

January 6, 9:15 – 10:15 AM

Assembly Room

***With an Urgency Born of this Hope: Christian Responses to World Events*** - Rachel Pedersen

Everyday there seems to be a new crisis somewhere in the world. Haunting pictures of children in refugee camps, women seeking water in the desert, bombed out buildings, and slums can be overwhelming. As Christians, what are ways that we can respond to these deep hurts? Rachel Pedersen is a third year MDiv student who hopes to serve the church in international mission. Before coming to Princeton, she served the church at the denomination's United Nations Office, organizing educational events as well as working on issues related to development, emerging conflicts and children's rights.

January 6 and 13, 9:30 – 10:30 AM

Niles Chapel

***Lectio Divina: Meditative Reading of the Scripture for the Day*** - David Robbins

Participate in the practice of *lectio divina*, (Latin for divine, spiritual or holy reading.) Lectio Divina is a way of praying and reading scripture that promotes communion with God and calls one to study, ponder, listen and pray the scriptures. We will use one of the scriptures to be read in worship as the text for meditation. David Robbins, a member of this congregation will lead.

January 13 & 20, 9:15 – 10:15 AM

Music Room

***Challenge and Opportunity:***

***Nassau Presbyterian Church Faces the Future***

Gordon Mikoski

Based on Robert Wuthnow's recent book, *After the Baby Boomers*, this class will take a serious look at the challenges facing congregations like Nassau over the course of the next ten years. A detailed and insightful profile of the religious practices, attitudes, and beliefs of American adults aged 20-45 will provide the basis for assessing the challenges and the opportunities that will face the congregation and the denomination in coming years. Gordon Mikoski is Assistant Professor of Christian Education at Princeton Theological Seminary.

January 13 & 20, 9:15 – 10:15 AM

Assembly Room

***January 13: Mission in Guatemala Today***

Karla Ann Koll

Guatemala has the greatest inequity in the distribution of wealth in the Americas. Corruption is rampant and violent crime is on the rise. Yet Guatemala also has the highest percentage of Protestants of any Latin American country. This class will draw on parables from Luke's Gospel to explore some of the challenges for mission in Guatemala today.

***January 20: Changing Models of Mission in the PC(USA)***

The Presbyterian Church (USA) has been involved in international mission for the last 170 years. Today many PC(USA) congregations are participating directly in mission in different places around the world. Explore the promises and pitfalls of the emerging models of international mission, including the consequences for our historic mission partners and long-term mission personnel.

Karla Ann Koll has served as a PC(USA) mission co-worker in Central America for more than fifteen years. She teaches history, mission and religions for the Latin American Biblical University, headquartered in San Jose, Costa Rica, and the Evangelical Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America (CEDEPCA) in Guatemala. Nassau Presbyterian Church supports her work through the PC(USA).

January 20 & 27, February 3

9:30 – 10:30 AM - Niles Chapel

***Inquirers Classes for Prospective members***

Lauren McFeaters and Bruce Heagstedt

Attending our Inquirers Class gives you an opportunity to explore the meaning of Christian faith and church membership, and to learn more about the history and foundations of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Led by our Membership Committee, discover opportunities for spiritual growth, service, outreach and fellowship, and learn about the worship, sacraments, theology, and programs of Nassau Church. Participants will also have an opportunity to meet new church friends, church leaders, and staff. Whether joining by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith, or transfer of your church letter, you are asked to affirm your faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Discover what that affirmation means for your life as you give yourself to the ministry and mission of this local congregation. For more information contact Lauren McFeaters (609-924-0103 x102 (Lauren@nassauchurch.org) or Bruce Heagstedt, moderator (609-658-5657).

January 27, February 3 & 10

9:15 – 10:15 AM

Assembly Room

***Religion and Government: A Theological and Constitutional Survey***

Larry Stratton

A Ph.D. candidate in Christian Ethics at Princeton Theological Seminary, Larry Stratton, will examine the topic of religion and government in a three-week series that will draw upon his dissertation research on government funding of religion in general, and taxpayer aid to faith-based charities in particular. The class will address: 1) Biblical themes regarding church and state issues, especially Jesus' statement, "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's" (Matthew 22: 21); 2) a historical overview of political insights from Christian thinkers such as Augustine, Aquinas, Luther, Calvin, and modern ethicists Reinhold Niebuhr, John C. Bennett, and Franklin I. Gamwell; 3) historical constitutional themes interpreting the First Amendment's guarantee that, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof," including an overview of the U.S. Supreme Court's First Amendment religion jurisprudence and ongoing and imminent debates. Larry Stratton is a lawyer, with a J.D. from Georgetown University, where he also was an adjunct law professor. He is on the adjunct ethics faculty at Villanova University. He serves on Nassau's Adult Education Committee.

