



# Christian Education Update

September 2008

## Join us for Adult Education This Fall!

### Sunday mornings at 10:10 a.m., beginning on September 14

#### **Studying Scripture -The Psalms**

Led by the Rev. Fred Horton, the John Thomas Albritton Professor of Biblical Studies at Wake Forest, the purpose of this class is to allow us to see the Psalms within their ancient contexts and to find appropriate parallels between those ancient contexts and our contemporary contexts. Some members of the class will be able to read all of the assignments in the Psalter and in the class book. Others will be able to do this only on occasion. Those who cannot commit themselves to this preparation are still invited and strongly encouraged to participate in the classes as fully as possible.

#### **Living the Lord's Prayer**

This class will explore a theology of justice and examine its practical application to current issues in our community, including immigration and local efforts to provide support for those in need. Led by clergy and lay leaders including, the Rev. Doug Bailey, a nationally known advocate for urban ministry, Penni Bradshaw, a long-time immigration lawyer, and the Rev. Chantal McKinney, our newest priest at St. Paul's and the chair of the diocese's Hispanic ministry.

#### **Anglicanism 101**

Back by popular demand, this class will teach participants the ABCs of the Episcopal Church and will be led by the Rev. John Shields. It is appropriate for those new to our tradition as well as those seeking a deeper understanding of the faith they have practiced and professed for many years. This is our adult confirmation class.

#### **Young Adults and Families (formerly 20s and 30s)**

How does Christ show up in our lives and what are we called to be and do as Christians? This class will focus on how we grow in faith and how to apply our faith to the daily challenges of work, play and relationships. It will be led by Corey Miller, an ordained Methodist minister, and the Rev. Ginny Inman, as well as members of the class.

#### **Small Groups**

The vision for small groups is to provide the means for real Christian community to develop. We will be offering several small groups on Sunday morning, including an intergenerational group and a group for women in their 30s and 40s.

## Learning About Time And Money

Children are the most precious gifts given to us by God. The 2009 Stewardship campaign is focused on children and encouraging them to be good stewards of God's gifts. We hope to instill in them the value that all things we have, material and otherwise, come from God. Therefore, it is our duty as Christians to give those gifts back to God through good works, generous support of charitable organizations, and sharing our talents with our family, peers and community. By giving of themselves spiritually and financially they are receiving a spiritually healthy life and a strong parish in which to worship God and serve each other and our community.

The Christian Education Department has been working with George and Laurie Whitaker, the chairs of this year's Stewardship Campaign, to include education about money and the giving of our time and talents in the first few weeks of our fall classes. Here are the offerings for our various age groups:

- Preschool/Kindergarten classes will use Episcopal lessons on stewardship called "Growing Grateful and Generous Hearts."
- Our first Rotation unit for first through fourth graders will focus on using time and money wisely. This age group will also hear a presentation by 12-year old Honduras missionary Jenna Yount on September 14.
- Fifth and sixth graders will have the opportunity to illustrate Bible stories about money and time in cartooning workshops.
- Seventh and eighth graders will kick off their church school year by viewing the film "Millions" together.
- The Senior High Sunday School class will view and discuss the *NOOMA* video, "Rich," will learn about the St. Paul's budget, and will hear presentations from our Outreach Department.

# Do We Have Your Email?

Most of our Christian Education department communications are now sent via email. If you think your email isn't in the church database, or it has changed recently, be sure to let us know by emailing Stacy Holley at [sholley@stpauls-ws.org](mailto:sholley@stpauls-ws.org).

## Come See Our Updated Nursery

Stop by and see the new carpet, fresh paint, and new ceiling in the nursery near the Nave! Now our nursery is a more inviting place to welcome and care for our youngest members and their parents. Thanks so much to Peggy Slater, the Buildings and Grounds Committee, and John Markle for making decisions and making it happen. We'd also like to thank our maintenance staff, Jerry Luffman and Don Childress, for painting and doing the legwork. Our housekeeper Lynn Nelson also helped put it all back together for us!



*Alex Hilleary and his team give us a big "Wah Hoo!" at VBS*

## Bible Study Studio...

...is a new arts-based Sunday School class for fifth and sixth graders. We are kicking off this new course with a six-week unit on cartooning, led by visiting artist Karen Favreau. The class meets in Rooms 305/306 on the third floor near the Colhoun Rooms.

Cartooning is a unique art form that allows us to share stories and communicate ideas through images and, when necessary, words. Over the course of six weeks, students will learn cartooning basics, explore images and depictions of God, illustrate a Bible story, and examine their own faith journeys. This class will also be using Bible story cartoons from Gretchen Wolff-Pritchard's "The Sunday Paper," a children's bulletin which children and families can pick up at the back of the Nave before the 9:00 a.m. service. Although we welcome drop-ins, children will enjoy the experience most if they attend all six weeks, as the class will build on prior Sundays.

Karen is a member of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Greensboro, a freelance cartoonist, published author, and full-time graduate student; her cartoons have appeared in such publications as *Funny Times* and *National Lampoon*. Karen has taught "Cartooning 101" workshops at public libraries and schools throughout the Triad, and, over the summer, worked as a Cartooning Instructor at UNCG's All Arts & Sciences Camp.



*David Ross and Cy Schroeder lead fun and games at VBS*

## Bring Snacks For Preschool Sunday School On September 7

Instead of having parents sign up to bring snacks on a particular Sunday, we are asking all parents of preschoolers to bring two peanut/nut-free snacks on September 7 and place them in the box at the west entrance. See the Christian Education page on the church website for a list of allergy-safe snacks. We'll store these and use them each Sunday during the fall Sunday school semester. When we are running low, we'll announce another snack drive. Thank you for your help! We hope this will make things simpler for everyone.

