

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE ANNUAL SESSION REPORT--March 3, 2009

The 2008-09 Christian Education Committee consists of the following members:

Session: Laura Brown (Chair), Jane Horton (Vice Chair), Beth Thompson, Lou Stuart
Congregation: Gretchen Sukow, Bob Ludt, Cynthia Hintze, Mary Ellena Ward, Neely Young

Ex Officio Members: Bill Klein (Pastor), Charlotte Gunn (Librarian), Olivia Patton (Director of Christian Education).

The Christian Education program consists of four divisions:

1-Children:

Children's Sub-Committee: Gretchen Sukow (Chair), Tammy Shomo, Margie Page, Pree Ray, Angie Tschantz, JoAnne Willis, Olivia Patton

Paid caregivers: Janice Reynolds, Hilary Bergmann (Nursery and Toddler Extended Session)

2008-09 Children's Sunday School Teachers (through 5th grade): Mary Beth Baker, Amy DeHart, Gretchen Sukow (Preschool); Josh Elrod, Karla Murdock, Heidi Sherman, Andy Jay, Ann Spice (K-1st grade); Tom Jones, Bob Moreschi, Mark and Moni Keeley (2nd-3rd grade); Patsy Aligood, Betsy Lee, JoAnne and Eddie Willis, Margie Page (4th-5th grade)

2008-09 Children's Sunday School Curriculum: Rock Solid: Building a Heart of Faith

Music: Sunday School in November included a time for all the children to learn Christmas carols and hymns, led by William McCorkle.

Children's Enrichment Program: (for K-2nd graders following children's sermon) based on *Young Children and Worship*, modeled after the Godly Play style of teaching Bible stories. It is coordinated by Dianne Herrick, and led by various trained church members.

Activities and projects include: RARA Food Pantry (S.S. Collection); Heifer International (S.S. Collection); Good Friday Passover Seder; Easter egg hunt; VBS, 71 children, 15 youth and 30 adults participated; Bibles were given to ten 3rd graders in 2008; Christmas Pageant, "The Gift" during 12/21/08 worship service, with 30 children and 12 youth participating.

2-Youth:

Youth Sub-Committee: Jane Horton (Chair), Ruth Floyd, Ruth Candler, Karen Emrey, Betsy Lee, Lorri Olan, Laura Brown, Olivia Patton.

2008-09 Middle School Sunday School Teachers (Grades 6 – 8) Debbie & Frank Friedman, Andy Johnson & Cynthia Penne, Tammy & Randy Shomo, Laura & Boyd Brown. Curriculum: "Claim the Life: Word"

2008-09 Senior High Sunday School Teachers: (Grades 9 – 12) Kirk & Theresa Luder, Jane Horton, Joe Irby. Curriculum: "Claim the Life: Story"

Confirmation Program: Nine youth were confirmed in 2008, fifteen have been invited to participate in 2009 confirmation class (four current 8th graders and 11 high school students).

Youth Group: This program is managed by the Youth Sub-Committee. *Activities and service projects for the past year include:* Bill and Deb Klein led a monthly discussion session with parents of senior highs, and hosted a pot luck dinner with parents and senior highs 5/4/08; 4/20/08 Youth Sunday; 4/08 Cystic Fibrosis Walk; 5/08 Gifts & Talents Auction as mission trip fundraiser; collected supplies for FOBF medical mission trip to Honduras; 6/08 Summer mission trip to the Pilgrimage, Washington, DC, 16 youth and 5 adults; 7/08 Montreat Senior High Youth Conference, 1 youth, 1 adult; Summer hike, drive-in movie night, cookout at the Brown's; Shenandoah Presbytery Youth Council (SPYCE) participation with 4 youth representatives; 9/21/2008 SPYCE Middler

