

The Cleveland Ecumenical Institute *for* Religious Studies

Marriage in the New Millennium

Adrian Thatcher, D.Phil.

Saturday, October 3, 2009 | \$30 | 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. | Add \$10 for a box lunch; must be pre-ordered.

Student rate: \$20 (Add \$10 for a box lunch)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church | 2747 Fairmount Boulevard | Cleveland Heights, Ohio | 44106

A Theology of Covenantal Relationships can enrich our approach to marriage, even in a society that doesn't know what to do with homosexuality, high rates of divorce, raising children outside marriage, sexual freedom, co-habitation and new understandings of partner relationships. This symposium presents a chance to reframe marriage and its values in a way that helps persons in all stages of life, those on the marriage journey, those in partner relationships, and those who are single, divorced or widowed. For those believers who are eager to be inclusive, here is help in how to face this challenge.

Adrian Thatcher, D.Phil., is a Professor of Applied Theology at the University of Exeter in England. Dr. Thatcher has written and lectured widely on issues of marriage, cohabitation, sexuality, families, and the uses and abuses of the Bible in the churches. His most recent books are *The Savage Text* (2008), an examination of uses of the Bible by Christians to spread hate and fear, and *Theology and Families* (2007). Once a Baptist Minister (1966-74), he is now a lay member of the Church of England. After 36 years of marriage, Dr. Thatcher became a widower in 2002. He has a married son and two grandchildren. Sociologist **Dr. Gary Polster**, professor at Ursuline College, will introduce the symposium with an overview of the state of marriage today.

The Prophets—The Personalities Behind the Prophetic Literature

Presenters from The College of Wooster, Hiram College, Ursuline College and Case Western Reserve University

Six Wednesdays: October 14 to November 18, 2009 | \$90 | 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Ursuline College | 2550 Lander Road | Pepper Pike, Ohio | 44124 | Daley Hall | Mary Beaumont Dining Room (campus maps will be sent to all registrants)

This fascinating course, featuring a different expert each week, but drawn together and linked by one moderator, **Dr. George Matejka**, will offer insight into the personalities behind the prophetic books of the Bible. The prophets were a diverse lot; they were people of faith, listening and speaking what they understood to be God's Word to the people of their day. Because they were so imaginative and sometimes irreverent in their utterances, the speech of the prophets is daring and unpredictable, and often confronts and even affronts the present day reader, much as it would have done to the original hearers.

George Matejka, Ph.D., will moderate all of the sessions. **Rabbi Joan Friedman**, Asst. Professor of Religious Studies and History at The College Wooster, will introduce the Hebrew Prophet; **Professor John Gordon**, Chaplain and Assoc. Professor of Religious Studies at Wooster, will relate Jesus to the Hebrew Prophets; **Professor George Matejka**, Chair and Professor of Philosophy at Ursuline College, will present the Prophets Hosea and Micah; **Professor Peter Haas**, Chair and Professor of Religious Studies at Case Western Reserve University, will present Jeremiah, Prophet of Conflict, Despair and Consolation; **Professor Dixon Slingerland**, Professor of Biblical Studies at Hiram College, will present the Prophet Amos; **Professor Charles Kammer**, Chair and Professor of Religious Studies at Wooster will present: "Longing for a New Heaven and a New Earth: Hearing Again the Voices of the Prophets."

Beyond Sunday Morning: Formation for Christian Discipleship

Ursuline College Ministry Faculty

Five Thursdays, October 22, 29, November 5, 12, 19, 2009 | \$75 | 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Fairmount Presbyterian Church | 2757 Fairmount Boulevard | Cleveland | 44118

This five week series will provide participants with a basic and thorough introduction to biblical studies, church history, theology and theological method, Christian ethics and morality, and pastoral care and counseling. The series will be led by the faculty of Ursuline College's Master of Arts in Ministry program. Participants will: *Gain a working knowledge of church history, basic Christian doctrine, and interpretation of scripture; *Learn and practice theological reflection; *Acquire practical knowledge and skills in the area of listening, reflection, and basic Christian care and counseling. The course is appropriate for anyone who loves Christian Education and Formation but wants more!

