

# Christian Education Corner

Mary Ann Sumner [MaryAnnSumner@wbts.org](mailto:MaryAnnSumner@wbts.org)

## VIEW FROM THE PEW

### **Or a View from Afar**

This morning I attended Jeff's "Body, Mind, and Soul" seminar on the Dark Night of the Soul. I wanted to see what he has been doing these past two year holed up in the loft at his computer! It dealt with burnout and how to get through it with the help of God and others. I was one of five people who attended his Institute class last spring and many others worked with him one on one during his research for this doctoral project. I didn't realize when I started the class that I was headlong in the middle of my own burnout here at WBTS. I began to explain to the class that there had been several incidents over the past several years involving parents and others that had just sapped the joy out of my work as Christian Education Director. I was going through the motions and planning programs and events but with a heavy heart. The others in the class made me see what I had known all along - that I could not change other's perceptions of me and that part of the problem was theirs and not just mine. With the help of these 4 women, Jeff's guidance of our discussions, and God, I was able to shed my burdens and move once more into the joy of my job. I am still planning the programs and aiming them toward those who come to them, not worrying about who isn't coming. Are you facing a similar feeling of burnout? Is it something in your job or your life? Take advantage of what the church has to offer. The ministers are always here to help but by deciding to take this one Institute class I was able to turn my life around. I won't go into what Jeff had to say at the seminar today but he suggested finding things that make you happy and make you laugh. Maybe it's learning to

play the guitar or taking out your frustrations by pounding paper with rubber stamps in the card making class. There will be a class on butterfly gardens this semester if that would bring you a sense of peace. And we offer many Sunday School and other classes that just might talk about a Bible passage or event that cause the scales to fall from your eyes, too. Maybe the church can be a hospital to you just as it was for me.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NURSERY/PRESCHOOL

Since many of our little ones are in the nursery during worship and do not necessarily stay for Sunday School, the nursery staff will be doing lessons for them during the worship hour. Please note that the nursery is for children under the age of 6 and this will not spill over into the other grades who have class from 9:45-10:45.

## **GRADES K-5**

We are moving along our church year calendar and learning about Lent and Holy Week this month. Children will visit art, games, cooking, and storytelling to complete some special projects while learning about this time leading to Easter. Each student will get a book called "Holy Week Pictures and Symbols" that they'll add to each week.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Hmmm...blindfolds, tents, hospitality, Lectio Divina (do you know what that means??)

## **HIGH SCHOOL**

You'll be continuing your Faith Questions study with Cara. We have really interesting discussion

when a lot of you come to class. So come to class! We miss you when you aren't here.

### **ADULT CLASSES**

**THE PRESENT WORD** is a Bible Study led by Carol Underwood in Room 11. The study this quarter is from Exodus. This is the same study used in the weekday Bible study so if you can't come on Wednesday mornings this is your chance to participate in this interesting discussion. If you are in the Wednesday study this is a chance for you to delve a little deeper!

**FEASTING ON THE WORD: CONVERSATIONS** is a discussion class led by Pete Zahn in room 12A. The conversations follow the lectionary (the calendar of Scripture passages the ministers use for their sermons) You'll be discussing the sermon topics to gain even more insight into what you hear in worship each week.

### **THE LETTERS FROM OR TO TIMOTHY, TITUS, PETER AND JOHN**

These are primarily instructional letters. They offer insight, suggestions and advice regarding doctrine, practices, and procedures for the leaders, teachers and membership of early Christian churches. Most of these letters warn of the threat posed to the Church by false teachers and by Rome's growing fear and mistrust of the Gospel's expanding influence within its empire. Their counsel still deserves the attention and deference of all Christians. This class meets in the Peninsula House with Mimi Wildridge.

### **WHAT PRESBYTERIANS BELIEVE**

Dean Thompson, former president of Louisville Presbyterian Seminary says Presbyterians are "thinking people with warm hearts". You are invited to bring your warm hearts and thinking caps to this discussion class where we will consider what it means to be a member of

Westminster By-The-Sea, the Central Florida Presbytery, and the PCUSA denomination. We will discuss basic beliefs and our Form of Government. This class meets in the Garden Room with Richard Hills.