January 27 – March 16

9:15 – 10:15 AM

Music Room

***The Confessions of St. Augustine***

Gordon Mikoski

How can we make sense out of our lives spiritually and theologically? In what ways has God been at work in the unfolding pattern of our lives? Come and explore these questions as we read, pray, and reflect with arguably the greatest theologian and church leader of the Western Christian tradition. Class participants will read and discuss Augustine's classic spiritual autobiography. Copies of *The Confessions* will be available for purchase in the Assembly Room for \$8.00 in January. Gordon Mikoski is Assistant Professor of Christian Education at Princeton Theological Seminary.

***SERIES: Bach's St. Matthew Passion Preparation and Journey***

February 17 & 24, March 2, 9, & 16, 9:30 – 10:30 AM - Niles Chapel

Examine the Scriptural basis of J.S. Bach's masterpiece, *The Passion of St. Matthew*, and its musical/dramatic character, including an exploration of various other artistic depictions of the Passion. The study culminates in attendance at the Good Friday (March 21) evening performance of the work, with Kurt Masur conducting the New York Philharmonic, Westminster Choir, Westminster Kantorei, and soloists, at Lincoln Center.

***Feb. 17: The Passion in Matthew's Gospel*** - Laura Sweat

Review the Passion texts in *The Gospel According to Matthew* with Laura Sweat, a PhD Candidate in Biblical Studies (New Testament) at Princeton Theological Seminary. Her research interests focus on the theology of the gospels, and she is working with the *Gospel of Mark* for her dissertation. She is a member of Princeton United Methodist Church.

***Feb. 24: Bach's Texts: Choice and Prominence***

Lindsey Christiansen

Examine Bach's textual choices, application and emphases with Lindsey Christiansen, professor of voice at Westminster Choir College of Rider University, teaching applied voice and classes in vocal literature. Lindsey has degrees in music history, organ, and voice, and has also studied in the Opera School of the Hochschule für Musik in Hamburg. Lindsey's extensive experience as a Bach singer, thorough preparation as a music historian, fluency in German language and culture, and grounding in the Scriptures combine to make her an ideal teacher of Bach's Passions.

***March 2: Bach's St. Matthew Passion: Performance History***

Andrew Megill

Look at the compositional and performance history of Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* with Andrew Megill, associate professor of choral conducting at Westminster Choir College of Rider University. He founded and conducts Westminster Kantorei, which will combine with the Westminster Choir to comprise the chorus in the March performances of the St. Matthew Passion. Megill is also music director of Masterwork Chorus, one of metropolitan New York's finest volunteer choirs. Additionally, he is founder and artistic director of Fuma Sacra, ensemble-in-residence at Westminster, recognized as one of America's leading professional ensembles specializing in Renaissance and Baroque vocal music.

***March 9: The Passion in Visual Art*** - Karlfried Froelich

Explore selected visual impressions of the Lord's Passion with Karlfried Froelich, Benjamin B. Warfield Professor of Ecclesiastical History Emeritus at Princeton Theological Seminary. One of our all-time favorite adult education leaders, Froehlich's extensive collection of visual art and knowledge of artists, the subject, and its history use will make this an experience of the passion through art.

***March 16: The Structure of the St. Matthew Passion***

Joe Miller

Gain a conductor's view of Bach's masterpiece, with emphasis on its upcoming performance, from Joe Miller, director of choral activities at Westminster Choir College of Rider University, and conductor of the 40-voice Westminster Choir and the 150-voice Westminster Symphonic Choir. Miller has conducted choirs in both national and international festivals, and has served as guest conductor for numerous all-state and honors choirs.

