

Montclair Presbyterian Church 2016 Fall Women's Retreat

Midwives, Harlots, and Saints: Women of the Bible and their Legacies



October 7-9, 2016

(5 pm Friday to noon Sunday)

Ralston White Retreat Center

2 El Capitan Ave., Mill Valley, CA 94941

Join us for a weekend of lively conversation around the lives of five women of the Bible whose stories leap off the page and into our theological imaginations.

The world of the Bible is a man's world. The women we meet there are constrained in their choices, and their power and identities are determined in relation to the men in their lives. Often we don't even learn their names. They are mothers, daughters, sisters, and wives. They reside in cities, towns, villages, and palaces, but are largely relegated to the private sphere of hearth and home.

Yet the women of the Bible frequently find it within themselves to navigate the strictures of patriarchy in order to enact a better way. With the guidance of Rev. Dr. Carol Miles, we will see how they defy social conventions, speak truth to power, exercise civil disobedience, and act on their divinely given instincts to bring the justice, compassion, and redemption of God into the world. How might their lives inspire us?

**Come for a soul-nourishing weekend of renewal:
reflecting, resting, walking, praying, playing, singing, creating, dining.**

Registration fee: \$295 for the weekend (5 meals, lodging, program).

- Some full scholarships are available.
- Register on Sundays in September or contact Women's Retreat co-chairs Eloise Gilland (eloisegilland@gmail.com), Jean Gregory (jeancgreg@gmail.com), or Melinda Maxwell-Smith (melinda.maxwellsmith@gmail.com).

Rev. Dr. Carol Antablin Miles has an abiding interest in feminist theology and women's spirituality. She has led numerous retreats and bible study groups for women. A self-described scholar-mom, she regularly uses the ordinary and extraordinary experiences of women as a source of theological reflection. Her publications include "And Your Daughters Shall Prophesy: Preaching as Women's Work" and "An Ambidextrous Sense of Call: Reframing the Questions of Work and Family."



Carol is a graduate of U.C. Berkeley and Princeton Seminary, where she earned both M.Div. and Ph.D. degrees. Her ministry of theological education led her first to Austin Seminary in Austin, Texas, where she served as Assistant Professor of Homiletics from 1999-2005, and subsequently to Luther Seminary in Saint Paul, Minnesota, where she was Associate Professor of Biblical Preaching from 2005-2008.

In 2008, Carol was called to be the Presbyterian Campus Pastor and Executive Director of Westminster House, a ministry of the San Francisco Presbytery at U.C. Berkeley. After Westminster House closed in 2011, she has been a Visiting Professor at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, which is a member school of the Graduate Theological Union. She also teaches in our own Adult Ed program.

Carol currently resides in Orinda and enjoys (among other things) strong coffee, well-told stories, and friendships new and old. She remains a lifelong fan of her two sons, Ethan (21) and Sam (19), both away at college.

Ralston-White Retreat Center (<http://www.ralstonwhiteretreat.org/>)



The Ralston-White Retreat Center (RWRC) has lots of porches and is surrounded by 39 acres of redwood forest with hiking trails. There is no air conditioning but the forest setting makes for a pleasant climate, especially in October. Free wireless internet is available throughout the mansion and on the grounds.

Accommodations

As soon as you complete the registration form and make payment, you will be asked to select your room. There are semi-private rooms and larger rooms that can sleep four to six. Bathrooms with showers are shared. There are a few private rooms that we reserve for those who need them for health reasons.

Carpooling

We are organizing a carpool and recommend that you plan to use it. (The last part of the drive to the RWRC is on a narrow, winding road.)