

# Christian Education Corner

Mary Ann Sumner

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## VIEW FROM THE PEW

### **Or a View from Afar**

Since there is so much news this month, I'll be very brief. Plan to join a Sunday School class or other educational opportunity during the week! Lifelong learning is our goal and we try to offer something for everyone. You'll learn a lot plus meet some very nice people along the way!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School classes begin again on September 3 with a short get together in Peninsula Hall. We'll have light refreshments and introduce our teachers and leaders and then dismiss you to classes. We hope you will find something that you'll like this year!

## NURSERY

With the school year starting, I see excitement and nervousness on the faces of both children and their parents. Will my child make friends? Will they learn everything they need to know, have a great teacher, stay healthy, etc., etc.? Will I be okay?! After walking through the early years, three things seem to help parents through this season ...prayer, patience and persistence. Pray... because when you don't know what else to do, God is there. Patience...because many issues will work themselves out if we take a deep breath and give the situation 24-48 hrs before responding. Persistence...because there are times when we need to be our child's best advocate. Just as your child has learned to sit in "Big Church," you both will learn to navigate through these challenging yet joyful years!

The nursery teachers wish everyone a wonderful and blessed school year!

Ms. Sherry, Ms. Denise, Ms. Aileen, Ms. Courtney

## ELEMENTARY

We will be using "Growing in Grace and Gratitude" again this year. We will be learning Old Testament stories that show how God called ordinary people to do extraordinary things. We'll even meet up with some of the Bible people we met in Hero Central this summer! Come join us in rooms 5/6. We have stories, music, crafts, and other fun activities each week.

\*\*We are in need of one more teacher to work in a group rotation – probably teaching once a month. Let Mary Ann know if you can help!

## YOUTH CLASS

"Teamwork Makes the Dreamwork!" ... Chip and I are excited to announce that we'll be combining the Middle and High school classes this year to allow for a better classroom experience (more youth!) ... We'll continue with the curriculum that we've been using for the past few years (Submerge!) with an exciting new video segment to kick off classes each week. Our focus will remain on showing how the scripture is just as relevant today as it was when it was written, and how the Bible is our "cell phone" to God, allowing TWO WAY communication with our Lord !!!! Cecil Rice

## LAST SUNDAY

On September 24, the elementary and youth classes will meet together to make hygiene bags for Halifax Urban Ministries and hear from some of our youth and adults about mission projects at WBTS.

## ADULT CLASSES

### The Bible From Scratch

Tobias Caskey, Garden Room

I have the honor this year of facilitating the "Bible from Scratch." This study, as stated, takes the bible from scratch looking at it from a different perspective, showing us new ways to interpret scripture in our lives through helpful theological discussion. It will help find that scripture that we never knew where it was or

didn't want to ask in other Sunday School classes; we will develop as God's children, a practice of using the Bible in our everyday lives. \*CE Director's note: This class would be great for people in choir or who have other duties on Sunday mornings. Since Tobias is head usher for 11:00 services, it will get out early enough for you to do your other activities! Give it a try!!! Books will be ordered once we have a number for the class and will be \$7.00.

### **Genesis**

Jan Toles, Room 12A

The Bible's first book contains many well-known stories, some familiar since childhood: creation and the garden of Eden; an ark full of animals adrift in a flood; Abraham and Isaac; the conniving Jacob; and the dreams of Joseph. Now hear these stories again in a new way, and in the hearing, discover the knowledge that God created everything in goodness and love. Whether in the heights of paradise or the depths of exile, the human journey is never far from the presence of God. From Eden to Egypt, Genesis affirms God's love for us all. Interpretation Bible Studies (IBS) offers solid biblical content in a creative study format. Books are \$7.00 and will be available at the first class.

### **The Other Jesus**

Pete Zahn, Room B, Peninsula Hall

According to recent surveys, many Americans associate the label "Christian" with judgmental attitudes, hypocrisy, fear of hell, and a commitment to right-wing politics. The author suggests another way, arguing that a faith that focuses solely on personal morality and the afterlife misses much of the point of Jesus' message.

The *other* way of following Christ is not concerned with an array of commandments or with holding the "right" beliefs. Rather it is centered on loving each other and loving God, or as Garrett puts it, "love, where the rubber meets the road, where faith meets the world."

