



THE PATHWAYS CENTRE

A FORUM FOR THEOLOGICAL INQUIRY

10209-123 STREET, EDMONTON, ALBERTA, T5N 1N3

PHONE:(780) 428-6299 FAX:(780) 423-0941
MAIL@PATHWAYS-CENTRE.ORG



Chairman's Message

Have you ever felt that there is more to life than fighting traffic or lining up at a check-out in a big box store? Or that you would prefer to spend your time exploring issues about meaning rather than watching the endless diet of television drivel? If your answer is yes to these questions, then Pathways is the organization for you. Our programs for the coming year, Fall 2009 to Spring 2010, promise to both excite and ignite your interest and intellect.

Meeting Paul Again for the First Time is a discussion led by Bruce Miller of John Dominic Crossan's latest book - The First Paul.

February 2010 brings us an opportunity to explore in depth the Biblical account of the *Binding of Isaac, or Ishmael*, if you are of the Islamic faith. Whenever I hear that "Bible story" as part of the Sunday morning lectionary, I squirm in my seat. I am sure many others do too. What is its significance in the Hebrew Scriptures? How has it influenced Western Society for millennia? Why did Abraham question God's goal of eradicating Sodom, yet he didn't stand up to him when he was told to sacrifice his son? The conference on February 13 and 14 is jam-packed with both plenary sessions and workshops.

Saving Jesus, a recent DVD series from *Living the Questions*, begins in October. This twelve-week program will be offered in six-week segments, in late 2009 and in the beginning of January 2010.

Don't miss our fundraiser, an exploration of *Wine in the Bible*, followed by a wine and cheese tasting. Look for more details on our website.

We, the Board members of Pathways, enjoy planning learning activities around a theological theme. If you have skills in the areas of Promotion and Marketing, Communications, Hospitality, or Program Planning and would like to work with people who are committed to our mission, contact us by telephone, e-mail, or now on Facebook.

Until next time,

Nancy Heule
Chair of Pathways Learning Centre



What's Up ...

Welcome...

Lisa Marie Gaudreau joined the Pathways Centre Board in Spring, 2009. She is a member of Hosanna Lutheran Church where she has volunteered for much of her life.

Over the years she has been involved with nearly every aspect of church life but has focused on education and worship. She was delighted to find a place where asking questions was encouraged at this point in her faith journey.

She is also a member of the Revelations Book and Gift Cooperative Board.

Where in the World is James?

After three and a half years in ministry at Robertson-Wesley United Church, **James Ravenscroft** has accepted a call to St. Albert United Church. James is appreciative of the years he spent at R-W, especially the wonderful opportunity to work with Pathways Centre and bringing to fruition thought-provoking lecture series like "Heresy or Holiness", "Confronting our Shadows", and the *Greening Our Spirits* weekend with Sally McFague. James looks forward to his new role as he takes to the pulpit on a more regular basis and works with his teammate *Nancy Chegus* in educational endeavours. James has shifted congregations but not passions. James will continue to help with programming into the foreseeable future.

And Here is Bruce...

Life after politics has been rather full for **Bruce Miller** - teaching courses for the U of A Faculty of Extension, hosting a tour to Egypt, Jordan and Israel, and some preaching assignments. This fall will be even busier. Although officially a retired minister and retired (not by choice!) politician, retirement obviously does not mean much for Bruce.

On Sept. 1st Bruce will take up his new position (part-time) as the Minister of Garneau United Church. Garneau is a small progressive faith community near the University of Alberta and across the road from University Hospital (11148 - 84th Ave.). He is excited about this opportunity to work with others in shaping new directions in worship.

For many years, Bruce has been convinced that given the research of the Jesus Seminar we need to rethink both theology and worship. Friends are invited to visit Garneau to experience what they have to offer. He will continue to teach courses through the University of Alberta Faculty of Extension, at Enterprise Square (the old downtown Bay building).



Pathways Programs Fall 2009 - Spring 2010

Meeting Paul Again for the First Time

The First Paul by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan, (available at [Revelations Book Co-operative](#) or Robertson-Wesley United Church for \$30). A book discussion group led by *Rev. Dr. L. Bruce Miller*.

3 Thursdays: 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
September 24, October 8 and October 22
at Robertson-Wesley United Church.

These discussion group sessions are in anticipation of the sold out Borg/Crossan event Oct. 30 & 31. Purchase of the book would be helpful, but Dr. Miller will introduce and summarize each chapter. We will focus on reading and discussing specific passages of Paul's letters in table groups.

Sept. 24: *"How to read a Pauline Letter (or how to read letters from Grandma!)"* focusing especially on the Letter of Paul to Philemon. (Chapters 1 & 2)

Oct. 8: *"Jesus Christ is Lord" and "Christ Crucified."* (Chapters 4 & 5)

Oct. 22: *"Justification by Grace Through Faith" and "In Christ."* (Chapters 6 & 7)

Given the fact that many would say "Forget Paul, let's go back to Jesus," and many others would argue "Forget Jesus, fast-forward to Paul," Borg and Crossan present an interesting and thought provoking view of the continuity of Jesus and Paul. They argue that Paul was remarkably faithful to the message and vision of Jesus himself, and that if we see Paul in the context of the Roman Empire of the first century, it will be like "meeting Paul again for the first time." Join us for an important and timely discussion.

