

**SPECIAL EDITION LINK
FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
and FAITH FORMATION**

AUGUST 2016

This is your guide to all things about Christian Education and faith formation for the first half of the program year, with some teasers about what will happen after January. Read it – you'll be glad you did. Keep it – though things may be altered throughout the year, as we want to be able to respond to changing needs, resource availability, and new ideas.

If you haven't yet visited our own Cary Presbyterian Faith Formation 24-7 website, or if you haven't gone there in a while, don't miss this resource as a way of keeping your faith growing day in and day out, through prayer and spiritual practices, Bible study helps, parenting for faithful living, and more:

<http://carypresbyterianfaithformation24-7.weebly.com/>

Christian Education informs, reforms, and transforms us so that we have a faith that is life-giving, lifelong, dynamic, and connected to God and all God's people.

Christian education IS faith formation.

Come and discover more at

RALLY DAY

"God's Faithful People" Learn Together

August 28, 2016

9:30 a.m.

Please note the time change from the usual Sunday school time of 9:45 a.m.

What happens at Rally Day?

[Registration](#) for children and youth (important)

Refreshments and connections: [please bring finger foods to share](#)

Adults consider faith formation opportunities and

the church presents our third-graders with Bibles

Children and youth meet together with their teachers for orientation

Note: NO Sunday School on September 4 – Labor Day weekend

Classes start September 11 at 9:45 a.m.

Worship is at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School for Children

All children's Sunday School classes meet in the Christian Education wing: upstairs for elementary age groups and downstairs for preschool classes. Nursery care for infants is available in Room 120.

- **Pre-elementary (age 2-Kindergarten) Sunday School**

All Preschool Sunday School classes begin together with a music segment. Children move as a class to their learning spaces with their teachers after the opening music time. **Room 124**

Twos & Threes Class: Room 121

Our class for very young children is based on Wee Believe, a Presbyterian Church USA curriculum, complete with snack and play. Children learn that church is a good place, which welcomes them to a relationship with God and other faithful Christians. *Mary Walker, Valerie Short, and Ellen Cline. We would love to have one more person help.*

Fours and Fives Class: Room 125

Our teachers make use of a Presbyterian-supported curriculum called *Grace and Gratitude*, which includes learning the major stories from the Bible through story-time, crafts, activities, and snack. This is a pivotal time of learning for these children, giving them basic building blocks of faith and teaching them that God is loving, trustworthy, and gracious. *Belinda Weinbrecht, Naureen Hobbs, Carolyn Davis, Laura Mittendorf*

- **Elementary (grades 1-5) "Faith Journey"**



FAITH JOURNEY is our name for the Workshop Rotation Model of Sunday School for children in grades 1-5 at Cary Presbyterian. Rotation workshops encourage children to "learn by doing." It is a hands-on, experience-based and FUN approach to learning the Bible and applying it to our lives! **Rooms 220-225**

Each unit children rotate through three to five of the following workshops:
Keyboarding to the Kingdom (computer); Hands on Discovery (science); Reel Faith (video); Mountain Top Productions (drama and puppets); Tent Tales (storytelling); God and Games (games); or Creation Station (art)

For 2016-17, Faith Journey groups are divided into:

Hikers – 1st Grade

Trekkers and *Climbers* – 2nd Grade & 3rd Grade (subject to possible division into 2nd & 3rd grades)

Trail Blazers and *Pathfinders* – 4th Grade & 5th Grade

All groups begin together each Sunday in the Faith Hall of Fame and go from there to their workshop for the morning, guided by their group shepherds. *Dana and Justin Hancock, Elizabeth Allen, Nolan Bryant, Linda Cox, Mitzi Rackley, Colleen Hann, Barbara Turner*

As of this writing, one shepherd for each group is still needed. Please contact Medora Hix, Director of Christian Education, for details.

