

## Bishop's Study Conference for Church Workers

Feb 7-10, 2010 – Charis Camp, Rosedale BC

# ***Christianity as Path and Practice***

presented by

## **Rev. Dr. Sharon Betcher**

Associate Professor of Theology at Vancouver School of Theology

### **Our Presenter**

### **The Reverend Dr. Sharon Betcher**



Sharon Betcher is the Associate Professor of Theology at the Vancouver School of Theology in Vancouver, BC.

When we take down the metaphysical scaffolding of “needing to be saved from this life” and turn to the question incumbent upon us today, i.e., “How shall we live?,” Christianity might effectively take the form of “Path and Practice.” To try on the idea of “Christianity

as Path and Practice” is but one attempt to address culture’s hurts and hopes, while calling us out of nostalgia for Christianity’s past and calling us into an active love for the world. In the face of ancient empire, early Christianities got inventive with the habits, the pleasures, the desires and the values of the body. An exit visa from today’s globalizing empire, its aggravation of environmental degradation and human psychic and economic poverty, may likewise come through the invention of new ways of flourishing—by ways of paths and practices, that is. We can get as creative and innovative as did early Christians, who did not hang onto the body of Jesus, but insisted on “seeing the Lord” (Sawicki)—insisted on practicing Christian freedom and love of life in such a way as to disarticulate the ways in which that empire got its grip on their bodies. This lecture series engages but several contemporary cultural concerns (economics, fear, pain, and “God-talk in troubled times”), then thinks with and through Christian theology and comparative religious conversation, so as to pose practice-able Christian responses.

### **Book Suggestions**

Keller, Catherine. *On the Mystery*.

Trozzo, Eric, ed. *Stand Boldly: Lutheran Theology Faces the Postmodern World* (Three Trees Press, 2009).

Betcher, Sharon. *Spirit and the Politics of Disablement* (Fortress, 2007)

Kearns, Laurel and Catherine Keller, eds., *Ecospirit: Religions and Philosophies for the Earth* (Fordham 2007)

McFague, Sallie. *A New Climate for Theology and Life Abundant*.

Rivera, Mayra. *Touch of Transcendence*.

Caputo, John. *The Weakness of God*.

### **Your second life -This is not your parents’ retirement”**

John Wolff , BA (Econ) CMA CFP EPC

This is a practical and informative workshop that explores the new realities of retirement. Retirement has changed! It is no longer an event-it is a transition. We no longer work 40 years, stop, and live 5-10 years. Today we work 25-30 years and transition into a new phase of life that may last up to 40 years. **What is your retire-mentality?**

What are the issues? What are the opportunities? What are the risks?

#### **What do you need to do differently?!**

This workshop provides valuable information for individuals in understanding the implications of this changed landscape and how to plan for it.

As a Financial Consultant John Wolff works with clients to ensure they have a complete and comprehensive plan that will ensure they enjoy the Second Life they desire. His vision and core values are to build long term client relationships built on honesty, integrity and trust and giving back to his community.

## Worship Services

Rev. Brenda Nestegaard Paul and our synod worship committee are preparing our worship services.

## Accommodations

Charis Camp is a retreat and camping facility owned by the Evangelical Missionary Church. It features a new and spacious Retreat Centre, dining hall, dormitory, cabins, and a gymnasium in a wooded setting just east of Chilliwack. Registrants can expect a clean, modern facility, hearty meals, and a co-operative staff. The phone number for the Camp is (604) 794-7790.

- Because Charis Camp is geared to a camping clientele, its supply of bedding and linens is limited. Therefore registrants must bring their **own bedding, pillows, and towels**. Because of a limited supply of bedding at \$10/set the committee will provide these items only for those individuals who simply cannot bring such supplies with them due to air travel.
- Please bring **separate footwear** for outdoors and indoors.
- **Accommodations** will normally be 4 per room. If a personal need dictates a private room, it will be available at a nearby motel at an additional charge.
- Our event will begin in the evening on Sunday, Feb. 7 with dinner. The event will end on Wednesday after lunch.

## To get to Charis Camp

Take the Annis Road exit, #129, off the Trans-Canada Highway, and then watch for the sign to Hack Brown Road. The access to Hack Brown Road is located on the eastbound freeway entrance ramp. Head east on Hack Brown Road for about 3 kilometres and watch for the signs for the Camp. Please park in the upper lot.

