

Fall Adult Christian Growth—Classes and Bible Studies

SUNDAYS: 9:45-11:00 am

Begins Sept. 9:

GAP-Get Acquainted Place

WSN Room 7—*Facilitators: Fred & Pat Reich and Roger & Carol Johnson*

The Get Acquainted Place (GAP) is an adult class for sharing faith and fellowship with anyone who finds their way to our door. No matter if you are new to West Side or a seasoned attendee, the GAP provides a friendly accepting atmosphere to meet others. The GAP functions much like a small group: we adapt Christian books as well as small group curriculum as a basis for study. Anyone can bring a friend.

Bible Study: The Prophecy of Isaiah

WSS Room 306—*Facilitators: Gene Carbaugh and Will Shaw*

Isaiah is a book of striking contrasts and soaring imagery. It speaks of God's glory and human failure, of God's justice and His redemption, of exile and salvation of the people of Israel, and of the Messiah and salvation for people for all time. Isaiah is the most quoted prophet in the New Testament. This writing challenges and inspires; and it points to Jesus as King, as Servant, and as Anointed Conqueror. Join us as we begin a year-long study of this remarkable gift from the Bible.

Women of the Word: "12 More Women of the Bible"

WSN Room 2-4—*Facilitators: Marian Holm, Diane Pratt, Colleen Yabyaoui*

We will be reading a collection of spiritual lessons learned from 12 women in the Bible and what those lessons mean for us as women today. As we look at each of these women's lives, we will discover how to apply biblical lessons to our own daily struggles, how to live through our failures as well as our successes, and how to draw nearer to God in a world filled with many trials. The format of this study is much like the one from last spring ("12 Women of the Bible"), but will include 12 different women of the Bible: Ruth, Deborah, Esther, Priscilla, et. al. This fresh look at these biblical women will help us discover new insights into God's character and find JOY in the HOPE that JESUS has provided us! Women of all ages are welcome!

TUESDAY NIGHTS

The Alpha Course

6:00-8:30 pm—WSN Sanctuary

Sept. 18—Introductory Dinner

Sept. 25—Classes Begin

The Alpha Course is a practical introduction to the Christian faith, a place where guests have an opportunity to explore the meaning of life. The 10-week course is presented free of charge in a relaxed, friendly setting including good food and easy conversations. Childcare provided.

- see Alpha brochure for details -

WEDNESDAYS@WEST SIDE

Fall Kickoff: Worship in the Round Sept. 19

5:15 pm—Potluck Dinner—WSN Sanctuary

6:00-7:30 pm—Worship in the Round—WSS Sanctuary

Join us as we reconnect and kickoff our Fall Wednesday evening intergenerational ministry. We will be serving hot dogs and tater tots—please bring a side dish or dessert to share (remember no nuts or nut-flavored products including coconut in WSN).

After dinner, we will come together and worship the Lord as a family at Worship in the Round*. This will be an opportunity to worship in a seating arrangement which highlights the fact that we are a family—one congregation worshipping our One Lord. The evening will be filled with singing many different songs led by multiple voices. Please plan to come and enjoy this time of worship together.

*[*Kids gr. 1-5 will join their families for the first few songs before being dismissed to WSN for age-appropriate games and fun biblical discoveries. Childcare for infants-Kindergarten will be provided in WSN Infant/Toddler Room beginning at 5:45 pm.]*

Classes run Sept. 26-Nov. 14

5:15 pm—Potluck Dinner—WSN Sanctuary

6:00-7:30 pm—Classes for all ages—WSN/WSS

Adult classes include:

• **Hard Questions**

Facilitators: Rev. Karel Coppock, Dan Gire, Zach Panlowski

Many of us are familiar with popular science and questions people ask about religion. This class will cover 7 questions which are raised in our society and in the church. We will treat (among other topics) Understanding Genesis 1 and the 6 days of creation; Genesis 2 and early man; How to understand suffering and evil; What to make of the Trinity; Whether tongues, prophecies and words of knowledge are still valid today; et. al.

• **A² (After-Alpha) Life Groups: Following Jesus—Disciplines and Habits That Set Us Free**

Facilitator: Rev. Ralph Kienecker

Last Spring, we launched a new version of an old ministry. We didn't have a name, but we had a plan. Now we have a name: A² Life Groups where "A²" stands for "After-Alpha". There is a lot to learn in the Christian life, and it isn't just information. There is also the very practical realities of living out the implications of all the information. We think Alpha is a wonderful beginning to the journey, but it takes some time to put all the pieces together.

