

***THURSDAY
MAILING***



NATIONAL CAPITAL

P R E S B Y T E R Y

Missional • Pastoral • Prophetic

October 20, 2011

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sponsored by the Shalem Institute

The Acts 16:5 Initiative

sponsored by NCP's Transformation Team & Church Development Cmte

January 17-18, 2012 – on-line registration available now!

Pastoral Concerns:

William Randolph Sengel, HR – Bill Sengel was pastor of the Old Presbyterian Meeting House in Alexandria, Virginia from 1960 to 1986, and the first moderator of the National Capital Union Presbytery, died at Westminster at Lake Ridge, Virginia on October 17, 2011. He was 88. The cause of death was respiratory illness.

There will be a memorial service for him at Westminster – in the Potomac Room on **Monday October 24, 2011 at 1:00 pm**, followed by a reception. Clergy are invited to robe (red stoles) in respect for this humble servant of the church whose ministry focused on people, civil rights and church unity.

Remember his wife Marion and son's Randy, David, and Mark in your prayers. Burial will be at a future time in Presbyterian Cemetery in Alexandria. At that time there will be another service at the Old Meeting House.



Announcements

Black Presbyterians United (BPU) of the National Capital Presbytery invites everyone to a program where a distinguished panel of experts will discuss and review the controversial book **DISINTEGRATION: The Splintering of Black America**, by the noted Washington Post columnist **Eugene Robinson**. The event will be held **Sunday October 30, 2011 at 3 o'clock pm at Northeastern Presbyterian Church, 2112 Varnum Street NE in Washington, D.C.** The book deals with issues that many consider taboo – class distinctions among Blacks, intergenerational conflict, interracial marriage, status of biracial people in American society, and the interaction of native Blacks with immigrants from Africa and the Caribbean. It is guaranteed to generate a lively discussion which you will not want to miss! Plenty of parking is available and refreshments will be served. Call 202-554-5152 or e-mail Louetay@aol.com, if you are coming so that we can plan for serving refreshments.

COM Announces a New Program: Gap and First Response Ministry – Providing Help when a Pastor Leaves

The “gap” period right after a pastor leaves a church is a time of uncertainty and many questions. The Committee on Ministry wants to be of support during this time to ease concerns, provide appropriate support and answers, and partner in ministry. To this end, we are pleased to announce a new program to address these issues and facilitate the church’s moving on to the next steps of ministry. The Transitions Team of COM has established the following.

- **Gap/First Response (GFR) Team** – the team that will work with churches to find the most appropriate leadership during the Gap Period. This could consist of appointing a Moderator of Session or lead to the hiring of a Gap or First Response Minister.
- **Advisors** – a member of the GFR Team that works with an assigned church to provide specific guidance and support as soon as a vacancy is known. The advisor will explain the options available for the Gap Period and facilitate the most appropriate outcome.
- **First Sunday Preachers.** If a member of the NCP staff is not available to preach on the first Sunday of a vacancy, the GFR Team will arrange for a First Sunday Preacher to represent Presbytery on that day
- **Gap Ministers** – an optional, short term minister (usually part time) pastor who will serve a church after a pastor leaves and before the interim pastor arrives. Gap ministers are used in non-crisis situations, such as a pastor leaving unexpectedly to accept a new call.
- **First Response Ministers** – a more highly trained and experienced pastor, normally with significant experience as an interim or consultant in conflicted and difficult situations. First Response Ministers will be used when there is a crisis, such as a conflict, some kind of misconduct, or the unexpected death of the pastor.

For more information see the **Gap First Response Overview on the NCP website:**

<http://thepresbytery.org/documents/gapfirst-response-ministry/> or contact Nancy Clark (njbclark@aol.com) or Bobbie Whittier (bwhittier@aol.com).

Open Letter to the Presbyterian Church (USA) from Archbishop Desmond Tutu

This letter was shared on October 12, 2011 by the Office of the Stated Clerk, Presbyterian Church (USA).

