



Fall 2008 Programs and Events

*Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart
And try to love the questions themselves.*

Ranier Marie Rilke
Letter to a Young Poet

Living & Loving the Questions

Our culture faces economic, ecological and political challenges. This fall at Mary & Martha's Place we will explore living in the ambiguity of our times and turn to those thinkers who help us access our inner wisdom and give us new ways to think about the changes that lie ahead.

Resources for the fall classes include:

My Grandfather's Blessings by Rachel Naomi Remen

A New Earth by Eckhart Tolle

Mary & Martha's Place in the Morning (MMP-AM), meets the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 am for a light breakfast in a member's home (don't let that prevent you from trying this meeting!). Individual members prepare and present the program (don't let that stop you either). Cost: \$5 or is included in MMP membership.

MMP-AM group meeting dates for the fall:

September 4

October 2

November 6

December 4

MMP Evening & Saturday programs:

September 25 **Considering Eckhart Tolle**
7:00 pm

We'll use The New Earth to discuss our spiritual consciousness. Cost is \$20 or included in MMP membership.

- October 4** ***Dancing with Mystery, with Barbara Findeisen (MA, MFT)***
9:00 am - 4:30 pm, registration begins 8:45 am
 Come to this workshop to learn practical applications for reaching spiritual wholeness while functioning in our stressful world. Cost (includes lunch): \$75/general; \$60/MMP members. CEU credits (6) are available for \$10.
- November 6** ***Hearing the Parables Through Jewish Ears, All Saint's Episcopal***
 Amy-Jill Levine, a professor of New Testament at Vanderbilt University, will speak as a Jewish woman who has studied the bible extensively. Cost: MMP will reserve a block of seats and dinner at All Saint's for \$10. The lecture is free and open to the public.
- November 13** ***Women, Chocolate & the Arts with Maggie Edson***
7:00 pm
 The Dessert Party, our annual fundraiser, is a delicious evening for the mind, the body and the spirit! Join us for "Old Swimsuits", a talk by Pulitzer-prizewinning playwright, Maggie Edson, opening night of our fabulous Artists' Market and decadent desserts. Cost: \$40.
- November 14 & 15** ***Artists' Market***
10:00 am – 3:00 pm
 Our Artists' Market continues for two more days after the Dessert Party. Get a jump on those holiday gifts from our collection of fine artists.
- December 11** ***Winter Solstice***
7:30 pm
 This evening of quiet, music and poetry is a prelude to the frantic cultural season of Christmas. Sponsorships and donations appreciated.

The Thursday Class meets every other Thursday at 11:30 am. The class is led by a theologically trained teacher who facilitates conversation, engaging members in relating their personal journey and stories. The intent is to learn with the mind, and to grow in the spirit.

Thursday group meeting dates for the fall:

- September 4** ***Lunch gathering*** and introduction to the year's theme.
- September 11** ***Living and Loving the Questions***
 We live in a time of great change; Rachel Naomi Remen is a wise teacher with vast personal and professional experience "living into what life brings" without blame, and learning from it. We will read excerpts from her book, My Grandfather's Blessing.

- 25** **My Life's Blessings**
The class will continue with Rachel Naomi Remen's book, My Grandfather's Blessing, specifically looking at our own questions and places of change.
- October** **9** **Living the Questions: Beginning the Conversation**
We turn to Eckhart Tolle author of A New Earth to explore his perspective on the times in which we live and to hear his advice for living.
- 23** **Continuing the Conversation: Listening to Eckhart Tolle**
- November** **6** **Continuing the Conversation: Exploring with Tolle and Remen**
- 20** **Spiritual Practices for Living & Loving the Questions**
In this class we will look at select spiritual exercises that can help open possibilities in our lives.
- December** **4** **Advent: Called Again to Rebirth and Hope**
Advent offers us an opportunity for rebirth and renewal. This class will explore advent and begin the preparations for the season.