This year's theme is "**God's Faithful People.**" Units are:

Ruth

Joseph

David the boy, the King

Daniel

Esther the Queen

Peter's Story

New Testament Women

Workshop teachers change with each unit, and signing up to lead a workshop is an on-going process. We're happy to say that nearly all the 30 different workshop sessions are fully staffed! We are missing Computer the first unit and Drama for the Joseph, Peter, and New Testament Women unit. Please apply!

Currently committed to one or more units: Ellen Govert, Debra Powers, Beth Allen, Barbara Turner, Wendy Czika, Angie Keith, Pete Alberse, Jennifer Bryant, Carol Payne, Jen Pierce, Jason Simpson, Jodie Spencer, Susan Lamatrice, Leigh Mullen

- **Youth Classes in Sunday School**

All youth classes meet in the lower floor near the main staircase. Our teachers are experienced, dedicated, and fun to be with. How do we know this? Great attendance!

Middle School is for youth in grades 6 & 7 (and 8th graders not in Confirmation class). The students further discover the Bible during the year through a course called "To Know the Bible." Painting, drama and games are all part of the action. **Room 103 (MS Room)** Sherry Bradsher, Jim Bowdish, Craig Anderson

Senior High is for youth in grades 9–12. The teachers engage the students with an extended time of sharing joys and concerns (which we call 'pows' and 'wows'), and then together consider the Bible passage of the day's worship focus through Feasting on the Word, a lectionary-based Bible study that unites living and faith. It doesn't hurt that there is a lot of food! **Room 105 (SH Room)** Deb Stalls, Harold Weinbrecht, Scott Patrick.

Confirmation class is from August to May during the Sunday School hour for eighth graders who are interested in exploring their faith and confirming or initiating their baptism. Classes are team-taught using study, spiritual practices and interactive activities, and include three day-long retreats. Each confirmand has a mentor who accompanies them on this journey. *Note: class starts early – at 9:30 AM.* **Room 106** Renee Clark, Robert Rackley, Emmie Brown, Len Clark, and Medora Hix

- **Adult Sunday School Classes**

CPC offers several Sunday morning adult classes. Come gather with other adults for fellowship, learning and the challenge to grow in faith. Newcomers always welcomed – please believe this! In some classes, topics and studies change approximately every four to six weeks; in others, ongoing sessions are the norm. Please see the attached schedule for an outline. Each class has its own flavor and style! Classes meet either off the upper main hall or the lower main hall.

Here's the current line-up:

- **Adult I** – For those who want a regular Bible study using the Uniform Lessons. Each person has a study guide and teachers are well prepared! This class has a long history together but is always open to new participants. Meets in **the Parlor**. Kim Herring, Wayne Honeycutt, Libby Graybeal, Kyle Allen
- **Bible and Beyond** – For those who want Bible study in a more lengthy series. Some great teachers will provide the content of the class from video courses, supplemented by group discussion. This year the class will study Dr. Mickey Efird's *Apocalyptic, and New Testament Portions of the Overview of the Bible*. Then the class will tackle the *History of Christianity*, with Dr. Diarmaid McCulloch. Later in the year the Effird study on Romans will be offered, as well as the possibility of bringing back the popular *Walking the Bible with Bruce Feiler*. The class meets in the **Library**. Occasional social events happen outside of class. Lisa and Alan Ward
- **Young Families Class** – For those who have pre-teen children, this class offers fellowship and learning through a variety of subjects offered by session, whether about the church, the Bible, nurturing a Christian family life, or moral and political issues. Topics can change weekly! **Room 102** Tom and Tia Van Scoyoc
- **Christ, Coffee, and Conversation** – For those who are interested in a wide variety of topics, willing to consider innovative ideas as well as time-honored approaches to belief and practice, in a presentation and discussion format. **Room 100**, shepherded by John and Beth Campbell, taught by various leaders. This year's courses include:
September 11 – October 16: Gifts of the Dark Wood – though commonly understood as a place to be feared and avoided, the Dark Wood is the surest place to meet God. Through readings,

discussion, and video, author Eric Elnes (of the Phoenix Affirmations) shows how bewilderment may yield insight and how, by getting lost, we may find our way. Led by the dynamic duo of *Jerry Slaymaker and David Voss*.

