

Christian Education Corner

Mary Ann Sumner

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VIEW FROM THE PEW

Or a View from Afar

This month we have the unique experience of celebrating the Protestant Reformation's 500th anniversary. Some of you may not even know what that is or what it's all about – but you will by the end of October! Take a look at the calendar of events for the month (elsewhere is the Spire) and plan to come to as many of these events as you can. Some are for all ages, some more geared to adult minds. Some include food (!) and others are a worship experience. We give thanks to Martin Luther, John Calvin, and the other Reformers who made our church possible.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

NURSERY

This month the nursery children are looking at ways to help others and how our hands can do God's work. We will be reading *The Pumpkin Patch Parable* by Liz Curtis Higgs. This story will lead into discussion about the Reformation which will help the children tie all these topics together. We wish everyone cooler weather and many blessings!

In His Love,

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

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 October 29 we will all gather for a Reformation Celebration. Don't know what the Reformation is? Come and find out! Hint: It happened 500 years ago this week!!!

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 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 your 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, 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 are on order and are \$7.00.

YOUTH GROUP

Our first youth get-together was a BUST with hurricane Irma, but we would love to get everyone together on Sunday, October 1st at 1:30PM. Bring your favorite ice cream sundae topping and we will supply the ice cream! At this meeting, we will discuss what kind of experiences the youth would like to have

together, share some ideas that we have and put together a calendar for the year. Please let Denise, Jim or Cecil know if you are able to make it!

Also, since we were unable to attend Rock the Universe, we are planning on attending the Mercy Me concert at the CFE Arena on Friday night, October 27th. Ticket prices are pending, but cost will not be more than \$35 per youth.

We're looking forward to a great year with the youth...doing GREAT things to serve the Lord!

CONFIRMATION

We have started class with 5 youth! We are using a brand new curriculum this year called CoLabOrate! And we're very excited about it. We meet from 5:00 – 6:30 each Wednesday to learn about our faith, our denomination, and WBTS. I came across this quote that I liked and wanted to share with you:

"It's important for students to understand that we never "arrive" in faith. Questions - especially during confirmation - are not only acceptable but normal. Fully understanding Christianity is not the point. Confirmation is not a graduation, but a point of acknowledging ourselves as lifelong learners. (We affirm, in confirmation, what God has already done through baptism and vow to engage intentionally in a specific faith community.)"

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 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 new Institute Brochure will be coming out in October! Then we'll have a time when leaders can tell you about their classes and you'll have a chance to sign up. Be on the lookout!

OUR GOOD OLD DAYS

Kitty French
Thursday, September 5
at 1:00 in the Garden Room

Unfortunately, you got an extra month off. Was this your first hurricane or have you lived here for years? Maybe you should share this experience with your family. So many things happen over a lifetime & growing up today is so much different than being a kid when I was young. Think about that computer that filled a large room back in the 50's & the hand held models today. What about being able to play outside until the streetlights came on everyday. It was a totally different world back then & I am thankful it was part of my lifetime. You have so many untold stories to share. Your family will be grateful if you take the time to record your family history for them. Maybe you could just come to listen? You might hear a story that reminds you of your past. We are just a casual group of church friends who meet 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 "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. We will begin Unit II, "Called into Covenant with God." Unit III is "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, October 26, 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 10/23 (required) so kits can be made up. There is a \$5.00 supply fee for the class and space is limited.

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 4th!)

Our theme is Rolling River Rampage!

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



Christmas/New Year's Schedule

Sunday, December 24

Pot Luck Fellowship Hour 10 a.m.

Service at 11:00 a.m.

Candlelight Service: 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 31 Service:

Pot Luck Fellowship Hour 10 a.m.

Service at 11:00 a.m.