

**A NEW SEMESTER FOR ADULT CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES**  
**JANUARY 8 – APRIL 1 (PALM SUNDAY)**

**January 8: “Launch Sunday” for all adults in the Lounge, 9:30 am:** Adults are invited to gather in the Lounge for fellowship, coffee and light snacks, and a preview of adult Church School classes, some continuing and some new, which will resume or begin on 1/15

**January 15 – classes resume**

**COFFEE & CONVERSATION, *Library, Marilyn Metcalf and Joe Pardington, facilitators:*** The Coffee and Conversation Class explores contemporary issues, religion, and moral/ethical implications of putting faith into action. We provide support for one another as we grapple with these issues together. The class offers opportunities to build friendships with fellow Binkleyites through shared laughter, tears, questioning, and friendship. All are welcome, and are encouraged to share in leadership of the class.

**ESL BIBLE STUDY, *Room 15, Maria Palmer, teacher:*** This class is designed for those learning English as a second language and interested in Bible Study. It will focus on stories from both the Old and New Testaments. Participants will learn basic English vocabulary and share from our own cultures and histories about why the stories are important.

**SEARCHING FOR GOD WITH MIND, HEART, SOUL AND STRENGTH, *Lounge, Collins Kilburn, teacher:*** The course is structured around the book *Quest for the Living God: Mapping Frontiers in the Theology of God*, by preeminent feminist and Roman Catholic theologian, Elizabeth A. Johnson. Johnson writes with fire and lucidity about what she sees as a burgeoning renaissance of insights into God in our time - a golden age of discovery. She explores contemporary issues and situations which challenge traditional religious understandings but which can also provide glimpses of the Divine in fresh and surprising ways, thereby deepening our understanding. Examples of the situations she probes include the following: pervasive secularism, unspeakable suffering and evil in a "good" creation, persistent and wretched poverty, women's experience and liberation, African American and Hispanic struggles, religious pluralism, and the ecological crisis. In her "exploration into God" Johnson draws liberally upon a great variety of other theologians and thinkers, ancient and modern. Each class will include a presentation plus ample time for discussion. Reading the book is strongly recommended.

**UNRAVELING THE GOSPELS: MAKING SENSE OF DIFFERENT ACCOUNTS OF JESUS' SIGNIFICANCE, *Sunroom, Allen Davidson and Michael Palmer, teachers:*** The New Testament contains four accounts of the life of Jesus—the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. This class will begin by examining the one that most scholars consider to be the oldest: the Gospel According to Mark. We will then discuss how the others may be related to this earliest account, and how each author left clues about his purpose in writing yet another version of Jesus' life. The remainder of the class will focus on Luke's Gospel. Writing at least fifteen years after Mark, Luke stated why he did so, and left evidence enabling us to see even more deeply into his reasons for writing. Join us for an exciting introduction to both the history and the literature of the canonical Gospels.

**PARENTING WITH GOD, *Room 17, Christine Jernigan, Anna Kirby, and Robert Hughes, facilitators:*** This class is geared towards parents of young children and follows a discussion-based format. Example topics include “Starting with Sunday: From 'church clothes' to church school”, “Who is God: Big questions of faith”, “Spiritual Practices: What can we do at home?”, “Discipline: Where is God in the do's and don'ts?”, and “Global Love: Instilling a love for equality for all”. Topics for each week will be posted so people can attend the subjects that interest them. We will invite a panel of veteran parents for a question and answer session near the end of term. All are welcome!