Pre-registration suggested.
Members: \$5; Non-members: \$10

Saving Jesus

We are pleased to offer *Saving Jesus*, a 12 session small group DVD-based exploration of Jesus Christ for the third millennium. It is perhaps the best in the *Living the Questions series*.

Fall Session: Robertson-Wesley U.C.
6 Mondays: **Oct. 19 – Nov. 23, 2009;**
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Winter session: location TBA.
6 Mondays: **Jan. 4 – Feb. 8, 2010;**
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Printed materials:
Members \$18; non-members \$20.
Check website or Facebook for updates.



"It's all Greek to Me!!"

Are you interested in studying New Testament Greek? Edmonton Orthodox priest and Greek scholar **Ron Poworoznik** will offer an introductory New Testament Greek course if there is enough interest from Pathways Centre members and their friends.

For more information contact Pathways Centre: 780-428-6299; or
E-mail: mail@pathways-centre.org



SOLD OUT!

MARCUS BORG AND JOHN DOMINIC CROSSAN PRESENT: *Following Jesus in a Time of Empire*

October 30 & 31, 2009 is sold out but the organizers are in dialogue for a return engagement on a different topic. Check our website for updates.



Project Ploughshares Presents: *Peacemaker James Loney*

Each year, the Edmonton chapter of *Project Ploughshares* honours a member of the community for his or her outstanding contribution to the cause of peace and justice. This year the Salvos Prelentzos Peace Award will be presented to former city councilor, *Michael Phair*.

Mr. Phair is being recognized for his long standing support of the peace movement, primarily through his support of human rights and ongoing local and global development. Given Mr. Phair's support of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community, this is a particularly apt year to honour Mr. Phair as 2009 is the 40th anniversary of the beginning of the gay rights movement.

Mr. James Loney is the keynote speaker at the award ceremony. Mr. Loney a peace activist and one of four members of *Christian Peacemaker Teams* who was kidnapped in Iraq in November 2005. Even in the midst of such a personal crisis, he was committed to the cause of pacifism. He is reputed to have said that he would rather die in captivity than be party to the death through military intervention of any of his captors. He and 2 other Christian Peacemaker members were freed in March 2006. The fourth peacemaker, an American, was killed by their captors. While Loney was held hostage, his family and husband kept secret that he is gay out of fear for his safety.

Project Ploughshares is an ecumenical agency of the Canadian Council of Churches established in 1976 to implement the churches' call to be peacemakers and to work for a world in which the cycle of war is broken so that justice and peace will abound. While primarily a national organization, there are several local chapters of *Project Ploughshares* that work to raise awareness about peace issues in the local community.

November 2, 2009 @ 7:30 p.m. Edmonton City Hall. Open to the general public, no charge for admission.

The Binding: An Interfaith and Interdisciplinary Look at the Story of Abraham, Isaac, and Ishmael

We know the biblical story well – despite God's promise to Abraham that God will make him into a great nation through his descendants, God asks Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac (or Ishmael according to the story in the Qur'an). Each of the three Abrahamic faiths has tried to explain the story, generally focusing on the end when God stays Abraham's hand and a sheep is sacrificed instead. But in the end the beginning of the story leaves many people scratching their heads – was God really asking for a child sacrifice?

This story continues to carry power within the three Abrahamic faiths, be it the importance of God's promise, what it foreshadows about Jesus, or the depth of commitment God asks of us. This story which both repels and fascinates us reveals much about us, about our understanding of God, and how we view each other as fellow descendants of Abraham. Come and explore the story of "The Binding" as we unpack its significance in terms of the Jewish, Muslim and Christian faith traditions and how our interpretations of the stories hold us back from engaging each other on the road to peace. Come and explore its hold on us in literature, family dynamics, socio-economic, gender relationships, and the arts.

The Binding will include keynote addresses by a scholar of each faith community: Dr. Frances Landy, Dr. David Goa, and Dr. Ibrahim Abu-Rabi. In addition, participants may choose two workshops to examine the story from additional lenses.

Saturday, Feb. 13, 2010; 6 – 9 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 14, 2010; 1 - 6 p.m.
Stanley Milner Library Edmonton Public Library

Members: \$40; Non-members: \$50
Student rate available upon request.



Pathways Centre Gala Fundraiser "Wine in the Bible"

A fundraiser for Pathways Centre with *Dr. Bruce Miller and Dr. Mark Heule*. The evening will include a theological and Bacchanalian discussion of wine as featured in the scriptures, followed by wine tasting and snacks.

Time, Place, and Cost TBA.



U of A Extension Courses by Bruce Miller

"Angels and Demons: In Search of Divine Presence,"

6 Tuesday evenings: Nov. 3 - Dec. 8

"Gnosticism and the Occult,"

6 Wednesday evenings: Feb. 3 - Mar. 10.

These courses are open to everyone. No exams or essays to write, just great discussion and learning. For more information contact: the Liberal Studies office at 780-492-2408.

"Theology at -30°C in the Alberta Tar Sands."

A special public lecture sponsored by St. Stephen's College on *November 6, 2009*.
(Time and place to be determined).



Sub-Committee Volunteers Needed

Have you always wondered how such great Pathways events come together? Have you wanted to be a part of making it all come together? We are seeking people who would like to share their energy and ideas in the following areas: Hospitality, Promotion and Marketing, Communication, Program Planning, and Fundraising.

If you're interested in working on a sub-committee in one of those areas, contact us at: mail@pathways-centre.org, by phone at (780) 428-6299 or on Facebook.