## Registration

The Bishop's Study Conference is an educational event for all clergy, interns, parish workers, and professional lay workers in the BC Synod. In a recent convention, the BC Synod re-affirmed its bylaws requiring all rostered pastors to attend functions of the Synod, including the Study Conference. We ask that those who will not be in attendance to contact Bishop Gerhard Preibisch.

The fees:

- **First registrant** from a parish – \$350\*;
  - **Additional registrant** – \$250\*;
  - **Students registered with BC CTCL** – \$75\*.
- (\*See notes on registration form)

Please fill out the registration form, mail it to the Synod Office and the registrar. Registrations must be received at the Synod office by January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Registrations received after that date will be assessed an additional late registration fee of \$25. Fees may be submitted with the registration form but are due upon arrival at Camp Charis.

If you are unable to attend or you need financial assistance, please contact Bishop Preibisch.

Address any questions or special needs related to registration to the registrar:

**Fred Gehrs**. (604) 795-7566, or fpgehrs@uniserve.com

Day Use for commuters: Camp Charis has requested that we charge \$12/day surcharge for those who are staying off site and commuting.

For those who are not able to attend the whole event but wish to attend one day the fee will be \$75/day.

## Travel

All registrants are responsible for their own travel arrangements. The Study Conference operates on an equalisation basis, and will reimburse travel expenses according to the schedule below. For arrangements falling outside these parameters, the committee will defer its decision until it has had opportunity to consult fully.

- (a) Cheapest weekend airline rates;
- (b) Vehicle allowance: \$0.37 per kilometre (the first 200 km are excluded, there is no premium for carrying extra passengers);
- (c) We ask that those attending from the interior rent a van and carpool.

Full reimbursement for ferry passage and other surface travel costs for all Island, Sunshine Coast, and Powell River registrants.

Please carpool wherever possible. Registrants who need transportation to and from ferry terminals, airports and Charis Camp are asked to contact colleagues in ministry to help them. The Committee is not able to make such arrangements.

## Bishop's Study Conference Committee

The Committee comprises volunteers from the Synod's collegium of professional ministers. Because this event historically has been a conference for clergy, all the current members are ordained. But the Committee welcomes additional personnel from all sectors of professional ministry in the Synod. The Committee is also ready to hear your comments and concerns.

Thematic choices for this series is guided by seminary curriculum, study conference history, episcopal consultation (and the whims of the conference committee which is always seeking to expand its membership.)

Bishop's Study Conference

February 7-10, 2010

**Registration Form**

IDENTIFICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation \_\_\_\_\_ Employing Agency \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Office Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

(Be sure to make a photocopy of the completed form and keep it for your records.)

REGISTRANT STATUS AND FEES

Please check the appropriate category and submit the pertinent fee. It is the expectation of the Synod that congregations will budget for and pay these fees. **Make cheques payable to "BC Synod," further designating to "Study Conference."** (The Bishop has limited access to discretionary funds which can be used to assist those in dire need.)

- \_\_\_\_\_ **\$350 for the First Registrant** (normally Pastor or Senior Pastor of the congregation)  
\$375 after January 15, 2010
- \_\_\_\_\_ **\$250 for each Additional Registrant** (Intern, Chaplain, Executive Officer, Retired, Parish Worker, Lay Professional)  
\$275 after January 15, 2010
- \_\_\_\_\_ **\$75 Theological students** special rate for Theological Student registered with BC CTEL  
\$100 after January 15, 2010

Who is paying the fee?     the congregation     employing agency  
                                   continuing ed. fund     self

ACCOMMODATION

I am:                     a night owl                     an early bird

Preferred roommates:    1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve single accommodation in a nearby motel.   

I am unable to bring along bedding and towels.   

Medical/dietary requirements: \_\_\_\_\_

The issue or program of ministry I want to discuss during "Interest & Discussion Groups":  
\_\_\_\_\_

TRANSPORTATION

Please note: the committee is no longer making travel arrangements for registrants. Please connect with our colleagues.

Please complete this form and send it together with payment to:

**BC Synod Office**  
**80 East 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue**  
**New Westminster BC V3L 4R5**

Make cheques payable to "BC Synod," further designating to "Study Conference."

Be sure to make a photocopy of the completed form for your records.