

# Children's Sunday School

We are looking forward to an enjoyable year for our Sunday school teachers, helpers, and students. There are Bible stories with reinforcing in-class and take-home papers, coloring sheets, and visual aids to help the children comprehend God's Word. The classes have been well attended in the past, and strong relationships were developed among all involved.

The curriculum we use, Great Commission Publications, is comprehensive and well thought out. It is compiled through the combined Christian education ministry efforts of the *Presbyterian Church in America* (PCA) and the *Orthodox Presbyterian Church*, and provides everything necessary for a person with a heart for the Lord to teach His Word to our children.

Sunday school classes begin September 9, 2007, and while we have been able to find teachers for every class, we have not been able to staff all the classes with adult helpers. That is where you come in, the helping part. We want your heart for our children. You don't need anything but a willing heart, the Lord will do the rest. You don't have to have any special skills or knowledge to qualify for the position. If you have found the hand mirror that was mentioned in the appeal from the pulpit (the mirror in the narthex), held it under your nose, seen condensation form on the surface, then you qualify. Don't worry about having to know anything Biblical. Should a child somehow corner you and ask you a question, (we would hope they ask the teacher first, but the teacher might be occupied with something else) and you have no idea how to answer, tell them you have to go to the rest room, run down the hall to the Pastor or an Elder for the answer, make a quick stop in the rest room to wash your hands (you don't want to be lying in church), and then run back and deliver the answer to the child. We adults have to stick together.

With our full complement of teachers back and ready to teach, our lineup is full of veteran teachers. We have Deacon Sam assigned to assist with overall activities, but his primary activity is to carry a clipboard and look officious (his words). The breakdown, by grade, looks like this:

Nursery Sunday school – Geri LaRose, back by popular demand, is a veteran nursery CEO. She will be working with the little ones, using material from the Great Commissions Curriculum. The faithful Proverbs 31 wife of Pastor (Iron) Will promotes calm to the harried parents and strength to the frightened children. When the horror of being separated from mom and dad overcomes them (the children that is), she capably soothes their aching hearts, and they quickly fall into the delightful regimen of the nursery.

Four-year-olds to Kindergarten – Liz Bazzell, our world renowned kindergarten teacher, is in great demand by the little people, as word of mouth spreads from those who have studied under her, to those coming up through the grades. I have actually seen the children weep when she took a Sunday off (I did too, for that matter).

First and Second Grades – Linda Whiting, labeled by Pastor Will as "intense", has taught at all levels. For many years a seasoned VBS ministry leader, Christian school teacher, and Christian summer camp director (AACS - 2006). She is on the Board of Directors of the Severn Run Classical Christian Home-School Academy (SRCCHA), as well as their history tutor, and is the Yoda of home-school information and trivial data. She is a master crafts person, and keeps the kids involved by supplementing the Great Commissions lessons with related crafts.

Third & Fourth Grades – Cindy Bach, wife, mother, and new teacher, holds youth group and pool parties for our teenagers, and is loved by even the sulkiest teenager as a result. No easy feat. Third and fourth graders will be a piece of cake for Cindy.

Fifth Grade – Elder Bob Masters is a teachers' teacher. He has seen generations of children come through his Sunday school classes, and is a master (no pun intended) at controlling the most rowdy of fifth graders. They love his classes, because he supplements them with videos that keep their sharp intellects focused. His helper will be the grizzled guitar playing Elder Jack Craig, who was our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher for years. Jack is a story telling legend, cornucopia of biblical information, and fellow master at quieting untamed spirits (although he no longer employs duct tape). With his drill instructor persona, those fifth graders won't be ruling the classroom any time soon.

Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grades – Head Deacon for many years, Todd Masters, son of Bob (didn't I tell you Bob was a teachers teacher), has his father's grasp of understanding young minds. He will have Jamie McIntosh as his helper. As a Deacon, Jamie has been one of the men nobody sees, but everybody benefits from. He is one of the men that fix things when they are broken (Jamie might use duct tape, but I am not sure). These two are going to be a tag team when it comes to keeping things moving in an orderly direction, and Todd's firm grasp of biblical information will serve these young folks well.

Middle School Girls – Cindy Williams, a veteran teacher for this group, has special connections in the church, so she always has the latest curriculum. Although rarely stumped, when she is confronted with a stump-the-teacher question, she somehow always gets an answer quickly, from the Pastor. She has been mentoring these young ladies for many years, and has garnered their love and respect.

High School – Christian Graham, our Director of Youth Ministries, is a dynamo of activity, overseeing many different programs both within the church and out in the mission field. From West Virginia to South America, he witnesses by his actions to all that come near to him. He has a grasp of the teenage mind that allows him to direct their energy in fruitful directions, and never appears ruffled by even their most bizarre antics. His wife and assistant, Marianne, as the ladies volleyball coach at Annapolis Area Christian School, is well attuned to the dreams and aspirations of young ladies. Your teenagers could not be in better hands.

While much of what was written here is tongue-in-cheek humor, the core is about Christian brothers and sisters trying to teach and show by example what a personal relationship with the Lord looks and feels like. From preparing lesson plans to fetching pitchers of water, the matrix of activities required of teachers and helpers is profuse. Because our society demands that success be measurable, we put high value on the things we can measure. Unfortunately, it is impossible to measure the work of the Holy Spirit in the heart of those around us. For that reason, work, sports, school, recreational activities, etc, all take precedence over time spent on our spiritual growth, because they can be measured in money, high grades, scoreboard results, and sense stimulation. If you aren't already, we would ask that you think and pray about spending at least an equal amount of time on your spiritual growth by helping others. We are instructed to help others, but those that help children hold a very special place in the Lords heart. And that's Biblical.

Thank You and God bless,  
Sam & Linda Whiting

