

BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING

Monthly Luncheon Lectures



Each month from September through June, the Massachusetts Bible Society sponsors a luncheon at various Massachusetts locations with a talk by an area scholar or person of note. Below is a list of luncheons during the 2009 fiscal year.

- Sept. 2008, Boston: Rev. Dr. Rodney Petersen: *Society, Violence and the Churches: An Assessment of Where we are in Ministerial Preparation*
- Oct. 2008, Boston: Rev. Dr. H. Paul Santmire: *Ritualizing Nature*
- Nov. 2008, Boston: Rev. Maren Tirabassi: *lovetotellstories.calm*
- Dec. 2008, Boston: Rev. Dr. Matthew Myer Boulton 'God Against Religion: *Biblical Texts/Critique of Christianity*
- Jan. 2008, Boston: Dr. Peggy Bendroth: *The People and the Book: A History of the Bible in American Culture*
- Feb. 2008, Shrewsbury: Dr. Margaret Benefiel: *The Soul of a Leader: The Bible & Leadership in America*
- March 2008, Boston: Ms. Celia Sirios: *The Study of the Bible in American Catholic Life*
- April 2008, Newton: Rev. Anne Robertson: *God with Skin On: Finding God's love in Human Relationships*
- May 2008, Boston: Bishop Thomas Shaw: *Lay Leadership: Engaging Scripture*
- June 2008, Gloucester: Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray: *Faith, Rebellion, Disbelief: The Bible on American College Campuses*

Advent Study Group

The four Gospels of the New Testament describe the origins of Jesus of Nazareth in different ways. On the four Mondays of Advent, Advent study group participants were led to examine the genealogies and birth narratives of Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John, seeking to understand how each of these Gospels describes Jesus differently, and what those differences mean for the theological perspective proposed by the authors of the four Gospels. Each session begins with a lecture, followed by a discussion.

While it is customary for this class to be led by our Field Education Student, this year we were blessed to have the leadership of one of our Trustees, the Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray. We did not accept a Field Education Student this year due to the constraints of moving our offices and preparing for the bicentennial events.