

Adult Education November–December 2017



“The Annunciation,” by Botticelli. Robert Lehman Collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Born Alessandro di Mariano Filipepi, Botticelli lived and worked in Florence at the end of the 15th century. This painting, tempera and gold on wood, dates to the 1480s or early 1490s and measures 7½ × 12¾ inches.

Facing Challenge

Sundays, 9:15 a.m., in the Assembly Room
Unless otherwise noted

In November we dig into challenging issues of mental health, refugees, international politics, and peace between people of different faiths. Then join us in December for the inspiring art and music of Advent and learn about the “subtle hints which artists suggested to faithful eyes....”

Nov 5

Dealing with Depression and Suicide

Larry Alphas

Depression and suicide are common mental disorders that have an impact on our ability to function. They severely impact those living with these disorders and their families and friends. Globally, more than 300 million of God's people suffer from depression, the leading cause of disability. Explore new insights into understanding and managing these diseases.

Larry Alphas currently works for Janssen Pharmaceuticals and serves as co-moderator of adult education at Nassau. He is a psychiatrist and neuropharmacologist by training. For the past twenty-five years he has worked as a clinical scientist in the pharmaceutical industry, doing Phase I-IV work in a variety of disorders including schizophrenia, suicidality, depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety, epilepsy, neuropathic pain, and traumatic brain injury.



Nov 19

China's Rise and U.S. Security Interests in Asia

Tom Christensen

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How does the growth of China's economic, military, and political power pose challenges and opportunities for the United States and its Asian allies and security partners? Explore the response to North Korea's nuclear weapons development and China's maritime disputes with its neighbors.

Thomas J. Christensen is William P. Boswell Professor of World Politics of Peace and War and Director of the China and the World Program at Princeton University.



Nov 26

Muslims and Christians Working Together in Peacemaking

David Shenk

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In a world where complex conflicts sometimes divide Muslims and Christians and where mutual suspicion can build walls, come and hear several stories of partnerships and meaningful dialogue between Muslims and Christians committed to peacemaking. The goal is to build bridges of loving and respectful connection between Christians and Muslims, while faithfully confessing Christ.

David Shenk spent much of his life as a Mennonite missionary among Muslims in Somalia, Kenya, and the US. He was born in Tanzania to frontier missionary parents. He now continues to travel and teach worldwide about Christian/Muslim dialogue. A prolific writer, his most popular book, originally published in 1980, is *A Muslim and a Christian in Dialogue* by Badru Katerega and David W. Shenk.



Nov 12

Refugees Matter

Deborah Amos

Deborah Amos of NPR will bring us an update on current refugee resettlement developments, with a focus on the Canadian scene. Deborah is taking a Princeton University class to the province of Manitoba to report on Canada's private resettlement program, where individual Canadian families sponsor a refugee family until they get established.

Deborah Amos covers the Middle East for NPR News with reports heard on "Morning Edition," "All Things Considered," and "Weekend Edition."



Dec
3

Art of the Annunciation

Jason Oosting

As we enter this season of waiting, we will explore the first scene of Christ's life on earth, the moment when Mary learns of God's plan for salvation. Using works of art from the Medieval to the Modern, we will see how artists across time and space have chosen to represent the initial moment of awareness of the incarnation. By visualizing the revelation of the greatest of all news, we can ponder these things with Mary as we wait for Christ.

Jason Oosting teaches Advanced Placement Art History at Montgomery High School. He lives in Hopewell with his wife Shari, two sons Asher and Ezra, and two daughters Elia and Ada.



Dec
17

Christmas Theology for the Eye

Karlfried Froehlich

More than entire chapters, one verse in the New Testament has shaped Christian theology from its beginning to this very day: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). Condensed into a single Latin word, "incarnation," this verse expresses on its deepest level the central mystery of the Christian faith. Examine a number of art works from the early and medieval period depicting Christ's nativity and explore the question of how the artists wrestled with the meaning of this central mystery in the context of the theology of their time. The result will be the discovery of a host of cross-connections and subtle hints which artists suggested to faithful eyes and expected to be understood by generations of people well versed in the rich tradition of Christian symbolism. This discovery may enrich our own insight into Christmas art as well.

Karlfried Froehlich, a native of Saxony, Germany, moved to the United States in 1964, taught at Drew University and, from 1968 to 1992, at Princeton Theological Seminary, where he held the Benjamin B. Warfield chair in church history. Karlfried is an active member of the Lutheran Church (ELCA). His scholarly interests include the history of Christian art and the history of biblical interpretation, a field to which he has contributed significantly through his teaching and writing.



Dec
10

Advent Hymns and Luther's Reformation

Paul E. Rorem

While Martin Luther is most often remembered for having posted his "95 Theses" on the door of Wittenberg Castle Church, he, indeed, wrote several pertinent Christmas Hymns. This class will serve to enlighten us about Luther's musical abilities and will focus on "Savior of the Nations, Come" (*Glory to God* #102), a composition we sing at Nassau on occasion during our celebration of Advent.

Paul E. Rorem is Princeton Theological Seminary's Benjamin B. Warfield Professor of Medieval Church History. An ordained Lutheran minister, he is interested in medieval church history. His courses cover the confessions and influence of St. Augustine, the Christian mystical tradition, medieval Christianity, and the spiritual and theological legacy of the Pseudo-Dionysian writings.



1 Corinthians

Sundays, 9:15 a.m.
Maclean House (Garden Entrance)



George Hunsinger leads a verse-by-verse examination of the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. In this epistle the Corinthian congregation wrestles with doctrinal and ethical issues in conversation with their “founding pastor,” Paul, and Paul offers compelling good news in

his understanding of the cross, the resurrection, worship, and life together in Christian community.

George Hunsinger is Professor of Systematic Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary. This is his 21st year leading this Bible study!

ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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Thinking Ahead...

ALL-AGES SERIES

MASS INCARCERATION

A Romp through the Old Testament

Sundays, November 5–19 and December 3
9:30 a.m.
Niles Chapel

True to the definition of romp, “to play boisterously,” Bill Phillippe will move participants quickly through the 39 books of the Old Testament and do it with a style he believes the writers would approve, even if some biblical interpreters might not.



Copies of Bill’s book *A Romp through the Bible* will be provided free to the first 12 participants.

One reviewer of the book says, “Phillippe’s work will be seen by some as blithe and brash. That’s the best part. He takes us on a tour of what and where and why the Bible happened, and by peeling off the dusty old trappings he brings to light an enchanted story about people, and a God, we’d like to know better.”

William R. (Bill) Phillippe, upon retirement, chose to move to Princeton primarily so he could worship and engage at Nassau Presbyterian Church. He is a retired Presbyterian minister and author of *A Romp through the Bible*, and most recently, *The Pastor’s Diary*. Bill has served a number of churches as pastor, was a Synod Executive for 10 years, and has served as Acting Executive Director of the General Assembly Mission Council.