**BLOOD BROTHERS** – September 7 (Tuesday)
As a child, Elias Chacour lived in a small Palestinian village in Galilee where the townspeople were proud of their ancient Christian heritage and lived at peace with their Jewish neighbors. But in 1948 and ’49 their idyllic lifestyle was swept away as tens of thousands of Palestinians were killed and nearly one million forced into refugee camps. How was he to respond? In a world of tension and terror, this book offers hope and insight that can help each of us learn to live at peace. The BBC discussion will also provide a look at the recent Presbyterian General Assembly paper on the Middle East.

**RUN WITH THE HORSEMEN** – October 4 (Monday)
If you enjoyed *To Kill a Mockingbird* it’s quite likely that you will also delight in this home-spun, between the two World Wars, story of a boy growing up in a small Georgia town. Ferrol Sams and his wife, along with several of their children, have practiced medicine in Fayetteville, south of Atlanta. While originally written by Sams for his grandchildren (and are the first part of a trilogy) a wide audience of readers have also enjoyed rediscovering much of their own childhood, too.

**ADAMS AND JEFFERSON** – November 1 (Monday)
Professor John Ferling tells a fascinating and rather much forgotten story of what may well have been America’s most bitter presidential election, the stormy birth of our political parties, and some of the significant ways the founders of this republic differed from one another. Why read a book about an event 210 years ago? Perhaps Faulkner’s answer about studying the past is best: Because it isn’t over yet.

**A CHRISTMAS MEMORY** – December 6 (Monday)
Truman Capote is at his best in sharing the stories of his southern childhood at Thanksgiving and Christmas in this delightful little book. In previous years the BBC has focused upon Dickens *Christmas Carol* but this year Christmas will take a decidedly southern twist with this little story – and favorite southern Christmas dishes and desserts for a great holiday evening.

**RIVER OF DOUBT** – January 3 (Monday)
Theodore Roosevelt was an enthusiastic advocate of the road trip as an antidote to the blues. So after he ran on the Bull Moose ticket in 1912, losing his bid to take back the presidency, Roosevelt needed some serious adventure to shake off the funk of defeat. He found it in South America. Some might understand Candice Millard’s intriguing work as also a story about starting over - beginning again. For TR it was the challenge of being America’s youngest ex-president wondering what he might do next. Perhaps every life has its “river of doubt.”
THE SUNFLOWER – March 7 (Monday)
As a young man imprisoned in a Nazi concentration camp, Simon Wiesenthal was taken one day from his labor brigade to a hospital at the request of Karl, a mortally wounded Nazi soldier. Tormented by the crimes in which he had participated, including the murder of a family with a small child, the SS man wanted to confess to—if possible, receive absolution from—a Jew. Must we, can we, forgive the repentant criminal, no matter how heinous the crime? Can we forgive crimes committed against others? What do we owe the victims? Twenty-five years after the Holocaust, Wiesenthal asked leading intellectuals what they would have done. Collected into one volume, their responses became one of the most enduring documents of Holocaust literature and a touchstone of interfaith dialogue.

SAINTS AT THE RIVER – April 4 (Monday)
When the 12-year-old daughter of a wealthy banker drowns in an upcountry South Carolina river, her death sets off an emotionally charged battle between the grieving parents, who want to put up a dam to recover her body, and the local environmentalists, who will risk everything to defend the pristine state of their river. Saints at the River, Ron Rash’s second novel is rooted in our region and comes close to home in many ways. Rash teaches at Western Carolina University and lives in South Carolina.

HAVE A LITTLE FAITH – May 2 (Monday)
What if our beliefs were not what divided us, but what pulled us together? In Have a Little Faith, Mitch Albom offers a beautifully written story of his remarkable eight-year journey between two worlds. An eighty-two-year-old rabbi from Albom’s old hometown asks him to deliver his eulogy. Meanwhile Albom also becomes involved with a Detroit pastor—a reformed drug dealer and convict—who preaches to the poor and homeless in a decaying church with a hole in its roof. This little book is about a discovery of life’s big purpose and the comfort of believing in something bigger than yourself.

THE POWER AND THE GLORY – June 6 (Monday)
TIME magazine lists this 1939 work of Graham Greene as one of the top 100 English language novels of the 20th Century. The central figure is a “whisky priest,” on the run in Mexico in the 1930’s, during years when the Catholic Church was being suppressed by the Mexican government. Guilt-ridden, always craving alcohol—at one point he downs the communion wine—the priest manages all the same to carry out his duties on the road and to perform small acts of grace, even the ones that seal his fate. Does God sometimes use us “in spite of ourselves?” What does it take to destroy faith? Or to destroy the Church?

Visitors and new friends always welcome
Morning Group 10:30 a.m. — Evening Group 7:00 p.m.
The BBC Meets in THE ANNEX - Chestnut Street
If you are interested or have questions please contact Dr. Bill Arthur
(864-991-5354 or barthur@fpcspartanburg.org)
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