Aims of the Course:

1. To make us more keenly aware of the rich heritage of Christians.
2. To strengthen our faith through an awareness of God's work in history.
3. To draw strength for renewal from the heroes of the past.
4. To discover and keep some of the great treasures of Christian thought and devotion.
5. To help us understand how we got where we are and how our neighbors got where they are that we may improve communication and jointly look for the answer to our Lord's prayer for unity.
6. Through looking at some of the failures and some of the successes of the past to help prepare us for our part in writing a new chapter of history that will inspire those who someday shall read it.

Lecture 1

Scripture Reading: Psalm 71:16-19
Hymn: 40 "Faith of Our Fathers"
Prayer: I Thess. 1:2-4; 3:11-13

Why Study Church History?

Problems of Beginnings

The church historian and the secular historian
The Church historian and the New Testament scholar
Where do you start?
  How God prepared the way?
  The difficulty of finding beginnings
  The date

A brief history of Church history

Something happened that men could not forget
Suggested texts:
- Everett Ferguson: Church History, 2 Vols. (The Way of Life Series)
- Williston Walker: A History of the Christian Church
- Henry Bettenson: Documents of the Christian Church

Reference works:

1. Dictionaries:
   - F.L. Cross, ed. The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church
   - J.D. Douglas, ed. The New International Dictionary of the Christian Church
   - Jerald C. Bauer, ed. The Westminster Dictionary of the Christian Church

2. Some of the more valuable histories of the church in the Ancient period (the first 600 years):
   - J. Lebreton and J. Zeiller: The History of the Primitive Church, 2 Vols.
   - L. Duchesne: The Early History of the Christian Church, 3 Vols.
   - H. Chadwick: The Early Church
   - J. Danielou and H. Marrou: The First Six Hundred Years
   - Philip Hughes: A History of the Church, 3 Vols.
   - J.G. Davies: The Early Christian Church
   - W.H.C. Frend: The Early Church
   - Everett Ferguson: The Early Christians Speak

3. Histories of Christian Literature:
   - B. Altaner: Patrology
   - J. Quasten, Patrology, 3 Vols.
   - E.J. Goodspeed and Robert Grant: A History of Early Christian Literature

4. Sources in English Translation:
   - The Fathers of the Church, ed. L. Schopp, c. 100 vols.
   - The Oxford Early Christian Texts
   - The Ante-Nicene Fathers, 10 volumes
   - The Apostolic Fathers--many editions
   - Eusebius' Ecclesiastical History--many editions

5. Some biographical studies:
   - H. von Campenhausen: The Fathers of the Greek Church
   - H. von Campenhausen: Men Who Shaped the Western Church
   - Robert Payne: The Fathers of the Western Church
   - Robert Payne: The Holy Fire: The Story of the Fathers of the Eastern Church