# Sunday School Teacher And Volunteer Commissioning

**Sunday, September 21 at the 9:00 a.m. service.**

If you are a Sunday School teacher or volunteer in any capacity, please come to this service so the congregation can pray for you and your ministry with our children and youth.

## Safe Church Training

Safeguarding Our Children is offered on Wednesday, September 10 in Colhoun B from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The Rev. Jamie L'Enfant facilitates this course which is designed to help St. Paul's volunteers and staff create safe spaces for children and their caregivers. Past participants report that the program contains very useful information and is thought-provoking and challenging. Sunday School volunteers, church staff and youth workers (including those who chaperone youth on overnight trips) are required to complete this course.

Space is limited to allow for effective discussion. Sign up to attend and make dinner/childcare reservations by contacting Stacy Holley at [sholley@stpauls-ws.org](mailto:sholley@stpauls-ws.org) or calling the church office. Please note that due to the nature of the information presented, we cannot admit late arrivals.

## 9th Grade Confirmation

The Confirmation teaching team, along with Associate Rector Ginny Inman and Director of Christian Education Stacy Holley, is working and planning for a wonderful confirmation year at St. Paul's. We are using a brand new program called CnC, which stands for "Confirm, Not Conform." CnC is an engaging Episcopal curriculum that takes an innovative approach to helping young people build their own spiritual lives and take responsibility for their faith and its power. The class will be taught primarily by lay leaders with plenty of support and participation from our education staff and clergy.

The class meets for the first time on Sunday, October 5 at 10:10 a.m. (all Sunday classes dismiss at 11:10 a.m. to allow for a full hour of teaching time). Note that ninth graders may attend the Senior High Sunday School class on September 14, 21, and 28. A parent meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 24 at 6:30 p.m. to share details, talk about class requirements, and introduce our teaching team. Contact Stacy Holley at 723-4391 if you have questions in the meantime.



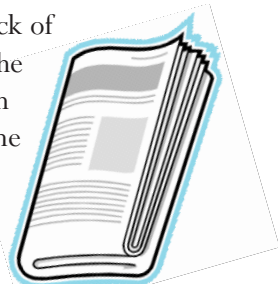
## VBS 2008: Just the Facts

- Number of children: 60
- Number of volunteers and contributors: 73
- Number of days: 5
- Number of "Wah-Hoos!" when we heard a Bible Point: At least 100
- Number of positive comments from kids and parents: Too many to count!

Many thanks to all of our teachers, crew leaders, and other volunteers!!!

## Pick Up The Sunday Paper In Church

You now have permission to read The Sunday Paper in church! "The Sunday Paper" is the name of a children's Sunday morning cartoon bulletin that will be available for children and families (and others!) to pick up at the back of the Nave on Sunday mornings. The writer and illustrator is Gretchen Wolff-Pritchard, who is a longtime Episcopal Christian Educator and author. The papers will come in two versions, one for older children and "The Sunday Paper Junior" for younger children. The junior edition also includes insightful commentary for parents on the day's scripture readings and suggestions for responding to the scripture with children at home. Let us know what you think!



## What Is A NOOMA?

The Greek word *pneuma* means spirit, or breath. *NOOMA* references the Greek *pneuma* and is also the name of a series of short video meditations by a young pastor and author named Rob Bell. His website says that "We want a new format for getting Christian perspectives" and that's what *NOOMA* aims to do. Rob's videos cover topics that Christians care about like intimacy, poverty, discipleship, forgiveness, and death, among others. Our Senior High Sunday School class will be using these videos as discussion starters at least once a month in the upcoming year. If you'd like to see previews of the videos and get more information, go to [www.nooma.com](http://www.nooma.com).

# At A Glance: What are we doing this year?

Age Group	Class Content	Location	How Can Volunteers Help?
Infants and Toddlers (Combined)	Welcomed and loved	Nursery near the Nave	Staff sitters care for these children during the 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. services and the Sunday School hour.
Twos and Threes (Combined)	Publisher David C. Cook lessons: songs, Bible stories, and active play	First Floor Preschool Room 114	Parents are scheduled to care for these children and teach on a rotating basis.
Pre-K and Kindergarten	Godly Play stories in Children's Chapel; All Things New Episcopal curriculum in the classroom	Third Floor Chapel, Second Floor Preschool Classrooms 232 (PreK) and 236 (Kindergarten)	Each classroom has a teaching team with designated lead teachers.
First Through Fourth Grades	Six-week rotation units	Rooms 123, 124, 231, Youth Café, Music Room 270 (Check each Sunday's bulletins for locations)	Station leaders teach lessons to a different age group each week. Shepherds travel with one age group to a new station each week.
Fifth and Sixth Grades (Combined)	Bible Study Studio arts-based learning Active and Interactive Learning, Films, Group's	Rooms 305/306 near the Colhoun Room	Artists are needed to share their skills with the children for five or six week units. Studio teachers lead short studies and provide continuity and classroom leadership.
Seventh and Eighth Grades (Combined)	Twelve Most Important Bible Lessons	Youth Room	A team of teachers works together to plan and lead this class.
Ninth Grade Confirmation	Confirm, Not Conform	Youth Room	A team of teachers works together to plan and lead this class.
Tenth Through Twelfth Grades (Combined)	<i>NOOMA</i> videos, topic-based discussion and reflection	Third Floor Parlor	A team of teachers works together to plan and lead this class.

To volunteer, contact Stacy Holley at 723-4391 or [sholley@stpauls-ws.org](mailto:sholley@stpauls-ws.org)

## Check Out The New Christian Education Webpages...

...on the St. Paul's website. There are photos and information for teachers, volunteers, parents, and students, including a new calendar that shows all of the department's activities.

