



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OFFERINGS FOR ADULTS

## STARTING FRESH

By Millie A. Shin, Interim Director of Christian Education & Youth Ministries

Spring is a time of new life and new beginnings, and even more so for Christians, who celebrate the Easter miracle during this time. This spring will hopefully see some new beginnings around us, and our spring lineup encourages you to seek this type of growth for ourselves, our church, and our world. We hope our classes on evangelism, renewal, and eco-theology will challenge you to join the Spirit's work of transforming our world!

There are several important schedule changes to note for the spring season:

- Due to extended services during Easter, there is no class during the 10 am CE hour.
- Beginning Sunday, May 24 (Memorial Day Weekend), there will be just one morning service at 10:30 am. CE classes will be held at 9:15 am from May 24 through September 6 (Labor Day Weekend).
- After the book group led by Beverly Bartlett ends on June 14, Lectionary Bible Study will be offered during the CE Hour through the summer months.

### BOOK GROUP

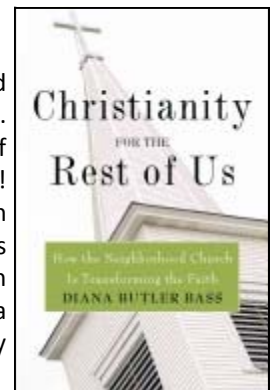
## CHRISTIANITY FOR THE REST OF US

BY DIANA BUTLER BASS

May 3–June 14

Discussion Led by the Rev. Beverly A. Bartlett

For years now we've been told that mainline churches are dying and the only thriving churches are the "conservative, evangelical" ones. Diana Butler Bass studies, teaches and writes about the renewal of mainline churches. While many may be troubled, they are not dying! In this book, Bass shares the results from her three-year research project of spiritually vital mainline Protestant churches. What makes these churches vital? How are they transforming the faith? What can they teach us here at MAPC as we strive to grow as persons and a community of faith? Come join in what promises to be a lively discussion during these six weeks!



Copies of the book will be available for \$10 beginning Sunday, April 19 in the Church House Lobby following the morning services. Please read the first four chapters in preparation for the first discussion on May 3.

### Ongoing

#### Monday Night Women's Bible Study—2nd and 4th Mondays

The Women's Bible Class at MAPC is an inspiring and enriching experience where we grow together in faith and fellowship. We all bring a snack and socialize at 6 pm in the Phillips Lounge, then begin our study at 6:30 pm. Our program entails opening with prayer, Bible study and discussion; then we ask for individual prayers and end with a closing prayer. We all would heartily welcome new members to our group. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Virginia De Bono, our facilitator, at (212) 750-1383.

#### Peer-Led Bible Study—Sundays

For those interested in small group Bible study, we are continuing last year's class in the Basement Shelter at 10 am on Sundays. We have a nucleus of 5 or 6 regulars, and visitors are always welcome. The atmosphere of the group encourages everyone to share their thoughts—which typically generate some lively discussion. All interested should contact Jeff Armstrong at jarmstrong1@nj.rr.com.

## Paul's Letter to the Polar Bears

April 19

Douglas G. Grace

This is a class about Christian responsibility to creation in discipleship to our covenant in Christ. The Apostle Paul proclaims in Galatians 6:14-16 the Christian rule that “new creation is everything.” It builds upon the Genesis pattern of the creation story that leads to the destruction of violence and corruption by the flood, and God’s eventual faithful covenant to Noah and “every living creature.” What does the Biblical vision of redeemed new creation have to say today, in light of environmental destruction due to human exploitation of God’s resources? What does Christ’s covenant of universal moral order say about our global economic system that pollutes God’s earth and robs the polar bear of a home? What is our Christian call as a new creation in Christ to participate in God’s great clean-up of the earth? Douglas Grace will present his current work on a chapter manuscript for an upcoming book on eco-theology to be published this Spring by the Faith and Order Commission of the National Council of Churches in Christ.

In preparation for the class, participants are asked to read a short selection on creation and covenant from New Testament scholar N.T. Wright’s book, *Paul in Fresh Perspective*. Copies are available at the Church House reception desk.

## The E Word (evangelism)

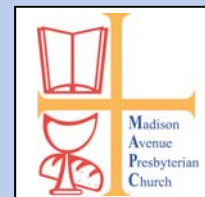
May 3, 10, 17

Millie A. Shin

One of the dirtiest words in Christianity today seems to be the word *evangelism*, which can make even the most confident Christian feel uncomfortable, squeamish and even perhaps a little guilty. Popular conceptions of evangelism unfortunately derive falsely from proselytization, which urges us to challenge the intelligence and integrity of others around us who do not share our beliefs. This is not the purpose of evangelism, and certainly not a very loving attitude to take toward our neighbors.

This course seeks to reclaim the concept of evangelism for ourselves and our own community, where it can be a fresh source of vitality for our church. Unshackled from the insidious imperatives of proselytization, evangelism can take its true place as the expression of believers exploring a faith that is mystifying, intriguing, and exciting. In this class, not only will we redefine what evangelism is for ourselves, but we will work through newer models of evangelism so that it can once again take its place as part of our regular Christian discipline.

Adult Christian Education Overview			
Classes are Sundays at 10 am until May 24, when they move to 9:15 am (unless otherwise noted).			
April	5	Lectionary Bible Study	
	12	<i>Easter: No Classes</i>	
	19	Paul's Letter to the Polar Bears Douglas G. Grace	
	26	<i>Reserved for Zimbabwe Delegation Visit</i>	
May	3	Book Group	The E Word Millie A. Shin
	10	The Rev. Beverly A. Bartlett	
	17	(Group meets at 10 am)	
	24	Lectionary Bible Study	
	31	(Group meets at 9:15 am)	
June	7	Summer Lectionary Bible Study Begins (Through September 6)	Peer-Led Bible Study Sundays 10 am (until May 31)  Monday Night Women's Bible Study 2nd and 4th Mondays 6 pm (year-round)
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MADISON AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

921 Madison Avenue; New York, NY 10021  
Tel. 212-288-8920 Fax 212-249-1466  
Web Site: [www.mapc.com](http://www.mapc.com)

### PASTORAL STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Fred R. Anderson, *Pastor*  
The Rev. J.C. Austin, *Associate Pastor*  
The Rev. Beverly A. Bartlett, *Associate Pastor*  
The Rev. Carmen C. Goetschius, *Parish Associate for Global Ministry*  
Dr. Andrew E. Henderson, *Director of Music and Organist*  
Mary W. Huff, *Associate Director of Music*  
Douglas Grace, *Interim Outreach Ministries Coordinator*  
The Rev. Robert C. Louer, III, *Parish Associate for Global Ministry*  
Millie A. Shin, *Interim Director of Christian Education & Youth Ministries*

As part of MAPC's mission, our Educational Ministries are offered to visitors and members without charge. Join us for these opportunities for enrichment, fellowship and growth. For information, contact Millie Shin at [mas@mapc.com](mailto:mas@mapc.com).