*October 23 – December 4 (minus November 27): The Search for the Truth about Islam – Are Muslims infiltrating American society? What does Islam really teach about women's roles? Does the Qur'an condone violence? Presbyterian pastor Ben Daniel tackles common stereotypes and misconceptions that tend to define Islam in the popular imagination. Daniel also looks at Christianity's own history of violence and explores what he calls "the American cult of fear," particularly as it relates to the rise of Islamophobia in the United States. Blending travel narrative, interviews, and well-crafted storytelling, Daniel helps debunk the myths and puts a human face on Islam in America. Led by *Hunter Piermont*.*

*Later in the year, CCC will explore *Daring Greatly* by Brene Brown (Jeanne Bolick), *The Jesus Creed (in 40 Days)* throughout Lent, and may consider *Faith of a Mockingbird* (Slaymaker and Voss), and *The History of the Bible in America*. Also on the agenda is "Retro Joy Class." The Joy Class had a format of sharing joys and concerns, prayer, and a discussion of the day's worship Scripture passage(s). Stay tuned! And – coffee is back! CCC will live up to its name once again.*

CPC ONLINE ADULT EDUCATION

Cary Presbyterian now has its own online academy for adult faith formation called "Cary Pres Online Learning." www.CaryPresLearn.pathwright.com. This is through Church Next and is available to any member of the church, 30 individuals per month for the selected course. Certainly, if you don't want to do this online learning through the church – and that is fine – you can enroll in ChurchNext on your own (for only \$9/month) and take unlimited courses.

This is how it works: the Administrator will choose, with input from the adult education sub-team, which course to offer in any given month. A general invitation will go out to sign up (see below). Interested learners will contact the Administrator (currently the Director of Christian Education, Medora Hix), being sure to include their email address.

Then, provided there is still room, students will get an email invitation which includes a link that says 'Click here to join this class.' This will take them to a page which will ask them to establish a profile in our CPC school and will require an email and creation of a password (just like everything else these days!). Since this will be a *one-time only link*, students should complete the registration process right after they click on the link.

It is RECOMMENDED that any interested persons go ahead and take the course 'How to Take a ChurchNext Course (free)' to see how this works. <https://www.churchnext.tv/library/how-to-take-an-online-class/about/> Here's what ChurchNext says about this:

Take this course with a class of ChurchNext students from around the world. Registration includes:

- 24/7 access to all video lectures, downloads, and course content.
- Video lectures with Chris Yaw.
- Interaction with other students through discussion questions and sharing notes.

Now the question is: why online learning? Because there may be reasons you simply can't get to Sunday School or special studies or you need to learn at your own pace.

For more details about ChurchNext, check this out: <https://churchnextblog.wordpress.com/about/>.

The first class, for September, will be announced during the Rally Day celebrations. Be there!

ACE (Adult Christian Education) Series

Adult Christian Education (ACE) programs are educational opportunities outside of Sunday School. These weeknight or Sunday evening classes for adults consider a variety of topics and vary in length. Watch for these programs throughout the year.

Covenant Bible Study

Disciple Bible Study has been a significant vehicle of information, formation, and transformation for many individuals in the life of our congregation over the years. Last year we debuted a new Bible study with similar goals called **Covenant Bible Study**. We offered two of the three segments last year. *This fall we will offer the **TRUSTING** course.* This course is open to any youth or adult, whether or not they have already taken the previous Covenant sessions or any in-depth Bible study course. The study considers our relationships with God, each other, and the world. It underscores the unique relationship that God chooses with us as his people. **Covenant** will be offered Tuesday evenings, **September 20 – November 8 at 7:00 p.m.**, led by the teaching team of The Rev. Deky Hall, Medora Hix, and John Page. Registration fee is \$20. Sign-ups begin August 28, Rally Day.

Special Events

Intergenerational Sunday School Event – November 29

Annual Christmas Pageant – December 11 during Sunday School.

