

The Nurture Committee of the Presbytery of West Virginia presents:

"Telling Our God Stories"

with

John Vest



Saturday, October 3, 2015

9:30 am - 12:30 pm

(to be followed by Union Presbyterian Seminary Alum Lunch)

Westminster PC, Charleston

5502 Noyes Avenue, Charleston, 25304

Registration: Before Monday, September 28 - \$10; at the door - \$15

For many Presbyterians, the "E-word"—*evangelism*—bears negative connotations and is not something that we talk about or practice very much. Yet with the decline of Protestantism in the United States and the so-called "rise of the nones," it's time for a renewed conversation about evangelism in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and beyond. Our ever-changing world needs new articulations of the gospel and post-Christendom forms of church. However, we shouldn't approach evangelism as a church growth strategy or a way to save a struggling denomination. Rather, evangelism ought to be part of our identity as followers of Jesus and should flow from us as spontaneously as the breath we breathe. We should be so moved by our experience with the divine that we naturally bear witness to the good news of God's love for the world. In this workshop, John Vest will challenge participants to tell compelling and relevant God stories. What is the gospel and why does it matter? How have you personally experienced God and how has this shaped your life?

About John Vest: After fifteen years of ministry in Chicago, most recently as the Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry at Fourth Presbyterian Church, John W. Vest is the Visiting Assistant Professor of Evangelism at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. He holds degrees from Rice University (B.A.), the University of Chicago Divinity School (M.Div.), and McCormick Theological Seminary (D.Min.), and has studied at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He is co-founder of the Progressive Youth Ministry conference, recently published a collection of confirmation sermons called *It's Not Confirmation*, and blogs about his "Adventures in Post-Christendom" at johnvest.com. An enthusiastic pitmaster, John dreams of one day achieving the mystical union of church and BBQ.

To register, please send your name and a check with the notation "John Vest Event" to: Presbytery of WV, 520 Second Avenue, South Charleston, WV 25303. If you are interested in attending the "dutch treat" lunch for alums and friends of UPSeminary, please make that known when you register.