Rally "Hakuna Matata," 7 youth, 2 adults; painted Sunday School class rooms; evening worship activities in style of Taize and Iona communities; Evensong and contemporary Christian music programs; 10/08 Hospice Hustle; LPC history scavenger hunt; Campus Kitchens; baked cookies for Sunday School teachers and staff; wrapped children's gifts for Christmas Basket program; community Christmas Basket packing 12/20/2008; 12/21/08 Christmas Pageant "The Gift" during worship service; 2/1/09 Souper Bowl of Caring collection raised \$1,252; Youth readers for Ash Wednesday service 2/25/09; 3/6-8/09 SPYCE Senior High retreat "In Tune"; Planning underway for Youth Sunday on 4/26/09. Working on plans for 2009 summer mission activities in the Rockbridge area. *Youth Director*: Continuing the search for a part time Youth Director.

3-Campus:

Campus Sub-Committee: Bob Ludt and Cynthia Hintze (Co-Chairs), Beth Belmont, Doug Bartlett, John Watkins, Rich Bidlack, Jackie Tugman, Carol Bryan, Snookie Caldwell, Olivia Patton.

Activities and projects include: Rat Sunday (served breakfast to 38 cadets); Adopt a Student program (placed 21 cadets with host families for 2008-09); 9/14/08 luncheon for VMI and W&L students; College fellowship group met once a month after church on Sundays with Beth Belmont; exam study packets (fall only) for VMI/W&L Students. Send Christmas cards (with restaurant gift card) and e-mail birthday cards to LPC students away at college. Educational Grant Assistance of \$6,010 awarded to 16 recipients in June, 2008. Applications for current year grant assistance will be available soon.

4-Adult:

Adult Sub-Committee: Mary Ellena Ward (2008 Chair), Neely Young (2009 Chair), Beth Thompson, Cathy McElhannon, Lou Stuart, Mary Dugan, Lynne McCombs, Elle Dod, Fran Elrod, Bernard Jackson, Olivia Patton.

2008-09 Sunday School Classes and Teachers/Leaders include:

Summer 2008: Practicing Our Faith – Deb Klein, Mary Ellena Ward, William McCorkle
Ongoing and Quarterly adult CE classes for 2008-09:

- Ask Class – Rotating leadership
- Young Adult Class – Angie Tschantz
- Theology Class – Lad Sessions
- Christian Art Class – George Bent
- The Bible from Scratch – Betty Jean Young, Beth Thompson
- Environmental Stewardship–Philip Coulling
- Koinonia Class- Deb Klein

2008-09 Additional Classes and Teachers/Leaders include:

Explore Class – periodically for several weeks, two or three times a year, Bill Klein
Men's Saturday Fellowship – once a month, Bob Moreschi, Coordinator
Listening For God – every other month, Deb Klein
Lectio Divina – Tuesday mornings, Deb and Bill Klein

Miscellaneous/Special Projects:

2008-09 Rally Day: Held 9/7/08, coordinated by Adult Sub-Committee: an introduction to Christian Education opportunities within the church to open the church school year
Festival of Faith: The next Festival of Faith will be planned for early in 2010.

Director of Christian Education: Olivia Patton directs the Christian Education program.
Outside activities include: Association of Presbyterian Christian Educator's

meetings/conferences, Presbytery Christian Educator's meetings/activities, graduate classes at Union PSCE.

2008 budget: 2009 CE operating budget is \$19,300, with additional restricted spending allotments for youth mission, scholarships and campus ministry.

2008-09 CE participation: During 2008-09 we offered 19 Christian Education classes/programs and estimate 160 children and adults participate as students, and 38 as teachers/leaders. This does not include participation in special programs such as Vacation Bible School. 50+ adults are involved in Christian Education leadership roles (committees, teachers, advisors, etc.) Adult class rosters/attendance sheets would be helpful in establishing accurate counts of participation.

Sunday School Teacher Orientation: Letter sent 8/19/08 to Children's and Youth Sunday School teachers with Guidelines for Teachers and Parents.

Christian Education Handbook: Work continues on establishing age-specific learning goals for children and youth.