Personal and moving, the book relates the author's personal experience growing up in--and leaving--a disapproving conservative church and

then finding his way back to a different kind of Christian community, which is communal, missional, just, and loving. Garrett draws upon popular culture to illustrate his spiritual points, showing how authentic Christian truth can be found in unlikely places. Books will be ordered once we have a number for the class and will be \$7.00.

### **YOUTH GROUP**

With Cara gone and with such large shoes to fill, we decided that it was a 3-person job to lead this group. Jim & Denise Mueller, and Cecil Rice are taking over the youth group and are in the midst of planning some GREAT activities and events! We're really looking forward to GREAT year with some GREAT youth while showing them that we can have an AWESOME time while loving the Lord !!!

### **CONFIRMATION**

We will be having Confirmation this year (it happens every other year). It is open to students in 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades. We will be using a brand new curriculum this year called CoLabOrate! And we're very excited about it. There will be an orientation meeting on Wednesday, September 6 at 7:00 pm in Room 12A for all students and parents. At that time we'll work out schedules for class, which is on Wednesdays, as well as address transportation needs. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

### **DISCIPLE**

Disciple 2, part 1 will begin on Friday, November 3 at 10:00 in Room 12A. This class will meet from November through April for 2 years. There are a few openings if you are interested.

Disciple 5 with Pete Zahn will meet Tuesday evenings (class will determine time). Orientation is at 6:30 on September 5 with class starting on the 12<sup>th</sup>. We need a few more students to get this class going. The study is Jesus in the Gospels and is a comparison of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Let Mary Ann know ASAP if you'd

like to join so we can order materials.  
Prerequisite: Disciple 1.

### **WESTMINSTER INSTITUTE**

We haven't done an Institute Brochure for a few semesters since we've just been doing continuing classes. I'd like to add some new classes this fall but I'll need your help. If you are new to the church, the Westminster Institute is classes taught by us, for us. People find something they're interested in sharing and we make into a class. It can be a one-time class or ongoing. Some of our classes have been going for close to 10 years. Think of your hobbies, interests, etc. and talk to Mary Ann Sumner. It's a lot of fun! Please send me your announcements by September 15 if you plan to teach. I can help you word it, if you'd like!

### **OUR GOOD OLD DAYS**

Kitty French  
Thursday, September 7, 2017  
Garden Room

Vacation is over & it is time to decide what you are going to do this fall. If you have never tried our group just come & listen. We are not professionals, just a group of church friends who get together & share stories. You may hear things that remind you of your past & inspire you to put pen to paper to tell your family about your life. Even what seemed very routine to you will be so different from what your grandchildren experience today. Then too, you may have some adventures of your own to report or stories passed down from parents that need to be recorded. We meet casually over cookies & coffee. Come & join us. TRY IT YOU'LL LIKE IT!

### **WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY**

Jeff Sumner  
Wednesdays at 11:00 am  
Beginning September 6  
Fellowship Hall

We are continuing with The Present Word. The book for this quarter is "Covenant with God." It considers the major covenants that God makes

with people on behalf of the earth and the human community. Beginning with Noah, God promises benevolence toward creation. Similar commitments are made with Abram, Phinehas, and Ezekiel. Ultimately, the covenant forms the foundation for the coming Messiah and salvation for the world. Unit I, "Signs of God's Covenants" Unit II, "Called into Covenant with God" Unit III, "An Everlasting Covenant"

The book includes a Scripture reading for the lesson, study materials with reflection questions throughout, and a prayer after each lesson. Books may be purchased for \$4.75. You may join this study at any time.

### **CARD MAKING CLASS**

Mary Ann Sumner  
Thursday, September 28, 2017 at 9:00  
Room 5/6

Join Mary Ann as we create 4 festive cards using rubber stamping and other techniques. Sign up by Monday 9/25 (required) so kits can be made up. There is a \$5.00 supply fee for the class and space is limited.

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Thanks to all of the leaders for a wonderful VBS experience with Hero Central. We had 40+ volunteers and 40 children attend. It was exhausting but so much fun!!

Planning ahead for summer 2018 – we will need to do VBS in July again because of scheduling conflicts.

VBS July 9-13 from 9:00 – 12:30

Set up July 2-6 (skipping the 4<sup>th</sup>!)

Our theme is Rolling River Rampage!

Mark your calendars and plan your vacations around it!!!!