To Rev. Grayde Parsons, Stated Clerk, Presbyterian Church (USA)

Dear Brother in Christ,

I am writing you with the request that you share these thoughts with my brothers and sisters in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.):

It is incumbent upon all of God's children to speak out against injustice. It is sometimes equally important to speak in solidarity when justice has been done. For that reason I am writing to affirm my belief that in making room in your constitution for gay and lesbian Christians to be ordained as church leaders, you have accomplished an act of justice.

I realize that among your ecumenical partners, some voices are claiming that you have done the wrong thing, and I know that you rightly value your relationship with Christians in other parts of the world. Sadly, it is not always popular to do justice, but it is always right. People will say that the ones you are now willing to ordain are sinners. I have come to believe, through the reality shared with me by my scientist and medical friends, and confirmed to me by many who are gay, that being gay is not a choice. Like skin color or left-handedness, sexual orientation is just another feature of our diversity as a human family. How wonderful that God has made us with so much diversity, yet all in God's image! Salvation means being called out of our narrow bonds into a broad place of welcome to all.

You are undoubtedly aware that in some countries the church has been complicit in the legal persecution of lesbians and gays. Individuals are being arrested and jailed simply because they are different in one respect from the majority. By making it possible for those in same-gender relationships to be ordained as pastors, preachers, elders, and deacons, you are being a witness to your ecumenical partners that you believe in the wideness of God's merciful love.

For freedom Christ has set us free. In Christ we are not bound by old, narrow prejudice, but free to embrace the full humanity of our brothers and sisters in all our glorious differences. May God bless you as you live into this reality, and may you know that there are many Christians in the world who continue to stand by your side.

God bless you.

Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu (Cape Town, South Africa)



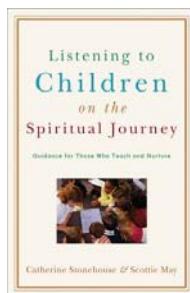
A Book Review

Sunday school teachers and parents of young children know that children can and do indeed say and ask the “profoundest” of things when they are pondering Godly topics. At coffee hour or teachers' meetings, nuggets of this treasure trove of wisdom are often shared among adults as amusing stories. Writers Catherine Stonehouse and Scottie May, authors of ***Listening to Children on the Spiritual Journey: Guidance for Those Who Teach and Nurture*** take what children say about God seriously. After conducting case studies that included interviews of children and parents over a period of several years, they persuasively argue that children can offer the church new insights into ways of encountering God. Their study employed the methodology of Sofia Cavalletti who pioneered methods of nurturing the spiritual life of children. The project used a process that Stonehouse and May describe as reflective *engagement*. In this process, the teacher sets the stage for children to listen for God as a Bible story is read aloud. The teacher then waits for the children to engage with the story through drama, art, or prayer and then asks the children to reflect on how they experienced God's presence in the story. As the teacher stands back, they suggest that “God's presence will be real and the Spirit will be the teacher, revealing to each child what he or she most needs to hear from God.”

Several helpful strategies for teaching and nurturing young children were included in the book:

- Best practices for listening and responding to comments and questions of young children.
- Ways of setting up sacred space for young children
- Steps for partnering with parents and church leaders to nurture the spiritual formation of young children
- Suggestions for guiding children's encounter with God through the Biblical narrative

Ministers, church school teachers, and parents would benefit from reading this book. It offers a wonderful invitation to see God through the wondering eyes of children.



The book is available at SOURCE.

