

2013 Education Ministries

Making Disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world

Sunday School for All Ages: Sunday mornings – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.
Children & Youth – Preschool through 12th grade
Adult Sunday School classes: Adult Bible Class and DVD/Video Discussion Class

2013-2014 Teaching Staff

PreK/Kindergarten/1st Grade: Janelle Ash, Babette Money, Maxine Parker
2nd/3rd Grade Rick Evers, Jonathan Ramteke
4th/5th Grade: Jessica Walker, Gary Walther
6th-8th Grade: Addria Dash, Peter Mantell, Eric Ruoff
Senior High: Judy Hopkins, Karen Griffith
Adult Discussion/Video Class: Millie Grey, Sherry Peterson, Jack Sarhage
Adult Bible Study: Irene Spangler
Substitute Teachers: Carol Otte, Sandra Ruoff, Tina Schmidt, Beth Hart, Judy Malko, Mel Hardgrove, Nancy Drake (Adult Sunday School class)
Sunday School Superintendent: Mary Staynings

Sunday School Registration/Rally Day was held on September 8th.

Our Sunday School is a wonderful place for individuals and families to share in faith development through Christian Education. We continue to have a wonderful staff of dedicated teachers and co-teachers in classes for children, youth and adults. We also have special events throughout the year, including the annual Resurrection Egg Hunt, which has grown each year and has brought in participants from the community, and our Prayer Labyrinth, which is now permanently laid out on the chapel floor for use throughout the year.

The Sunday School curriculum this year is as follows: Preschool through 5th grade classes are using *Grow, Proclaim, Serve*, grades 6-8 are using *Bible Led Youth* curriculum and the Senior High class is utilizing *Burst* and *3-V Bible Studies*. All curriculum is published by Cokesbury.

The Sunday School participates in several mission projects, including the “Shepherd’s Shelves” program and our “Giving Tree,” where non-perishable food is collected every Sunday, year round, to help in our community.

Adult Sunday School

We currently offer two adult Sunday School classes. The first is a small group study which uses short-term DVD or video series, followed by discussion and application to participants’ lives. The second is a Bible study, which also discusses relevant life applications to the scriptures studied each week.

Youth Groups for students in grades 6 through 12 meet the first Sunday of the month from 4:00-5:30p.m. In addition, we have many special events, including opportunities for education, mission, outreach and fellowship.

Junior Youth Fellowship (JYF) – for students in 6th through 8th grades.
Young Disciples (YDs) – for students in 9th through 12th grades.

Both youth groups are developing and growing in many ways. Addria Dash and Eric Ruoff are the leaders the junior high fellowship (“JYF”). The Young Disciples (senior high youth group) leaders are Judy Hopkins and Karen Griffith.

Safe Sanctuary

We have continued to offer Safe Sanctuary workshops to the congregation and increase awareness of our Safe Sanctuary policy. This workshop will be offered twice a year to educate new members and new leaders whose ministries include children and youth. Background checks are conducted on all volunteers who work with children, youth and vulnerable adults.

Bible Study – multiple levels of short and long-term Disciple Bible studies are offered, along with several other short-term studies throughout the year. This year, our Shepherd’s Shelves ministry is offering a study on hunger entitled “A Place At The Table” which will conclude in late November.

Pastor Preston will lead Advent and Lenten studies, as well as other small-group studies. The studies are offered as both evening and daytime options to better serve our congregation. After the Advent/Christmas season, classes for Disciple Bible Study and Companions in Christ will be offered.

Making Disciples Confirmation Program for youth in 6th grade and older. Youth are partnered with an adult mentor with whom they complete a series of lessons, community service projects, attend field trips and Pastor-led group classes on subjects such as Baptism, Communion, and the history of Methodism.

Four youth were confirmed since our last conference and seven other confirmands are in the midst of their journey. We have group trips to enhance the confirmation experience, such as touring the United Methodist Archives at Drew University, participating in Taize worship experiences and touring historic Philadelphia churches. Thank you to all of our mentors who make the commitment to our youth on their journeys!

Vacation Bible School

This year’s Vacation Bible School was held the week of July 22nd – 26^h. Kingdom Rock was a week of royal good times! We had 117 registered participants, with only 33 from our own church! The week was more than entertaining...we were able to share God’s story, raise money for mosquito nets and collect school supplies for kids in our community. Our volunteers were Kings and Queens when it comes to giving of their time and love during Vacation Bible School.

Once again, we passed along our decorations to All Saint’s Lutheran Church in Piscataway, who used the same curriculum the following. We continued to request a \$5.00 registration fee. For our mission project, we participated in Imagine No Malaria, collecting \$371.61 in

donations for mosquito nets. We also collected school supplies for children in our area, which were donated to The Somerset Home for Temporarily Displaced Children and Youth.

Thank you all for another great year of Vacation Bible School! We are already looking forward to next year! Please mark your calendars for July 21-25, 2014!

Classes for **Acolyte Training** are held during the year and are led by Karen Griffith and Janelle Ash. This training is not only for new prospective youth but also all current acolytes as a refresher course on the seasons, discipline and procedures.

College Planning

A College Planning workshop is offered annually for high school students and their parents to learn about the steps involved in researching colleges and financial aid, and preparing for college (application process, SATs, etc.). This workshop is led by Millie Grey, who is a licensed Professional Counselor.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Griffith, Education Chair
Judy Hopkins, Director of Program and Lay Ministries
Mary Staynings, Superintendent of Sunday Schools