### **YOUTH GROUP**

Cara Gee

Hey Youth! It's time for an overnight. This month we will do our Hunger Awareness overnight on Friday the 24th. We'll meet at the church at 6pm for games and conversations about the hunger of kids just like you. The event will end with a worship service on the beach the next morning and breakfast. We also have our regular meetings. The Senior Highs will meet on the 12th and the Middle Schoolers on the 19th. I hope to see you all then.

And remember, if you want to participate in the mission week this summer, I need your information by the end of this month!

### **WESTMINSTER INSTITUTE**

The Institute brochure is being readied and we will have the Institute Fair on Sunday, February 5 during Fellowship Hour. Leaders, please be prepared to set up a table to advertise your class and everyone else please come and see what we'll be offering this spring. Sign up for the classes you like!

### **OUR GOOD OLD DAYS**

Kitty French

Again you will get this reminder after our meeting so just mark your calendar for each month on the first Thursday at 1:00 in the Garden Room. If you haven't tried our group you are missing an opportunity to casually meet with friends & remember your good old days. You are sure to hear a story that will remind you of things that happened to you that you should pass along to your family. Try it, you'll like it.

## CARD MAKING CLASS

Mary Ann Sumner

Thursday, February 23, at 9:30 in room 5/6. I'm sure there will be Easter cards among the four you'll be making. There is a supply fee of \$5.00. Class is limited to 15 and Mary Ann needs to know if you are coming to each class so kits can be prepared.

## LIBRARY NEWS

Rusty Carmichael

### YOUNG PEOPLE'S BOOK REVIEW

#### FRIENDSHIP AND LOVE

For our youngest children:

"GUESS HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU" By Sam McBratney - Illus. by Anita Jeram

"LOVE BEARS ALL THINGS: A CHILD LEARNS TO LOVE" By Pat Kirk & Alice

Brown

"WANTED: BEST FRIEND" By A. M. Monson - Pictures by Lynn Munsinger

"A BOOK OF HUGS" By Dave Ross

"SHARING" By Nanette Newman - Illus. by Liz Moyes

"BARNEY'S COLOR SURPRISE" By Mary Ann Dudko & Margie Larsen - Photographer - Dennis Full

For our older readers:

"BABY BEARS & HOW THEY GROW" A National Geographic Book For Young Explorers By Jane Heath Buxton

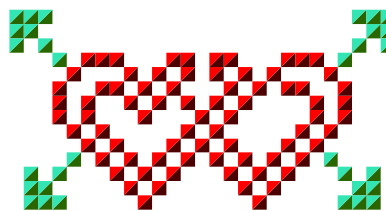
"LET'S HAVE A TEA PARTY!" By Emilie Barnes - Illus. by Michael Sparks

"BEAR HUGS" By Kate Tym

"WHY, CHARLIE BROWN, WHY?" A story about what happens when a friend is very ill. By Charles M. Schulz - Forward by Paul Newman

Most of these books will be on the Book Cart in the Fellowship Hall, where you can check them out.

**ENJOY!!!**



*Happy Valentine's Day*

## INSPIRED TOGETHER

On March 3 from 2:00 - 4:00 we will meet at the Marcody Ranch in New Smyrna Beach to learn about the Hope Reins program and to ride the horses. Here is what Sherry Argenbright had to say about our time there: "We can ride, watch the herd run in to get fed (exciting and beautiful!) and lots more. We have a picnic area so it's also a nice way to picnic. Grills are welcome. We can decide on a picnic once we see who is signed up. I will give you the liability forms that we'll need to be signed for all the riders and further details. It will be nice to have



everyone to the ranch. We whole-heartedly support the Duvall Home, about a third of our riders live there. They are a very important part of our program. I know WBTS is also a big supporter of Duvall, it will be nice to explain how we work with them from the recreational side. The address is 3804 Pioneer Trail New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168."

Watch for a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall as Sherry will need a count to give to the owners. This is open to everyone in the congregation.