm January 31 – March 6	First meeting MPBC Cornwell Center Lounge; thereafter at members' homes	Open	
SaSa Chorus <i>Fram Morrison</i>	Ladies, did you sing in grade school? College? Do you miss it but just don't have time for a huge time commitment? Maybe you think your "pipes are too rusty" to sing again? SaSa could be your chance to revitalize your music within. Come connect with other ageless women and enjoy the fullness and richness of women's voices together. Let's connect our spirituality, our life and soul using our greatest and most personal instrument – our voice. Chancel choir women are welcome too! <i>Childcare is available by reservation with Fran. Must attend at least 5 of the 6 rehearsals (talk to Fran if you're interested but can't do Monday nights).</i>	1 st meeting Friday, February 24 (social gathering, place TBA) Rehearsals Mondays, 7-8 pm 2/27, 3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26 Tuesday, 4/10 Sing in worship 4/15	MPBC Sanctuary Basement rehearsal room	Open ~ min 12	
On Pilgrimage <i>Cheryl Patterson</i>	Have you ever considered going on a Pilgrimage? Wonder what the difference is between a Pilgrimage and a Vacation? Join this circle of discussion on what it means to be On Pilgrimage. Our discussions will be based on <i>The Art of Pilgrimage</i> by Phil Cousineau, scripture passages, and scenes from the movie, <i>The Way</i> .	Tuesdays, 6:30 – 7:45 pm February 7 – March 13	Off campus in the Ballantyne area	5 – 8 Cost \$13 for book	
Thriving as a Single Parent <i>Gretchen Woosley</i>	This group is specifically designed for single parents of children of all ages. We will get to know each other and share parenting challenges and tips while developing a supportive network at MPBC.	Sundays, 9:45 – 10:45 am February 5 – March 11	MPBC TBA	8 - 15	
Flourishing As a Couple After the Children Arrive <i>Rotating Team</i>	Designed with parents of young children in mind, this small group experience will be led by family therapists and will address common challenges and concerns shared by parents of pre-schoolers.	Sundays, 9:45 – 10:45 am February 5 – March 25	MPBC TBA	Open enrollment	
Parents of Youth <i>Angie Byers & Mack Turner</i>	This year MPBCYM is offering a way for parents of youth to get <i>connected</i> with one another by providing a regular Bible study that parallels the Biblical stories of the youth Sunday School curriculum. We will meet on the same rotation cycle as the youth Sunday school classes: three weeks of regular meetings followed by one breakfast (social) meeting. The purpose of this offering is to help establish a community of learning and support for parents of adolescents.	Sundays, 9:45-10:45 am All Year	MPBC Parlor	Open enrollment	
Prayer Shawl Knitters <i>Pat Adams</i>	Provide a knitted mantle of healing & comfort to MPBC members dealing with particularly trying or tragic life events.	3 rd Mondays 7:00-8:30 pm all year	Southminster Craft Room	Open enrollment	