Listening To Children On The Spiritual Journey: Guidance for Those Who Teach and Nurture, by Catherine Stonehouse and Scottie May. Grand Rapids, MI Baker Academic, 2010

***NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO
INTERVIEWS AT INGLESIDE :***

Gerry Elliott, Rhoda Nixon, Krishna Roy

***HEAR THE BROADCAST OF
"TELL ME MORE"
With host Michel Martin***

**THURSDAY OCTOBER 20 AT 2 P.M.
ON WAMU RADIO 88.5 FM**

OR LISTEN ONLINE www.npr.org/tellmemore

**A SECOND SEGMENT WILL NOT AIR ON
WAMU BUT CAN BE HEARD ONLINE**

**We will try to find a way to make both
segments available for everyone to hear.**



InterFaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington

FREE PUBLIC INTERFAITH DIALOGUE!

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2:00-4:00 pm

*In light of the dedication of the Dr. King Memorial
October 16, our dialogue will focus on:*

***If Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., were alive today,
what would your faith tradition say to him?
What would his views be today?***

**METROPOLITAN MEMORIAL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

(across from American University main campus!)

3401 Nebraska Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20016

(at New Mexico Avenue and with its own parking lot)
(or take METRO to Van Ness station on the Red Line and
take the American University shuttle to the main campus)

AGENDA
IFC Assembly meeting
Tuesday, October 25, 2011
Noon to 4 pm
Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church
Nebraska and New Mexico Avenues, NW, Washington, DC
Rev. E. Gail Anderson Holness, President, Presiding

Noon: Lunch

1:00 Call to Order, Introductions, Opening prayer
Review and approval of minutes of our June Board meeting; (to be emailed out before the meeting)

1:10 Reports from our President and our Chairperson Rev. Holness
Bill Aiken

1:20 Report of the Finance Committee ((to be emailed out before the meeting)

1:35 Focus on the Concert as our primary fund-raising event and largest program.

1:45 Report of our Executive Director Rev. Lobenstine

2:00 Dialogue Since October 16th is new date for the dedication of the Dr. King Memorial on the Mall; our dialogue will focus on: **If Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., were alive today, what would your faith tradition say to him? What would his views be today?**

4:00 Adjourn

You Are Invited

to

The First Ever

Contemplative Voices Award Benefit

*To Support the Work
of Shalem Institute*

On November 3, Shalem Institute will present its first ever Contemplative Voices Award to **The Rev. Margaret Guenther** and **The Rev. John Philip Newell**.

You are invited to join us for this very special occasion as we honor two individuals who have made significant contributions to contemplative understanding, living and leadership and whose witness helps others live from the divine wellspring of compassion, strength, and authentic vision.

This evening is also a benefit to support the work of Shalem Institute. You can register and find more details below. Please join us to honor these two amazing individuals as well as to support Shalem.

Sincerely,

Leah Rampy
Executive Director, [Shalem Institute](#)

Contemplative Voices Award Benefit

Honoring **The Rev. Margaret Guenther &
The Rev. John Philip Newell**
To Support the Work of Shalem Institute



November 3, 2011

7:00-9:00pm

Rock Creek Mansion

5417 West Cedar Lane, Bethesda, MD

The evening program will include light refreshments & music.

Minimum Donation of \$100 per person.

Donation includes a complimentary book from each of the honorees.

Advance registration required.

[Click here to register.](#)



Immanuel Presbyterian Church
1125 Savile Lane, McLean, Virginia
www.ipcmclean.org

Theologian-in-Residence

Rev. John Philip Newell

A New Harmony: the Spirit, the Earth, and the Human Soul

We long for peace and harmony in our lives, whether as individuals and families or as nations and species. Like never before in the history of humanity, we are aware of the essential unity of life. What we do to a part we do to the whole. Wellness is found not in separation but in relationship.

John Philip Newell is a poet, scholar, and teacher. Formerly Warden of Iona Abbey in the Western Isles of Scotland, he is currently Companion Theologian for the American Spirituality Center of Casa del Sol in the high desert of New Mexico. Based in Edinburgh with his family, he is internationally acclaimed for his work in the field of Celtic spirituality and his vision for peace among the great wisdom traditions of humanity. He is the author of over 15 books, including *Listening for the Heartbeat of God*, *Praying with the Earth*, and *A New Harmony*.

