

# St. AndrewAcademy

*What Christians Believe and Why It Matters*

Fall 2006

Monday mornings and Tuesday evenings

Class Times: Monday mornings:  
9:45 – 10:00, gathering time  
10:00 – 11:30, class time

Tuesday evenings:  
6:45 – 7:00, gathering time  
7:00 – 8:30, class time

Class Dates: Monday mornings:  
9/11, 9/18, 9/25, 10/9, 10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6 – **Note: No class on Oct 2!**  
Tuesday evenings:  
9/12, 9/19, 9/26, 10/10, 10/17, 10/24, 11/7, 11/14 – **Note: No class on Oct 3 or Oct 31!**

Instructor: Scott L. Engle, Ph.D.

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You can find the syllabus and other course materials at the website for the St. Andrew Academy: [www.standrewacademy.org](http://www.standrewacademy.org). Simply go to the “Scott’s Academy Classes” page and you’ll find the link to the materials for this class.

IN THE EVENT OF BAD WEATHER, CHECK THE ACADEMY’S WEBSITE, WHERE I’LL POST ANY CANCELLATION ANNOUNCEMENTS ON THE HOME PAGE.

If we have to cancel a class, we’ll simply extend the class a week further into November.

Course materials:

Your course notebook

A study Bible – see *Practical Bible Study Tools* if you’d like some advice.

Highly recommended (available the first night of class):

*The Life We Claim: The Apostles’ Creed for Preaching, Teaching, and Worship*, by Rev. James C. Howell, Abingdon Press, 2005.

Also good (probably easiest to find at Amazon.com):

*The Apostles’ Creed*, by William Barclay, Westminster John Knox Press, 1967 & 1998

*“I Believe”*: *Exploring the Apostles’ Creed*, by Alister McGrath, IVP, 1991 & 1997

*The Creed*, by Luke Timothy Johnson, Doubleday, 2005 (A more scholarly look at the Nicene Creed)

*Exploring and Proclaiming the Apostles’ Creed*, edited by Roger E. Van Harn, Eerdmans, 2004

Course description:

What are the essential beliefs of the Christian faith? What have nearly all Christians proclaimed for 2,000 years to be true about God, Jesus, and the Good News? From the beginning, Christians have used brief statements of faith to summarize their beliefs. The Apostles’ Creed is one of the oldest and most widely used of these creeds. But do we just recite the words without really understanding what they mean? In this lecture-oriented class, we’ll explore the Apostles’ Creed, seeking a better understanding of this proclamation and a better appreciation of why these basic beliefs matter.

## Schedule of Class Activities – Fall 2006

### *What Christians Believe and Why It Matters*

Class Date	Topic	Reading Assignments
September 11 & 12 (Wk #1)	Introduction to the class “I believe in . . .”	
September 17 & 18 (Wk #2)	“God, the Father Almighty” “Maker of Heaven and Earth”	Chapters 1-3 in <i>The Life We Claim</i>
September 25 & 26 (Wk #3)	“Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord” “Conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary”	Chapters 4-5 in <i>The Life We Claim</i>
October 2 & 3	<b>No Class</b>	<b>No Class</b>
October 9 & 10 (Wk #4)	“Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried” “He descended into hell”	Chapters 6-7 in <i>The Life We Claim</i>
October 16 & 17 (Wk #5)	“The third day he rose from the dead” “He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead”	Chapters 8-9 in <i>The Life We Claim</i>
October 23 & 24 (Wk #6)	“The Holy Spirit” “The holy catholic church”	Chapters 10-11 in <i>The Life We Claim</i>
October 30 and November 7 (Wk #7)	“The communion of saints” “The forgiveness of sins”	Chapters 12-13 in <i>The Life We Claim</i>
November 6 and November 14 (Wk #8)	“The resurrection of the body” “The life everlasting”	Chapter 14 in <i>The Life We Claim</i> Reading from <i>Exploring and Proclaiming the Apostles’ Creed</i>