

# Christian Education Corner

Mary Ann Sumner

MaryAnnSumner@wbts.org

## VIEW FROM THE PEW

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

As we enter the Advent Season we take time to reflect on the events leading up to the birth of the Christ Child. We think of Elizabeth and Zechariah and the miracle of the birth of their son, John – and the stories that go with it. We think of Mary and her bravery, and of Joseph and his kindness – and the stories that go with it. We think about that long journey to Bethlehem and how difficult it must have been. And, finally, we hear the very familiar story from Luke about that mysterious, magical night. I hope you take time to re-read and maybe learn something new about each of these familiar stories. Because, as always, we are lifelong learners!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

We will not have Sunday School on December 24 or January 31.

## NURSERY

This month the nursery children will be celebrating Jesus' birth with activities and fun! We hope to see our nursery friends and families for the Christmas Eve services. Nursery is available at the Candlelight service.

We wish to remind families of an important nursery policy. Occasionally, visiting family members can't wait to see the little ones and may drop by the nursery before the parent/guardian. We only release children to A) person who drops them off and B) the person who has been issued a pager. Your child's safety is of utmost importance to us. Thank you for assisting us in this policy.

We wish all a blessed Christmas and happy, healthy 2018,

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

## ELEMENTARY

We are continuing in “Growing in Grace and Gratitude” again this year. This quarter we will be studying the Gospel of Mark and the stories of Jesus’ life, teachings, and miracle. Come join us in rooms 5/6. We have stories, music, crafts, and other fun activities each week.

## YOUTH CLASS

The combined middle/high school class continues to meet in Room 3 – the Beach Room – each Sunday using the Submerge curriculum. Join Cecil and Chip for these fun-filled and inspirational classes each Sunday. Yes, there are usually donuts!

## LAST SUNDAY

We won't have class this month so stay tuned for January 28.

## ADULT CLASSES

### The Bible From Scratch

Tobias Caskey, Peninsula Hall

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 us find out more about scripture that we never 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 you other activities! Give it a try!!! Books are \$7.00 and are available in class.

**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 are available in class.

**The Other Jesus**

Pete Zahn, Garden Room

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.

**YOUTH GROUP**

Denise & Jim Mueller and Cecil Rice

We had a wonderful meeting with the youth at the beginning of November...so great to finally get together!

*Upcoming events for the youth:*

**Saturday, December 2nd- Youth meeting** (Time to be determined by majority)

\*We will be making cookies, a small gift for the shut-ins and preparing for the fellowship hour that we are sponsoring.

**Sunday, December 3rd-** We are sponsoring the fellowship hour. We ask each youth's family to bring something to share for this event. All donations made from this will go towards our mission trip.

**February 23rd-24th, 2018-** World Vision 30-hour famine

\*\*All youth are welcome to bring a friend to ANY of our youth events!! The more, the merrier!

**June 10th-15th, 2018** - Raleigh Youth Mission Trip

\*At the last meeting, they talked about having a car wash and possibly a pancake breakfast to earn money for the trip.

**CONFIRMATION**

We meet from 5:00 – 6:30 each Wednesday. We are learning about Presbyterian History and Doctrine and have begun working on our Statements of Faith.

**DISCIPLE**

Disciple 2, part 1 began on Friday, November 3 at 10:00 in Room 12A. This class will meet from November through April for 2 years.

Disciple 5 with Pete Zahn meets on Tuesday evenings at 6:30. The study is Jesus in the Gospels and is a comparison of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

## WESTMINSTER INSTITUTE

### OUR GOOD OLD DAYS

Kitty French

Thursday, December 7, 2017 at 1:00

The Garden Room

What were some of your Christmas traditions? In my house, it was a big tree, on a platform, a lighted village & a train. I married the only guy whose family did the same thing, & he had a train. Over the years many things were added including 3 more trains. What is most memorable when you look back on your holidays? Was it selecting that perfect tree? Decorating it together? In our house Santa did that on Christmas eve & he was a really busy, tired fellow (along with Mrs. Santa). Especially when those kids get up at the crack of dawn. Back then the Christmas Season began the day after Thanksgiving. Now you see Christmas decorations in the stores when the kids go back to school. TOO MUCH!! Tell your grandchildren what Christmas was like in your "Good Old Days". Just a suggestion! Come & share your story over cookies & coffee. TRY IT YOU'LL LIKE IT!!

### WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Jeff Sumner

Wednesdays at 11:00 am

Fellowship Hall

We are continuing with The Present Word. The book for this quarter is Faith in Action." December's unit is "The Early Church Proclaims Faith in Christ." Putting faith in action is the natural and necessary expression of faith in God who is now known definitively in Jesus Christ. 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

We will be on hiatus until January because of the holiday season. Watch for further announcements.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

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

**IF YOU HAVE AN ARTIFICIAL CHRISTMAS TREE YOU ARE NOT USING WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE IT FOR OUR DECORATIONS!**



### Christmas/New Year's Schedule

Sunday, December 24

Service at 11:00 a.m.

No Fellowship Hour

Candlelight Service: 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 31 Service:

Service at 11:00 a.m.