CO-SPONSORED BY



November 5, 9am-3pm

November 6, Preaching at 9am & 11:15am

“An Introduction to Celtic Spirituality”, 10:10am

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What are the practices of transformation that will allow a new harmony to be born in our lives and world?

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Name _____ Email/Phone _____

Number attending on Saturday, November 5, 9am-3pm, lunch included:
\$10 Immanuel Member _____ \$20 Public _____

Please make checks payable to Immanuel Presbyterian Church, mail to church address above.

For further information, please contact Dan Thomas, 703-356-3042

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRESENTS
THE IMMIGRATION DEBATE



EXPERT PANELISTS

Sunalei Stewart, Legislative Director to Senator Bingaman, New Mexico, specializing in immigration and civil rights

Brittany Nystrom, Director of Policy and Legal Affairs, National Immigration Forum

Phil Kennedy, Migrant Resource Center Intern, Presbyterian Binational Border Ministry Project, Frontera de Cristo, Agua Prieta, Mexico

Cindy Brown, Immigration Paralegal, Board of Immigration (BIA) Accredited Representative

NOVEMBER 6TH, SUNDAY, 1-3 PM

LUNCH SERVED AT 12:30

5333 N. 16TH STREET, ARLINGTON, VA 22205

CONTACT: TRINITYSPEAKS@GMAIL.COM

(703) 536-5600

Sun., Nov. 13
7:30pm

Jesus, Judaism and Christianity: Problems and Possibilities

Co-sponsored by Saint Mark Presbyterian Church and Congregation Beth El

Location: Saint Mark Presbyterian Church
10701 Old Georgetown Road
Rockville, MD 20852
<http://www.saintmarkpresby.org>

RSVP: events@saintmarkpresby.org or 301-530-2613



Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, author of *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus*, and co-editor of *The Jewish Annotated New Testament*, will be giving a public lecture. The lecture will be followed by dialogue with the audience. Amy-Jill Levine is University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies, E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Professor of New Testament Studies, and Professor of Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt University Divinity School and College of Arts and Sciences.

Professor Levine has a B.A. from Smith College, M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Duke University, and honorary doctorates from Christian Theological Seminary, Drury University, the University of Richmond, the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest, and the University of South Carolina-Upstate. She has been awarded grants from the Mellon Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the American Council of Learned Societies. Her other publications include *The Meaning of the Bible: What the Jewish Scriptures and Christian Old Testament Can Teach Us* (HarperOne), the edited collection, *The Historical Jesus in Context* (Princeton), and the fourteen-volume edited series, *Feminist Companions to the New Testament and Early Christian Writings* (Continuum). In 2011, Professor Levine became Affiliated Professor at the Woolf Institute: Centre for the Study of Jewish-Christian Relations at Cambridge, UK. A self-described "Yankee Jewish feminist who teaches in a predominantly Christian divinity school in the buckle of the Bible Belt," Professor Levine combines historical-critical rigor, literary-critical sensitivity, and a frequent dash of humor with a commitment to eliminating anti-Jewish, sexist, and homophobic theologies.

The lecture is free, although donations will be accepted to cover the cost of this and other programs.

Additionally, on **Monday, November 14, 2011 at 10:00am** at Saint Mark Presbyterian Church, Dr. Levine will engage in conversation with local clergy on the topic of preaching and teaching, particularly how to avoid anti-Judaism. To RSVP for the Monday, November 14 event, please email: pastor@saintmarkpresby.org.

Sacred Listening Circles – Group Spiritual Direction

We are living in a time of upheaval and great change. Some tell us we are on the cusp of a major evolutionary leap. What is imperative is deep listening, also known as sacred or prayerful listening. This is the listening we will cultivate in these circles - actively receiving the wisdom and deep stirrings of the Spirit in each person. We do this for ourselves, each other and on behalf of every person and our planet. Led by Patience Robbins.

