

Christian Education Corner

Mary Ann Sumner

MaryAnnSumner@wbts.org

VIEW FROM THE PEW

Or a View from Afar

Guest Editor, Cecil Rice

Prepping for today's Sunday School lesson (Jesus at the temple at 12,) got me thinking about how excited Mary and Joseph were when they found Jesus after 3 days missing. On the way to church, I then started thinking about that FIRST TIME I let Jesus into my heart and how overwhelmed and full of joy I was, while thinking of it, I started getting the same goosebumps as I did that hot summer night 35 years ago, which then got me to thinking, WHY do we, as Christians, become complacent about that joy? I shared my story with the youth today and asked them that IF they had already had that moment in their life, to think about it every now and again, just to be reminded as to how much joy Jesus can bring to them. I'm writing this because I don't think that this should be limited to youth. Do me a favor, if you don't mind. Think about that first time Jesus entered your heart, or, if you don't remember, then, think of ANY time that you were filled with joy and "glory bumps" jumped up on your arms. Now, that you've thought of it again, did it bring back some of that joy to your life right now ??? (it sure did me!!!!) Going forward, this guy's gonna try to keep remembering that joy a LOT more often!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NURSERY

Occasionally nursery teachers are asked "When will my child attend Big Church / Children's Message?"

Answer: Most children are ready to attend the Children's Message around age 3. Each child is different, so this may vary which is perfectly fine with us. There are times when families arrive a little too late for us to walk there in time. In that case, you may wish to go straight to the service and bring your children to the nursery after the message. By arriving at the nursery a few

minutes prior to the start of service, teachers can be sure everyone can play a few minutes, use the restroom and walk to the sanctuary in a timely manner.

We look forward to enjoying the cooler weather with our nursery friends and families!

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

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASS

We use Growing in Grace and Gratitude with a rotation of teachers. This fall "action words," take center stage. In the grammar of our faith, God is the subject acting, and the people in the stories of the Old Testament are the recipients, or direct objects, of God's action. And so are we! God breathes life into Adam and Eve, and God gives life to us. God hears the prayers of Daniel, and God hears our prayers too. The thirteen stories reveal God's gracious acts. God continues to be the subject and never stops acting with us—the objects of God's grace and love. We hope you'll join us and bring a friend!!

YOUTH CLASS

Let the good times roll 😊 ... We had so much fun last year with the combined class that we thought we'd do it again!!!! We'll once again be "Submerging" (that's the name of the class material we use) our Middle and High School kids into great games, discussions, acting, and, yes, DONUTS!!! Chip and I are blessed to work with such great youth week in and week out teaching them that it's ok to laugh, have fun, AND love the Lord!!! We'll continue to focus on how the Bible is our "cell phone" to God, allowing for honest and open TWO WAY communication with our Savior, all while telling bad puns and eating good donuts!!!! If you've got a youth and they've not tried our Sunday School, please have them come for 2 weeks and see how it goes 😊 ... See You on Sunday!!!!

ADULT CLASSES**OLD TESTAMENT BIBLE CLASS**

Jan Toles, Room 12A

We will be finishing Numbers and Deuteronomy beginning in September. The Wesley Bible Studies book we are using combines Numbers and Deuteronomy in some of the lessons. We completed lesson 5 and will study lessons 6-13. You are more than welcome to join us in this study – we'll get you caught up.

PARABLES

Tobias Caskey, Garden Room

I have been given the ability this year to teach from a book about the parables of Jesus. As we have all probably heard the parables not just read from the Bible, but also in our everyday lives and sayings, this book and study, *The Parables from the Backside*, written by J Ellsworth Kalas, brings a different look at the parables. It puts a new spin and insight into the ideas of living the parables in our lives and as always will bring some great debate and discussion. Some chapter titles include: When the Good Samaritan Is Bad News; God Called a Party, but Nobody Came; The Timid Soul; The Seasons of the Soil; The Sad Story of the Embarrassed Farmers. Books will be available for \$10.00 for this class.

SWIM DOWN: DIVING DEEPER INTO GOD'S WORD

Glory Cumbow, Peninsula Hall

When you read the Bible, have you ever wanted the tools to go deeper? Perhaps you've wanted an understanding of the languages, the history, and the culture that surrounded the writers of the Bible? This adult Sunday School class is designed to do just that. We will be using videos from "The Bible Project" to learn about the importance of plot and setting in scripture, what definitions and understandings are behind major words such as "peace", "love", and "listen", and what important concepts mean such as "heaven and earth." We will use what we learn from the videos to study scripture ourselves. This can help to empower you as you do your own personal devotional reading at home!