March 30, April 6 & 13, 9:30 – 10:30 AM

Niles Chapel

***The Gospel of John*** - J. Michael Walker

In preparation for a word-by-word performance of *The Gospel of John* by Brad Sherrill on Saturday evening, April 19, at 7:00 p.m., examine a number of the unique features of John's gospel. These two sessions will help you tune your ears to hearing John's signs of who Jesus is, the seven "I am" statements of Jesus, the stories only John tells, and his strong emphasis on the divinity of Jesus. J. Michael Walker is a Presbyterian minister.

April 13 & 20, 9:15-10:15 AM Music Room

***How the Bible Came to Be:***

*A Study of the Origins, Formation and Authority of the Christian Bible* - Lee McDonald

Understanding how the Bible was formed, where the multitude of pieces came from, and why and for whom it is considered authoritative has many important implications for how we read and interpret it. Explore these questions for the Old Testament on April 13 and the New Testament on April 20th. Lee McDonald recently retired as president and professor of New Testament studies at Acadia Divinity College in Nova Scotia, Canada. He is an American Baptist minister, president of the Institute for Biblical Research, and author of ten books and many articles on canon formation and other biblical themes. Lee is a resident at Princeton Theological Seminary during his sabbatical year and he and his wife Mary are attending Nassau Presbyterian Church.

April 20 & 27, May 4, 9:30 – 10:30 AM

Niles Chapel

***Inquirer's class***

(See January 20 information)

**A Thirteen - week Series: PAUL AND TURKEY (Territory, Text and Tradition)**

Assembly Room, 9:15 – 10:15 AM

February 17

***Turkey Today: Politics, Religion, and History***

Jack B. Tannous

A Ph.D. candidate in Princeton University's History Department, Jack B. Tannous, will relate contemporary political movements in Turkey to the rise and fall of the Ottoman and Byzantine Empires. He has studied Philosophy, Arabic, Middle Eastern Studies, History and Eastern Christian Studies, and is interested in the history of Greek and Syriac-speaking churches of the Middle East. In August 2007, Jack took part in an archeological survey in Turkey. He has also taught a course on Byzantine history at Rutgers University. In spring 2007, he was a popular speaker at Nassau Presbyterian, discussing both his dissertation work on Syria's Qenneshre Monastery and his Middle East travels.

February 24

***Encounter Turkey through the Ottoman Empire***

Molly Greene

What was the Ottoman Empire all about? How should we understand its relationship to modern Turkey? Explore these questions, together with the difference between pre-modern Empires and modern nation-states. Molly Greene spent several years living in Greece and then completed a Ph.D. in the Department of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton (1993), where she studied Ottoman history. Upon graduating she joined the Princeton faculty with a joint appointment in the History Department and the Program in Hellenic Studies. Greene teaches courses on the Ottoman Empire and the wider Mediterranean world and is particularly interested in the history of the Greeks under Ottoman rule.

March 2

***The Missing Paul***

Karlfried Froelich

Through the *Acts of the Apostles* and Paul's letters we know a great deal about places in the Eastern Mediterranean where the life and work of the Apostle can be remembered and celebrated. Yet early Christian traces of a veneration of Paul or even the memory of his presence are very rare in most areas, including Asia Minor. Was he not appreciated? Was his memory deliberately erased? Was there competition? Karlfried Froelich is the Benjamin B. Warfield Professor of Ecclesiastical History Emeritus at Princeton Theological Seminary. His knowledge of early church history and of Paul and the Pauline body of work is paired with insights from a very recent trip to Turkey.

March 9

***Pauline Itineraries***

Shane Berg

Paul spent a great deal of time criss-crossing Asia Minor in his zeal to establish and nurture Gentile churches. We will attempt to follow in his footsteps, looking at the texts that provide a glimpse into the itinerant life of the apostle and the social networks that provided support to his frequent travels. Shane Berg teaches New Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary. His interests include the theology of scripture, religious epistemology in ancient Judaism and Christianity, and papyrology.

March 16

***Paul the Urban Apostle***

Shane Berg

Jesus may have been a country preacher, but the famous apostle to the Gentiles was a city dweller. Join us as we consider the prominence of the ancient Greek cities of the early Roman Empire in Paul's letters and the *Acts of the Apostles*.