Presenters: **The Graduate Ministry Faculty of Ursuline College: Linda Martin, Ph.D.** – Church History; **Conrad Gromada, Ph.D.** – Doctrinal Issues; **Alison Benders, Ph.D., J.D.** – Ethics and Morality; **George Matejka, Ph.D.** – Scripture and Exegesis; **Carol Ann Killoran, D.Min.**, Pastoral Counseling and Theological Reflection.

Healing Through Life's Pains: The Sacred Art of Living and Dying

Richard Groves, M.A., J.C.L.

Saturday, November 14, 2009 | \$40 | 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. | Add \$10 for a box lunch; must be pre-ordered.

Student rate: \$20 (Add \$10 for a box lunch)

Jennings Hall | 10204 Granger Road | Garfield Heights | 44125

- Experience a moving workshop-retreat with Richard Groves, internationally acclaimed author and teacher and Founder of The Sacred Art of Living Center in Bend, Oregon
- Discover the lessons from faith and culture that help us live through the painful times of life- including illness, aging, bereavement, divorce and the end of life.
- Encounter the wisdom about suffering and healing from the world's great spiritual traditions, especially as found in the "common ground" of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Richard Groves is an internationally respected teacher of the sacred art of living and dying. A chaplain for twenty-five years, Richard speaks nine languages and has earned graduate degrees in theology, ethics, world religions and law. Richard and his wife, Mary, are the founders of the Sacred Art of Living Center in Bend, Oregon. More than fifteen thousand students throughout North America, Europe and Asia have graduated from the courses taught by Groves. Richard's latest book, *The American Book of Living & Dying: Lessons in Healing Spiritual Pain* has been widely compared to the groundbreaking work of Elisabeth Kubler-Ross.

REGISTRATION FORM *For fuller course information, consult our website, www.ceirs.org.*

The Cleveland Ecumenical Institute | 2747 Fairmount Boulevard | Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106-3696

I would like to register for the following course(s): _____ Box lunch Yes No

Course Title(s): _____

Instructor's Name(s): _____

Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

(street address, city, zip)

Congregation Name: _____ Denomination: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

*Make checks payable to CEIRS. The cost of text books is not included in the registration fee. Deadline for registrations is one week prior to the date the course begins. **Scholarship aid is available for courses and special events.***

Join us and enjoy the challenge and stimulation of adult learning opportunities for laity and clergy of diverse religious traditions as you participate in either four- or eight-week courses or one-day workshops.

Sponsors

- Church of the Covenant (Presbyterian)
- Church of the Resurrection (Catholic)
- Church of the Saviour (United Methodist)
- Fairmount Presbyterian Church
- Forest Hill Church Presbyterian
- Gesu Catholic Church
- Heights Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- International Partners in Mission
- John Knox Presbyterian Church
- Lakewood Presbyterian Church
- Lakewood United Methodist Church
- Old Stone Presbyterian Church
- Plymouth Church of Shaker Heights (UCC)
- St. Ann Roman Catholic Parish
- St. Noel Roman Catholic Church
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church
- Trinity Episcopal Cathedral
- United Church of Christ WRA Church & Ministry, Lay School
- Ursuline College Graduate Ministry Program

Attention:

The Cleveland Ecumenical Institute for Religious Studies has a new website and a new email address!

Go to www.ceirs.org to see it. You can find the latest schedule of courses and workshops, new items, coming attractions, fuller descriptions, links to some of our sponsoring churches, and a way to reserve a seat for yourself by completing part of your registration online.

For example, we are bringing inspirational writer (*The Art of Pilgrimage and Stoking the Creative Fires*) and TV talk-show host (Global Spirit on Link TV) **Phil Cousineau** to town on Saturday morning, September 26. Check out the link to his website (www.philcousineau.net) and let us know if you are interested.

To register for any of our courses, please use the registration form provided or contact **Bernadette LaGuardia** at **216-283-1507**; info@ceirs.org.

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