Special Easter Sunday School for all ages – April 16 – A light breakfast, activities for Easter celebration, and fellowship characterize this event, for all ages

Milestones Ministry

As God's family we need to pause at moments to acknowledge God's presence and celebrate as a community how God is at work. One of the ways to do that is by marking the milestones in each other's lives, particularly those focusing on the faith journey. Celebrating faith milestones gives us an opportunity to directly relate our individual stories to the story of God's people from Scripture.

Here are the Milestones to be celebrated at CPC during 2016-17:

Starting School – for **KINDERGARTNER** Parents. A "Blessing of the Backpacks" will be offered for *all* children returning to school, with special emphasis on our kindergarten children as they reach this Milestone. A special class for parents *might* be held in September which will have information about helping with this transition, as well as faith development ideas for home. Watch for more info in the regular Link.

Preparing Children for Worship

Cary Presbyterian Church children are welcomed and encouraged to be in worship at Cary Presbyterian Church! We value the presence of children and affirm that:

- it is important for all ages to come to worship each Sunday
- children belong to this special group of people
- the sights, sounds, and other senses of the sanctuary are good, though not always understandable
- something is expected of children, as well as youth and adults, and therefore they may respond in song, in prayer, in offering, and other acts of worship.

This Milestone is for **SECOND** graders and their parents during Sunday School. This three-week class introduces the order of worship, how to use the bulletin, special worship vocabulary, learning about the worship space, and the sacraments. **September 11, 18 and 25.** The Milestone concludes with recognition in worship.

Prayer Milestone – for **FIRST** graders, this two-session introduction to praying and specifically to the Lord's Prayer culminates in leading the congregation as Jesus taught us to pray, **March 12 and 19.**

Getting to Know My Bible – for **THIRD** graders and their PARENTS.

The church presents a Bible to each of our third graders each year. We're pleased to present an interactive child's edition of the Common English Bible. Because we don't want just to hand the children a Bible without help, and because research shows that the single most important part of faith development is the parents' involvement, we have a special three-week unit that includes parents. The class will be

held during Sunday School in Faith Journey, **October 9, 16, and 23** so that the third graders will really 'get to know my Bible.'

Worship Two – FIFTH graders and parents have a blast learning new ways of thinking and engaging in worship. A skit, graham-cracker cathedrals and a computer game, 'Attack of the Sunday School Zombies,' are included in a three week class, **January 29, February 5 and 12**, followed by recognition.

Confirmation – a major Milestone. See more in the Youth Classes section

Driver's License – for those who have or will receive their driver's license during the year from September to September. This one-time class will be held **February 19**, followed by this Milestone recognition in worship that same day.

Children and Worship

This year we are debuting the Children and Worship program for young children age 3 – 7. Rather than having the children attend nursery during the 11:00 a.m. worship service, we now offer this authentic experience of God. Right at the start of the hour at 11:00, children will go from Sunday School (or upon arrival) to the hallway of the Faith Hall of Fame and enter Room 225. They will be met by a Greeter, who will usher them to their place and have them greet the Worship Leader for the day.

Children and Worship follows the general order of worship in the sanctuary, but on a child's level. There is singing, praying, wondering, Scripture, and response for approximately 40 minutes. Then the children go as a group to the church library, and when the hymn after the sermon concludes, children go into the sanctuary and sit on the chancel steps for the Time with Children. Following that, the children join their parents for the more active and interactive part of the sanctuary worship.

Please see a short video about this here: <https://www.rca.org/resources/childrenandworship>
Or read about it here: <http://www.childrenandworship.org/>

We are seeking faithful and caring adults to be worship leaders and greeters for this program. **The initial training will be Saturday, September 10, from 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 a.m.**

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Thanks to our CPC Christian Education team, along with the Adult Education sub-team, the Milestones Ministry sub-team, the Vacation Bible School directors, and the many teachers and leaders who serve the Lord in learning ministries. For more information about any of the topics or programs in this special edition of *The Link*, please contact Director of Christian Education, Medora Hix: medora.hix@carypresbyterian.org or by phone at the church office, 919-467-8700.