

Worldly Saints in Cinema Series (Friday, 6:00 to 10:00 pm, First Presbyterian Church, Everett, Rockefeller & Wall, 425 259-7139)

Are you longing for an inexpensive place to hang out on Friday night? Want to gather with other adults to talk about what it means to be a person of integrity in 21st Century America? Come join us for the "Worldly Saints in Cinema" Series. None of the six films we have scheduled is "Christian" in any intentional way—i.e. they weren't made by Christian ministries and they weren't designed to proselytize non-believers. But each movie tells a great story that calls us to consider the depth of our own humanity and especially our human responsibility before God, others and in and to society. Our schedule...

June 27th ...*Land of Plenty* (Wim Wenders, 2004)

Wenders, a German master film maker who loves America, has created a little gem that functions like one of Jesus' parables as it portrays two very different Americans responses to our post 9/11 world. Stars Michelle Williams and John Diehl.

July 11th ...*Matewan* (John Sayles, 1987)

One of America's best independent film-makers tells the true story of the bloody clash between labor and management during the coal mine strikes of 1920 West Virginia. But he tells it through the eyes of a teen-aged boy who happens to have keen theological insight and the gift of preaching. Stars Chris Cooper and James Earl Jones.

July 25th ...*Dead Man Walking* (Tim Robbins, 1996)

Sister Helen Prejean forms a special relationship with death-row inmate Matthew Poncelot and she won't let the relationship end until the accused killer confronts his true humanity. In the process Prejean will also be confronted by the deeper ambiguities of her own efforts to stand against capital punishment. Stars Susan Sarandon and Sean Penn.

August 8th ...*On the Waterfront* (Elia Kazan, 1954)

Kazan made this movie shortly after he testified against his colleagues in the famous McCarthy hearings. He tells the story of the mafia control of New York City docks and how ordinary persons gained the courage to tell the truth and expose the criminal elements. Stars Marlon Brando, Lee J. Cobb, Rod Steiger, and Eva Marie Saint (debut).

August 22nd ...*Places in the Heart* (Robert Benton, 1984)

Sally Fields won recognition for her portrayal of a courageous woman who overcomes great odds and inspires others in this story of racial bigotry, economic hardship, and the promise of ultimate reconciliation. Also stars Danny Glover and John Malkovich.

Sept. 12th ...*Tender Mercies* (Bruce Beresford, 1983)

Robert Duvall stars in this understated tale of a down and out Country and Western songwriter who experiences the "tender mercies" of God through the kindness and common humanity of a poor widow and her son.

Come early and enjoy good food and conversation. Play board games or just talk. Then we will gather together in the screening room. Someone will introduce the movie, share some background information, and alert us to some important themes. And after we see the movie we will have a chance to reflect together about what we have seen and heard. Invite your friends. Donate what you can afford (this is a great way to have a cheap date!). And have a wonderful and meaningful summer with us.