



Public Lecture Series 2016

A Community Service for the General Public

Free admission – No registration required

Tuesdays in Steinbach

7:00 – 8:30pm, in the Atrium, Eastman Education Centre, 385 Loewen Blvd.

Saturdays in Winnipeg

7:00 – 8:30pm, in the Travel Alcove, McNally Robinson Bookstore, 1120 Grant Ave.

Tuesdays in Winkler

7:00 – 8:30pm, in the Chapel, Winkler EMM Church, 600 Southview Drive

February 2 in Steinbach, February 6 in Winnipeg, February 23 in Winkler

“God is My Running Mate: The Bible in Contemporary Politics”

Cameron McKenzie, MDiv, Associate Professor of Old Testament

In today’s political landscape, the left, the right, and everyone in between, whether in Europe or North America, seem compelled to use the Bible to bolster their political causes and careers. How has the Bible come to exert so much influence on public policy, from debates about the environment, abortion and human sexuality, to foreign policy and the economy?

Cameron McKenzie is the Academic Dean at Providence University College. His research interests include the Bible and the arts, children’s illustrated Bibles, reception history of the Bible, and the construction of gender in the Bible.

February 9 in Steinbach, February 13 in Winnipeg, March 1 in Winkler

“Stories in Stitches: The Social History of the Quilt”

Terry Kennedy, MLS, MA, Library Director

Quilts are much more than just cozy blankets under which we sleep and dream. They are material culture, gendered creations, and aesthetic and social statements. We will consider the influence of social, political, artistic, and technological developments on quilt-making traditions. Additionally, the work of Manitoba quilters will be examined.

Terry Kennedy (MLS, University of British Columbia, MA, Regent College) is the Library Director at Providence. A committed quilter, she is a member of the Rat River Quilt Guild as well as the Manitoba Prairie Quilters.

February 16 in Steinbach, February 20 in Winnipeg, March 8 in Winkler

“Having Dominion: A Christian Approach to the Environment”

Bruce Duggan, M.B.A., Director of Buller Centre for Business

The year 2015 saw a flurry of news on climate change. Prior to the agreement of 196 countries represented in Paris in December, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the World Meteorological Organization, and Pope Francis had all released major statements on one of the defining issues of our time. How do Christians sort through the data, opinions, and theologies of climate change? Do we have obligations to act? What is the source of those obligations? How can we best navigate this complicated intersection of faith, politics, and business?

Bruce Duggan (M.B.A., University of Manitoba) teaches management and business ethics in the Business Administration program at Providence University College. He is a member of the Steering Committee of 50by30.org, a board member of the Manitoba Environmental Industries Association, and was recently appointed to the Manitoba Round Table on Sustainable Development.

February 23 in Steinbach, February 27 in Winnipeg

“Knock Knock... Who's There?... Jehovah's Witnesses... Who?”

Michael Gilmour, Ph.D., Professor of New Testament and English Literature

If pop culture is any indication, there is broad even if vague awareness of Jehovah’s Witnesses and their activities. Gags about their door-to-door proselytizing efforts on at least two episodes of *The Simpsons* suggest as much, depending as they do on this baseline of knowledge for the jokes to land. But this is likely as far as it goes for most who find representatives from the local Kingdom Hall on their doorstep. This lecture is a ‘getting to know the neighbors’ exercise—description, not debate—offering a brief introduction to the Jehovah’s Witnesses and some of their distinctive beliefs and practices.

Michael Gilmour (PhD, McGill University) is the Providence Department Head of Biblical Studies and Practical Theology. His most recent books are *Eden’s Other Residents: The Bible and Animals* (Cascade, 2014), and *The Gospel According to Bob Dylan: The Old, Old Story for Modern Times* (Westminster John Knox, 2011).

March 1 in Steinbach, March 5 in Winnipeg

“David Bowie in Darkness: How Celebrities Navigate the Mediated World”

Nicholas Greco, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Communications and Media

Since the 1980s, British singer David Bowie has presented himself as a figure in darkness, progressively more hidden. He requires an audience for his continued celebrity but works against that audience in the creation - or rather the destruction - of his star image. This talk explores Bowie's negotiation of his celebrity during his later career.

Nicholas P. Greco (PhD, McGill University) has research interests in the nature of celebrity, the construction of masculinity, and the sacramental nature of television. His most recent book is *David Bowie in Darkness: A Study of 1. Outside and the Late Career* (McFarland & Company, 2015).

March 8 in Steinbach, March 12 in Winnipeg, March 15 in Winkler

“Human Rights and Religion: Their Awkward Waltz”

Dennis Hiebert, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology

To understand the difference between freedom **of** religion and freedom **from** religion, and to realize that the former makes the latter impossible, is to observe how in and out of step human rights and religion can be. Some religious ideas have contributed to generating the concept of human rights, while some religious programs promote human rights as one of their primary purposes. Yet some religious actions violate human rights, and some religious groups seek the protection of human rights. Is a more coordinated dance possible?

Dennis Hiebert (PhD, University of Manitoba) is the Providence Department Head of Arts and Sciences. He is also editor of the *Journal of Sociology and Christianity*, a past president of the Association of Christians Teaching Sociology, and the author of *Sweet Surrender: How Cultural Mandates Shape Christian Marriage* (Wipf & Stock, 2013).

March 15 in Steinbach, March 19 in Winnipeg, March 22 in Winkler

“Jesus and Women: The Untold Stories”

Val Hiebert, Ph.D. (Cand.), Assistant Professor of Sociology

The women of the Ancient Near East were understood to be inferior human beings at best, and nothing more than the property of men at worst. Given that this is the culture into which Jesus was socialized, his interactions with women as recorded in the Gospels were not only scandalous, but nothing short of revolutionary. But without an understanding of who women were in ancient Israelite culture, we read these stories without recognizing their profoundly counter-cultural nature, or their potential implications for the current evangelical debate regarding women in the church. Come and hear the untold stories of Jesus and women.

Valerie Hiebert (PhD candidate, University of Western Sydney, Australia) teaches in the Sociology Department at Providence, specializing in gender, children and violence, and consumer culture and simpler living. As a community educator, she advocates for greater cultural literacy within the church on numerous social issues.

For further information: Phone 204-433-7488 ext.272, Website: <http://www.providenceuc.ca/>