Wednesday evenings, 6:30-9:00pm

10/12, 11/9, 12/7 2011; 1/11, 2/8, 3/7, 4/4, 5/2, 5/16, 2012

Shalem Library, 3025 4th St. NE #22, Washington, DC.

www.shalem.org

Group Spiritual Direction Workshop

November 13-16, 2011

- Experience group spiritual direction within a prayerful community
- Deepen your contemplative grounding for this prayer practice through authentic sharing and faithful listening
- Expand your capacity to listen to God on behalf of others
- Find support for your call and explore ways to develop this ministry in your geographic area
- Nurture trust and discover how this process can transform the world
- Spend time in a rural setting with plenty of spaciousness for walking, resting, star gazing and soaking in beauty.

Participants will immerse themselves in spiritual community as they experience group spiritual direction and explore their own call to this ministry. Through experiential learning, presentations, small group gatherings and prayerful silence, participants will steep themselves in the contemplative grounding which is the heart of this ministry. There will be significant time for silence and for enjoying the rural setting. Presentations will include the themes of: listening, spiritual community and intercessory prayer. Each person will experience and practice a listening/sharing process that aids depth, trust and healing.

Whether you are new to group spiritual direction, wish to explore it further, or are seeking support and guidance for forming a group, please consider joining us for this workshop.

[To read an article on Group Spiritual Direction, click here.](#)

Date: Sunday, November 13 (with 6 pm dinner) - Wednesday, November 16, 2011 (after lunch)

Place: The Bellfry, 1397 Zollman's Mill Road, Lexington, VA 24450
The Bellfry is located on a family farm of over 1500 acres of hilltops, pastures, and woods in the Shenandoah Valley.

Leaders: Patience Robbins and Anne Grizzle

Cost: \$475 by October 13, 2011
\$525 after October 13, 2011

Cost includes tuition, shared room and meals. A few private rooms are available. Space is limited.

Patience Robbins has been on the Adjunct Staff of Shalem Institute for 15 years, a spiritual director for 25 years and has led workshops and retreats for many years.

Anne Grizzle is an author, spiritual director, social worker, retreat leader and a graduate of Shalem's Facilitating Group Spiritual Direction Program.

Patience & Anne have many years of experience with group spiritual direction and love to share it with others.

[Registration - on the Shalem website](#)

NCP's Transformation Team and Church Development Committee invites pastors and lay leaders to attend an Introductory Seminar to launch

The Acts 16:5 Initiative

"So the churches were strengthened in the faith and increased in numbers daily."

The Introductory Seminar is a stand alone event where you will learn how the Acts 16:5 Initiative supports congregations of all sizes as they engage in a deliberate three-year process of congregational transformation. During this process, the Vital Churches Institute acts as a "coach" to participating congregations, offering content, encouragement, counsel and graceful accountability to each congregation as it grows in vitality by God's grace and works to accomplish missional goals.

Date: January 17-18, 2012

Time: Tues 10:00 AM – Wed 4:00 PM

Location: Vienna Presbyterian

124 Park Street NE, Vienna VA 22180

Led by E. Stanley Ott, President of the Vital Churches Institute

Stan Ott has served congregations in transformation for over thirty years and understands the dynamics of congregational transformation. He has taught the principles of congregational vitality and leadership and of missional engagement to thousands of people throughout the United States and abroad. Stan has degrees from Georgia Tech, Purdue University, and McCormick Theological Seminary. Publications he has written include, *Twelve Dynamic Shifts for Transforming Your Church*, *Transform Your Church with Ministry Teams*, and *The Vibrant Church: People-Building Plan for Congregational Health*.



Contact person for questions or more information: Geoff McLean
at pastor@cpcfairfax.org or 703-278-8365.

Register on-line at www.thepresbytery.org. Select "Around NCP" from the pull down menu, select "Presbytery Sponsored Events" and click on Acts 16:5.