

2011 LENTEN BIBLICAL TEACHING SERIES

**Grace Episcopal Church Haddonfield - Five Wednesdays:
March 16-23-30 April 6 - 13 7-8 PM Presentation**

By Fr. Wayne L. Smith D.Min.

BIBLICAL WOMEN: A RETROSPECTIVE

Five Evening Presentations

Women in The Bible are like chocolate chips in Toll House cookies: scattering all around and all over, but not of the basic dough! In The Bible they rarely are the central subjects; from Genesis to Revelation we find them in subordinate roles and portrayed as mothers and murderers, heroines and harlots, named and un-sung, darling and deadly, fascinating and forbidden!

This biblical study series will focus on particular women, who following my 'cookie metaphor' rise out of the dough and catch our serious attention! The Bible is unabashedly and without apology patriarchal, extremely male chauvinistic, and sexist! Virtually all the writers and editors (historically most of the scholars and commentators) are men! (African hunter's story of the lion hunts) Men are 'telling' the stories! Old adage: the winners write the histories!

We will need to enter the biblical texts, peel away some male overlays, and attempt to catch an honest picture of these biblical gals! Our goal: 'a fair picture of the so called fairer sex'.

The particular women chosen have been selected (despite the patriarchal obfuscation) by the combined totality of their interesting character and actions, their historical prominence, and their appeal to this priestly student. Other students might chose different biblical women; there are enough interesting women peopling the scriptures to go around; these are my choices for this Lenten adventure!

SESSION I: MATRIARCHS: Sarah, Rebecca, and Rachel

SESSION II: WOMEN OF WISDOM: Miriam, Huldah, and Deborah

SESSION III: 'Wicked Women' - Eve, Lot's Wife, Delilah, Jezebel, Salome,

SESSION IV: Un-sung and Un-named (New Testament Faces)

SESSION V: MARY OF NAZARETH virgin-mother, 'will the real Mary stand up?'