March 30

***Paul and the Hellenistic-Roman City***

Karlfried Froelich

The coast of modern-day Turkey is dotted with the architectural remains of cities from Hellenistic-Roman times where Paul is known to have preached and made converts, among them Ephesus, Perge, and Antioch of Pisidia. Their typical features are clearly visible at the archeological sites: city gates, streets and squares (agora), baths, temples, public buildings, theatres.

April 6

***Byzantine Christianity***

Kathleen McVey

Kathleen McVey, Princeton Theological Seminary's Joseph Ross Stevenson Professor of Church History, will discuss Byzantine Christianity from a theological and historical standpoint, with a special focus upon the iconoclast controversy in relation to Orthodox and Calvinist understandings of icons. McVey teaches courses in early Syriac Christianity and the rise of Islam, Christianity in Alexandria and Egypt, Christian women in the world of late antiquity, and Augustine and early Latin Christianity. She serves on the editorial boards of the series *Fathers of the Church*, the *Cambridge Dictionary of Christianity*, and *Hugoye: Journal of Syriac Studies*.

April 13

***Paul and Popular Religion in Asia Minor – the pictures***

Karlfried Froelich

In Asia Minor, Paul preached his gospel of salvation amidst a multiplicity of local cults and religious shrines. The goddess Artemis/Diana was the pride of Ephesus. The healer God Asklepios had his main temple at Pergamum. The veneration of Kybele, the “Great Mother,” spread from Phrygia, and the cult of Paul’s legendary convert Thecla echoed that of local female deities in places like Iconium and Seleucia on Calycadnus (Meryemlik).

April 20

***Solomon, I Have Surpassed You: The Emperor Justinian and the Building of Hagia Sophia***

Caroline Cassells Harris

Built in just six years, the cathedral of Hagia Sophia in Istanbul is an engineering marvel with a dome that exceeded that of the Pantheon in Rome. It stands as a monument to faith and to the political ambitions of the powerful Emperor Justinian I. Examine the extraordinary construction and decoration of this spectacular wonder of the Byzantine World. Caroline Cassells Harris is curator of education and academic programs at the Princeton University Art Museum. Before coming to Princeton, she served as Staff Lecturer in Charge of Academic Affairs at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. She has taught Art History at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia and the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

April 27

***After Paul: The Splendor of the Church of Chora***

Karlfried Froelich

In Muslim Istanbul Christian art survives in breathtaking examples. The church of Chora (now a museum) preserves some of the finest mosaics and frescos of the late Byzantine period. Looking at the decorated walls, cupolas, and roundels offers a vivid lesson in Orthodox iconography with its stories of Jesus, Mary, and the saints depicted in images of exquisite beauty.

May 4

***Paul and Popular Religion in Asia Minor – the Landscape***

Shane Berg

Paul carried out his missionary activities in a social context characterized by diverse and robust forms of religious piety and devotion. We will survey the implications of this thriving religiosity in the cities of Asia Minor for Paul and his churches.

May 11

***Islam in Contemporary Turkey: Politics and Worship***

Alex Balistreri

Alex Balistreri is a graduate student in the Program in Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University. He is currently writing his master's thesis on Islamist media in Turkey. His research interests include the relationship between Islam and politics in Turkey, democratization, and international relations. Alex has traveled frequently to Turkey and has lived in Istanbul.

May 18

***Why Do We Bother with Paul?***

Beverly Roberts Gaventa

From lofty descriptions of how we are “saved by grace through faith,” to personal encouragement and mentoring of a young evangelist, to admonitions to women about speaking in church, Paul's letters are known for a variety of messages. Who is the real Paul, and what are the great gifts his copious letter writing has bestowed upon the church? Beverly Roberts Gaventa is Professor of New Testament Literature and Exegesis at Princeton Theological Seminary. Her most recently published book is *Our Mother Saint Paul*. She will accompany Nassau's group to Turkey as theologian in residence.

March 30 & April 6 at 1:00 PM

***Princeton University Art Museum Pre-Turkey Tours***

You are invited to tour the Princeton University Art Museum to look at objects which illustrate some of the pagan religions from the time of Paul, and to view works of art relating to Christianity's early days. Two separate tours will be offered on both Sundays so that you can attend both if you wish. As attendance is limited to 15 in each group, advanced booking is necessary. Watch the bulletin and newsletter for registration information.