We think Life Groups are a great fit for helping nurture growing up in Christ. However, when we are just starting out or if we have never been formally disciplined (and most of us haven't), there are gaps between theory and practice. We have created A² Life Groups to begin filling in these gaps and nurture real growth in Christ.

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Unlike regular Life Groups that meet in people's homes and study the Bible through the Sunday messages, A² Life Groups are going to meet on Wednesday nights. We will have a teaching time where we are going to work through The New Life Course (just like Alpha). After the 30 minute talk, groups will have a place to meet together to share life, pray, discuss that talk and encourage one another in growing up into Christlike-ness. At this point, we are planning for this be a three-year course with six different studies that will provide a foundation of living into new life offered by Jesus.

This fall, we will focus on explaining and equipping participants on reading Scripture, praying Sabbath rest, and other disciplines that Jesus practiced that become the means by which we experience his grace and power. Even if you are not in a Life Group, you can come and try one for this class and see if it is a fit for you.

MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDIES

Coffee with the Bible

Begins Sept. 19—Wednesdays—8:30-10:00 am—WSN Sanctuary
Facilitator: Rev. Ralph Kienecker

Join us at 8:30 am for coffee and fellowship followed by a Bible study at 9:00 am as we journey through the book of Isaiah together. All are welcome.

Women's Morning Glory Bible Study

Begins Sept. 20—Thursdays—9:00-11:00 am—WSN Room 2-4
Facilitators: Patty (Wilburn) Nicoli, Joan Swinth, Ann Forsythe

Come study the Gospel of John with specific aim of learning how Jesus himself responded to skeptics. We live in an age and culture of skeptics—so did Jesus! What did He say to them? Come learn with us! Childcare available—call Ann Forsythe (509.371.9630) by Wednesdays.

Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Begins Sept. 8—Saturdays—7:30-9:00 am—WSN Koinonia Café
Facilitators: Kip McGilliard & Joe Engel

Come for breakfast, fellowship, Bible study and prayer. We will continue our study of the Gospel of Luke beginning with Luke 13. Our emphasis will be on the teachings of Jesus and the dramatic events leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection for the forgiveness of our sins. Men of all ages are welcome to join us. [We will not meet on holiday weekends: Nov. 24, Dec. 22 & 29.]

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Moms in Prayer

Begins Sept. 12—Wednesdays—10:15-11:15 am—WSN Room 2-4—*Facilitator: Priscilla Fox*

Moms in Prayer is an international, non-denominational Christian organization that seeks to gather women to pray together for children and schools including teachers and those who touch the next generation.

Sarah Circle

Begins Sept. 12—2nd Wednesday (Sept.-June)—11:30 am-1:30 pm—WSN Narthex

Sarah Circle is a group of West Side women who meet monthly to share lunch and fellowship. Interesting educational programs are presented that support various local, national and international mission causes. Women of all ages are welcome!

Compassionate Caregivers Support Group

4th Thursday—10:30-11:30 am —WSN Room 2-4

Facilitators: Jan Jacobson & Bev Baird

If you are the full-time caregiver of a loved one or the relative of a loved one with Alzheimer's or other Dementia OR if you care for a loved one with a chronic, debilitating disease and you need "a break" from the chores and care you provide them, then this group is for you! This group serves as a safe and confidential place to learn and share your thoughts and feelings.

FALL SERMON SERIES

Fractals, Faith and Our Future

Sundays—beginning Sept. 23—8:15 & 9:45 am (WSS Sanctuary) & 11:15 am (WSN Sanctuary)

How do you respond to change? For most of us, our first reaction is resistance. Maybe it's because we have too many memories of getting hurt because of change. But not all change is bad; even when it may be a little uncomfortable, there is positive change. All growth and development represents positive change. Maybe, instead of resistance, we need a new perspective.

In this series, we will talk about some of the challenges we face in a changing world. Our focus will be on our present and future direction of being an inter-generational community on mission together in Jesus' name. But what is true for our church family ripples over into issues we face in our everyday lives. Wrestling together will help each of us live better into Jesus' purposes for us.

Our church leadership has been grappling with ideas coming from a book called, "Growing Younger," and we want to share what we are learning. We believe that we are going to need to make some changes in how we live out our faith together. Not necessarily big changes; more often than not, we are looking to make a pivot—a small adjustment.

This is an important sermon series, and we hope you will prioritize engaging with the messages. We not only want to share but we also want to hear your input so that as we look to change we can own it together. We believe God wants to lead us into a richer and fuller life by following Him and participating in his purposes.