YOUTH GROUP**Glory Cumbow**

Special thanks to all of those who have been providing lunch for us! If you are interested in bringing lunch for youth group, please let me know and we'll sign you up. Gotta keep everyone fed! We have been meeting every Sunday at 12:30 for lunch, games, and Bible study. If you have a teenager, or are a teenager, and you've never come to hang out with us, please come visit! It's a good time with good people. Together we've gone to see a movie together, and trivia night is coming up on Saturday October 13. Youth, come show the adults how much you know about the Bible! Some people are already intimidated by your knowledge. Mark your calendars! Friday Dec. 21 we will be having a Christmas lock-in! We'll stay the night at the church with games, snacks, movies, a devotional, and lots of fun! We keep learning and there's always something fun right around the corner, so come see what God is up to in our youth group.

InSpired Together**Intergenerational Bible Trivia Night**

Saturday, October 13 at 6:30 in Peninsula Hall. Come join a team and test your Bible knowledge. Emceed by Cecil Rice and Chip Kent. Esteemed judges are Jeff Sumner and Glory Cumbow. Sign up on the easel in Fellowship Hall so we'll know how many tables to set up. Refreshments provided.

WESTMINSTER INSTITUTE**FORGIVENESS STUDY**

Jeff and Mary Ann Sumner

Wednesdays at 7:00. October 3, 10, 17, & 24
Fellowship Hall

Our world seems so broken right now and we need to learn to forgive ourselves and one another. This study is by Adam Hamilton who wrote the Apostle's Creed study we did during Lent. Books are \$10.00 and many of you have preordered them. Let Jeff or Mary Ann know if you'd like to order one and we'll get right on it.

OUR GOOD OLD DAYS

Kitty French
Thursday, October 4 at 1:00
The Garden Room

If you just take a few minutes to think about it there are endless things that happened over your lifetime to write about. Maybe the most important thing is something you never considered, your feelings. There are so many things that are left unsaid. Important things, maybe the most important. I LOVE YOU!! I AM SO PROUD OF YOU!! You would be surprised how much easier it is to write them down than it is to come out & say it. The best part of that is they will always have it with them. I was so thankful that my Jim got to read everything I wrote & felt about him. Our family knows the deep love I have for their Dad & all of them. Seriously think about this & come & join us. You will enjoy the stories & may be reminded of things from your past to pass along to your family. TRY IT YOU'LL LIKE IT!

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Jeff Sumner
Wednesdays at 11:00 am
Fellowship Hall

Our fall study is "God's World and God's People" In Genesis, the book of beginnings, God is revealed as the Creator, Sustainer, Judge, and Redeemer, who brought all things into being. The fall quarter surveys the Book of Genesis in developing sessions on God's creation of the universe, earth, and people. It also details how God continues to co-labor with sinful humanity in reconciling and re-creating order in all things. Unit II is "God Destroys and Re-Creates" Unit III is "God Blesses and Re-Creates Regardless" Books are available in class for \$6.00.

MAHJONG

Jan Toles
Wednesdays from 10:00-12:30
Peninsula Hall, Room A

This class will meet throughout the summer. All are welcome to come and play, experienced or not! Contact Jan for information: 386-265-5805.

CARD MAKING CLASS

Mary Ann Sumner
Thursday, October 25 at 9:30
Rooms 5/6

Join Mary Ann as we create 4 cards – no experience necessary! We do need for you to sign up in advance so kits can be made. Since we don't meet in November and December, we'll do some Christmas cards! Supply fee: \$5.00.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2019

We will be moving VBS back to June to accommodate the Holy Land Pilgrimage people. Mark your calendars for June 17-21 with setup June 10-14. Our theme is To Mars and Beyond: Explore Where God's Power Can Take You!

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Gift of the Nutcracker with Jeff and Mary Ann Sumner. This will be our Advent study on Wednesdays at 7:00 November 28 and December 5, 12, & 19. Matt Rawle (who wrote Hollywood Jesus) takes us through a time of expecting an extraordinary gift. Clara was anticipating the Nutcracker. We are anticipating the birth of the Christ Child. We will view this timeless Christmas classic through the lens of faith. More information will follow!

Dinner/Dance We are tentatively planning a dinner dance on January 19. We're still in the process of making it work so stay tuned!

Talent Show We are planning to have a talent show on February 2 at 7:00 when all of our talented winter visitors are back with us. Start practicing now. We'll need lots of acts of all ages!

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