Pot Luck Fellowship Hour 12 p.m.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Courtney Mueller is graduating from the University of Florida this month with a BS in Applied Physiology and Kinesiology. She will continue her studies at the University of St. Augustine as she works toward a Master's degree in Occupational Therapy.

Sam Bookhardt has earned his Eagle Scout rank. For his project he did renovations on our overflow parking lot.

## REFORMATION CELEBRATION

During our Reformation events, we nailed prayers for the world on our door so we could discuss them, just as Martin Luther meant for people in his day to discuss church reforms. We thought you might like to see what prayers were shared. We can keep these in our prayers during Advent.

Tolerance and diversity

We all love one another no matter race, creed, age or gender.

That we all become sons and daughters of God that every soul seeks.

Peaceful diversity

May the world know your love and let the world have peace. I pray that your light will shine in the darkness of all.

Health & happiness. Long life.

For people to feel safe and at peace.

That all will love God. That all will love each other as much as themselves.

To all get along!

World peace

Healing of mental, physical, & emotional difficulties in my extensive family.

For everyone to love one another and trust one another.

That all should come together and know God's love.

Acceptance!

That people can worship God in their own way.

For us to better understand the teachings of Christ. Then maybe we will someday learn to get along with each other.

That all people will know God as their creator.

That we learn to love one another the way that he loves us.

World hunger be vanquished.

Peace & Shalom

Family First

That God bless us all.

I wish the world could feast.

For world peace which will come only when we each find peace through the love of Christ. We all need to realize love is the answer!

History shows he or she who controls the message controls the world. Lord, guide

those who prepare the message to be truthful, [?] and just.

That my two daughters may become friends again and may it extend the friendliness to the world.

Cure for cancer

For universal tolerance and patience.

That all peoples may come to know God and by that, that we all are brothers and sisters.

That we would better seek to understand and appreciate one another.

Life

That Christ will enter every heart and all will be redeemed in Christ!

Opumom O (submitted by one of our preschoolers)

Acceptance and tolerance of others

For all who struggle with an illness. Prayers for children all over the world!

Happiness for everyone!!

May everyone feel God's love and the love of those around them.

Peace, love, forgiveness

That the world will come to Glorify You!

Accepting all races and cultures as you do your own.

Please show the world your love and that all those who feel it will show it to all those they encounter.

The world will come together. Caring, peace, and love of others.

Opioid epidemic removed

Love to share

LOVE

That each of us learn to respect the difference of those around us – and work to live in harmony.

Peace and Love

Health and happiness abound!

Love

Tolerance

A world safe for our children; a world where we love one another; a world with peace for all!!

That the world knows more love and kindness among people.

That we will learn to love one another.

Everyone LOVE one another.

People would be kind to each other.

Happiness!  
 For every person to be kind and loving to each other.  
 To be more tolerant of different views  
 Compassion and understanding for each other  
 That every good prayer gets answered  
 That the world may know your unconditional love; respect for others; inclusiveness.  
 Peace  
 Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore till sun shall rise and set no more.  
 Acceptance of others therefore creating peace.  
 May everyone be together – we give thanks.  
 Patience & love  
 Please soften the growing hatred and divisiveness in our country and the trend toward nationalism that threaten the entire world.  
 Unity, respect, love  
 Mutual understanding  
 A better tomorrow  
 Children never live in fear, war, or poverty  
 Peaceful resolutions through dialogue and love.  
 For Christ to come back soon. Maranatha!  
 Kindness words wonders  
 Better understanding of each other  
 For faith and strength for the hungry, homeless, lonely, & widows.  
 For cures for all cancers (especially for Kelly Klassen). For compassion and help for all those in need.  
 Let there be peace and love  
 Mercy!  
 For those in power – may their messages be pure in heart, truthful, and right.  
 That all people could open their hearts to the love and peace of God!  
 Joy! That people have faith in their hearts that Jesus Christ is their Lord and Savior.  
 To be kind to others. No bitterness. Love more.  
 Peace among others in all countries. Hold your anger and pray more in the future. Love God.  
 Peace for every nation.  
 O Mighty Father, please give wisdom to our world leaders.  
 Take care of our families

Hold God's people, bring his love to those who have been without it!  
 Salvation for everyone  
 God's grace

Please note that some of the prayers were more personal and aimed at specific people. We join with you in praying for others but we have left those prayers off this list.

### **Outside Groups Meeting at WBTS**

#### **Sunday**

#### **Arabic Evangelical Ministries**

6:00 pm in the Chapel

#### **Monday**

#### **Ecumenical Bible Study**

6:00 in Fellowship Hall

#### **Tuesday**

#### **Gamblers Anonymous**

7:30 pm in the Garden Room

#### **Thursday**

#### **Embroidery Guild**

First Thursday at 10:00 am (Sept - May)  
 in Fellowship Hall

#### **Al-Anon Gentle Journey**

12:00 pm in Room 12A

#### **Gamblers Anonymous**

7:30 pm in the Garden Room

#### **AA Men's Group**

8:00 pm in Room 12A

#### **Saturday**

#### **Al-Anon**

10:00 am in Room 12A



### **Groups Meeting at WBTS**

Evangelical Ministries