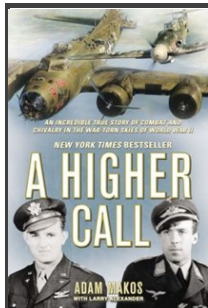




Bill's Book Club

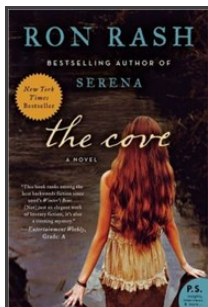
First Presbyterian Church, Spartanburg, SC

Selections 2013-2014



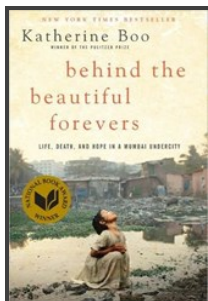
***A HIGHER CALL* (Adam Makos) - Tuesday, September 3, 2013**

Here's a true story from World War II about two pilots, German and American, who meet high in the skies over Bremen, Germany on December 20th, 1943. Charlie Brown is the pilot of a B17 bomber, just finishing a raid on an aircraft production facility. His plane has been hit multiple times by German flak. Suddenly from behind he spots a German fighter plane and realizes that he and his crew have no chance to survive ... unless. What an experience as these two pilots meet one another!



***THE COVE* (Ron Rash) - Monday, October 7**

One of the latest works of fiction by a popular regional author. You will find the cove deep in the mountains of North Carolina. It's a forbidding place where spirits wander and even the light fears to travel. So the townsfolk of Mars Hill believe—just as they suspect that Laurel Shelton, the lonely young woman who lives within its shadows, is a witch. A stranger appears, carrying nothing but a silver flute and a note explaining that his name is Walter and he is mute. Beneath his silent exterior Walter harbors a secret that makes everything seem uncertain.



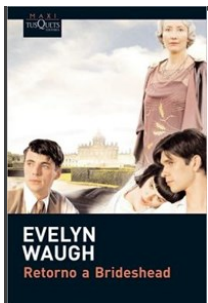
***BEHIND THE BEAUTIFUL FOREVER* (Katherine Boo) - Monday, November 4**

Glimpse and feel the opposing realities of poverty and wealth in a searing visit to the Annawaldi settlement, a flimflam slum that has recently sprung up in the western suburbs of the gigantic city of Mumbai, perched tentatively along the modern highway leading to the airport and almost within a stone's throw of new, luxurious hotels. We meet Abdul, whose daily grind is to collect trash and sell it; in doing so, he has "lifted his large family above subsistence." Other personalities, with compelling stories, follow quickly.

***THE VERY FIRST CHRISTMAS* (Paul Maier) - MONDAY, DECEMBER 2 / 7:00 PM ONLY**

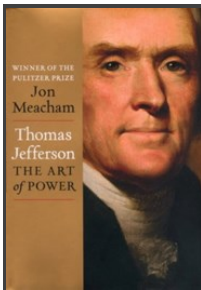


Here's a small 32-page book that recounts the birth of our Savior with excellent background information and photos. Though you'll be busy during the Christmas season, you will surely want to take a few moments and reflect upon the "reason" for it all. We'll read just a couple excerpts at our ANNUAL BOOK CLUB CHRISTMAS GATHERING – this year in Fogartie Hall at 7 PM. Bring a friend, a dessert or salad, and a good appetite and be ready for a great evening of fellowship.

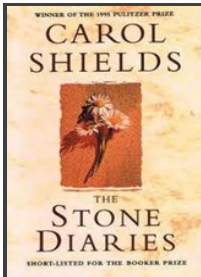


***BRIDESHEAD REVISITED* (Evelyn Waugh) - Monday, January 6, 2014**

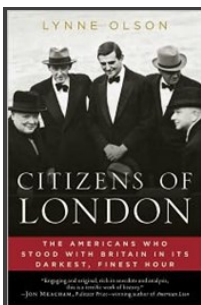
This classic is perhaps even better known from film and television. During WW II Charles Ryder, a captain in the British Army, finds himself stationed at "Brideshead," a baroque castle that recalls England's prior standing in the world. Exhausted by the war, he takes refuge in recalling his time spent there, years earlier, with the family and heirs of Lord and Lady Marchmain. Ryder, a religious skeptic, experiences a family divided by their confusion over how British elite and religious belief fit in the modern world.



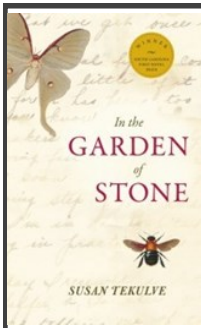
THOMAS JEFFERSON: THE ART OF POWER (Jon Meacham) - Monday, February 3
In this magnificent biography, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author gives us Jefferson the politician and president - a great and complex human being forever engaged in the wars of his era. Philosophers think; politicians maneuver. Jefferson's genius was that he was both and could do both, often simultaneously. Such is the art of power. From the writing of the Declaration of Independence to his complicated life at Monticello, Jefferson was central to the age.



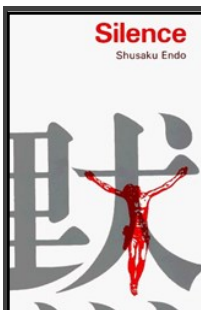
THE STONE DIARIES (Carol Shields) - Monday, March 3
Daisy Goodwill Fleet is a seemingly ordinary woman whose life is marked by death and loss from the beginning, when her mother dies during childbirth. Through marriage and motherhood, Daisy struggles to find contentment and discover her life's true purpose. This is the only novel to win both the Governor General's Award (1993) for English language fiction in Canada and the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction (1995) in the United States.



CITIZENS OF LONDON (Lynne Olsen) - Monday, April 7
Here's a well-researched (and written) account of a group of farsighted Americans in London at a time when many of our leaders were still beset by doubt about a faraway war. This trio included New Englander John Gilbert Winant, railroad baron and later Governor of New York W. Averill Harriman, and famed newsman Edward R. Murrow. They saw isolationism as an ultimate menace to their own way of life and were convinced that in helping save London, they were saving America.



IN THE GARDEN OF STONE (Susan Tekulve) - Monday, May 5
Converse College faculty member won the South Carolina First Novel Prize with this story that begins near daybreak in War, West Virginia, when a train derailed and spills an avalanche of coal over sixteen-year-old Emma Palmisano's home, trapping her sleeping family inside. The year is 1924, and the remote mines of Appalachia have filled with families like Emma's immigrant laborers building new lives half a world away from the island of Sicily. Here's a multi-generational tale about the nature of power and pride, love and loss, and estrangement and forgiveness. We hope to have the author as our special guest!



SILENCE (Shusaku Endo) - Monday, June 2
"Silence," an intense historical novel, is set in sixteenth century Japan, where Portuguese missionaries must contend with traders from rival European nations and the persecution of Christians by Japanese feudal lords who try to drive Christianity out of Japan by torturing priests into denying their faith. Shusaku Endo meanwhile writes from within the terrible grasp of suffering the 'silence' of God through it all. We'll have a panel of invited guests to lead our discussion this time.

Visitors and new friends always welcome

Morning Group 10:30 a.m. — Evening Group 7:00 p.m.

The BBC Meets in THE ANNEX - Kennedy Street

If you are interested or have questions, please contact Dr. Bill Arthur
(864-991-5354 or barthur@fpcspartanburg.org)

Check out our blog - <http://billsbookclub.wordpress.com/>

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