

CHRISTIAN FAITH FORMATION

Cary Presbyterian Church 2018-19

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, 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 Faith Formation 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.
Faith formation is Christian education, spirituality and nurture.*

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 children through age 3.5 is available in **Room 120**.

- **Preschool Class (ages 3.5 – Kindergarten): 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 and Meredith Bullis, teachers*

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

Rooms 220-225



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! 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)

Faith Journey groups are divided into: *Hikers* (1st grade), *Trekkers* (2nd) and *Climbers* (3rd) in one group, and *Trail Blazers* and *Pathfinders* (4th & 5th grades) in another.

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. This year's theme is "**God's Word.**"

Workshop teachers change with each unit; signing up to lead a workshop is an on-going process.

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 study called "Co-lab-orate." Painting, drama and games are all part of the action. **Room 103 (MS Room)** *Sherry Bradsher, Jim Bowdish*

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 September 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 Emmie Brown, Holly Boswell, Medora Hix, and Robert Rackley*

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, flexibility and change is the pattern--topics and studies may change every 1-2 weeks or approximately every four to six weeks. In others, ongoing sessions are the norm. Please see current announcements for the schedule. 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, Jim Kurz*
- **Bible and Beyond** – For those who want Bible and theological 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 begin with a 5-week video and discussion study on John Calvin: His Life & Legacy. That will run from 9/16 to 10/14. Later the class will tackle "Uppity Women of the Bible," a Living the Questions published resource, and a study on the Dead Sea Scrolls. Stay tuned for other offerings. The class meets in the **Library**. Occasional social events happen outside of class. *Lisa and Alan Ward*
- **Faith and Family Class** – For those who have children in the home, 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 social issues. Topics can change weekly! **Fellowship Hall** *Alan Bancroft, facilitator*

- **Faith TODAY!** – 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. Sometimes the course may be consecutive Sundays; sometimes a course may be offered as units, perhaps 2 weeks in a row, and two weeks at a later time. **Room 100**, shepherded by *John and Beth Campbell*, taught by various leaders. This year's courses include the following; please see the schedule in the weekly eLink and worship bulletin (not in order!).
 - *Unafraid; Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times* (Adam Hamilton), for anyone who wonders how individuals, families, and communities can live as peacemakers in troubled times, or for anyone struggling with fear, worry, or anxiety.
 - *The Great Spiritual Migration: How the World's Largest Religion is Seeking a Better Way to be a Christian* (Brian McLaren). The Christian story is about people on the move; it's time to move again.
 - *A Crazy, Holy, Grace: the Healing Power of Pain and Memory* (Frederick Buechner). When pain is real, why is God silent?
 - *Grateful: the Transformative Power of Giving Thanks* [Diana Butler Bass]. The author explores why gratitude is missing as a modern spiritual practice, offers practical suggestions for reclaiming it, and illuminates how the shared practice of gratitude can lead to greater connection with God, our world, and our own souls.
 - *The Answer to Bad Religion is Not No Religion: a Guide to Good Religion for Seekers, Skeptics, and Believers* [Martin Thielen, author of *What's the Least You Can Believe and Still Be a Christian.*] This study illustrates the dangers of religion that is judgmental, anti-intellectual, and legalistic and offers instead an approach to religion that is grace-filled, promotes love and forgiveness, and is inclusive and hope-filled.
 - *Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi* [Amy-Jill Levine]. Levine is a gifted

presenter with startling insights into stories we think we all know. *This course might also be offered through the Bible and Beyond class.*

- *Blessed: The Prosperity Gospel* [Kate Bowler]. This course uses this text to fully explore the origins, unifying themes, and major figures of a burgeoning movement that now claims millions of followers in America. How does this movement interreact with our understanding of faith and practice?

Stay tuned! Coffee available!

- **NEW! The Kerygma Class**. People have been asking for a different kind of Bible study—here it is. Kerygma, a Greek word, is translated "message." What is the Bible teaching us? This class will begin with an introduction to Bible study, Bible Intro (led by Medora Hix). It will be followed by a course called Listening to Scripture: Strategies for Interpreting the Bible (led by Duane Hix). After the New Year, two other courses will be offered: Parables: Stories for Living in God's World, and Lord, Teach Us to Pray, a study that will not only inform in unexpected ways but will enhance your prayer life. **Room 102**

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. Currently planned: Advent study: Nov 28, Dec 5, 12, and 19 on Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *God is in the Manger*, led by Dr Duane Hix; a study during Lent; and a study called *Peaceful Neighbor: Discovering the Countercultural Mr. Rogers*. Watch for these and more.

Special Events

Intergenerational Sunday School Events –

Oct 14 (*similar to last year's Know Chocolate, Know Lent*) "Family and Friends Stories," following our church-wide theme of God's Story, Many Voices. Come and play together, pray together, break bread together, and study God's Word together.

March 10 – first Sunday in Lent, come together for another special event.

Annual Christmas Pageant – December 16 –All children and youth are invited to participate in this annual event.

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 2018-19:

Starting School – for **KINDERGARTEN** children. 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.

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 16, 23, and 30.** 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. This year the Milestone is combined with the unit on The Lord’s Prayer. There will be ONE special class with parents, on **February 28**, plus two more weeks for studying prayer.

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 21, 28, and Nov 4** so that the third graders will really ‘get to know my Bible.’

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 or who missed a previous year’s Milestone. This one-time class will be held **February 23**, a Saturday, following the practice for Youth Sunday. The Milestone recognition will be in worship on Youth Sunday (February 24) at 11 o’clock.

Children and Worship

The Children and Worship program is for young children age 3 – 7. Rather than having the children attend nursery during the 11:00 a.m. worship service, we 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 greeted and ushered to their place.

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/>

For more information about any of the topics or programs listed here, please contact Director of Faith Formation, Medora Hix:

medora.hix@carypresbyterian.org or by phone at the church office, 919-467-8700.

Note: dates, meeting spaces, and leadership may be subject to change.