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Friendship Garden "Coming Soon" Ed Williams	A hands-on experience of planting and growing food for donation. Details will be announced in future church communications.	Planting to Harvest	TBA	Open enrollment	
Social Ties					
Getting To Know Us Ed Williams	Ed Williams has often observed that this church is full of interesting people he knew nothing about until he read their obituaries. To help us get to know each other this group offers a series of conversations with members who make significant contributions to our church and our community.	Sundays, 9:45 – 10:45 am February 5 – April 15	MPBC TBA	10 - 20	
Movie Magic Tina Fort	Experience the magic that a movie provides, transporting the viewer to a different time and place. The group will pick the movie and meet afterward for stimulating conversation over snacks and beverages. See how your critique compares to the pros! Meet new people and develop new friendships.	1 st & 3 rd Sunday afternoons February 5 – April 15	MPBC Starry Night Theater or off campus Cost: price of venue	8 - 12 Participants may bring a friend	
International Eats Debbie Steele	Let's eat lunch! We'll meet for lunch at independently owned restaurants as we discuss global issues while supporting local entrepreneurs.	Wednesdays, 11:30 – 1:00 pm February 1 – March 28	Eat at 9 different locally-owned restaurants with an international flavor	8 - 12	
Spiritual Bikers Paula Fricke	Get out to enjoy the handiwork of God's Creation before worshipping together on Sunday mornings! We'll meet at MPBC, ride safely along the many potential paths nearby, and return inspired to sit together in the balcony or with our families. You can return in time to pick up children from God's Garden. Bring a friend and "Follow Me To MPBC!"	Sundays, 9:15 am (weather permitting) March-April-May	Meet at Cornwell Center parking lot on Selwyn	Open enrollment	
The Gathering Place Mary Frances Menzies	Join us for stimulating conversations and discussions on topics chosen by the group! For example, you might share past travels or significant memories; opine on national issues or local controversies; discuss books you've read or want to read; consider how faith has played a role in your lives. Gather in a comfortable home setting to enjoy learning more about your church acquaintances.	1 st & 3 rd Mondays, 7:00 – 8:30 pm February 6 – April 16	Off campus in the Ballantyne area	Open enrollment	
Family Friendly Dinners Mary Ann Ciciarelli & Josh Thomas	Family-friendly and Kids Eat Free dinner gathering	Mondays, 5:30 – 7:30 pm February 6 – March 26	Providence Road Sundries 1522 Providence Road	Open enrollment	
Play Dates (single event offerings – sign up for one or more)					
Stroll Through Charlotte History Mary Kratt	Join our historian and author for a stroll around the four blocks that radiate from The Square at Trade and Tryon as we discover people and events from the city's past. This tour departs promptly at 1:00 pm, two hours walking time. Plan on ending with refreshments and conversation at a nearby café.	Saturday, March 17 1:00 promptly – 3:00 pm for tour plus refreshments Raindate: Saturday, March 24	Meet at the 5 th Street entrance of the Uptown Public Library (side street that runs beside the library & Discovery Place). Parking nearby.	8 - 12	

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<p>Potluck Suppers Angie Byers & Mary Ann Ciciarelli</p> <p>Join other members for a potluck supper! Each supper is a stand-alone offering, so choose and sign up for the host(ess) and date that works best for your schedule.</p> <p>You will receive specific location/address information from hosts prior to the evening.</p>	Buffet with Mariah Currin & Kevin Brewton	Friday, February 3 7:00 pm	off Providence Road near Sardis Road	20 adults	
	Superbowl Sunday! with Beth & Scott Haenni childcare provided on-site	Sunday, February 5 th 5:30 pm through halftime	in Elizabeth Neighborhood	30 of all ages	
	Fellowship with Britta & Russell Crandall	Saturday, February 11 6:30 pm	in Elizabeth Neighborhood	25 adults	
	80's Disco & Appetizers with Debby & Barry Love	Saturday, February 11 6:30 pm	off Providence Road near the Arboretum	20 adults	
	Italian with Kathy & Rick Bahnson	Saturday, February 18 6:00 pm	off Carmel Road	6 adults	
	Fellowship with Peggy & Chaz Seale	Friday, February 24 6:30 pm	Heydon Hall off Park Road	8 adults	
	Fellowship with Lisa & Todd Rubenson	Saturday, March 10 6:30 pm	in Elizabeth Neighborhood	20 adults	
	Fellowship with Holly & Jim Wood	Saturday, March 17 6:30 pm	in Dilworth	15 adults	
	Family Fellowship with Tara & Richard Harris children welcome	Saturday, March 24 5:00 pm	in Foxcroft	25 of all ages	
	Fellowship with Brian Caldwell & Robert Shore	Sunday, March 25 5:30 pm	off Wendover Road	25 adults	
	Chicken Marsala with Olive Kile	Saturday, March 31 6:00 pm	Park Road near Sharon Road West	7 adults	

For questions, contact Carol Reid: creid1@carolina.rr.com

Sign up ANY of these ways:

- **Email or call Rick Goodin in the Education Office:** rgoodin@mpbconline.org ♦ 704.334.7232 x15
Include your name, phone, and email address, along with your selections.
- **Mail or bring this form to:** MPBC Education Office, 1900 Queens Road, Charlotte, NC 28207-2582
- **Go to the Connections link** on our website www.mpbconline.org to register online.



Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

For more information, contact Andrew Daugherty, Minister of Faith Formation ♦ adaugherty@mpbconline.org ♦ 704.334.7232 x13