



The Second Page

A detailed look at the mission
of Bethpage Presbyterian Church

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EDUCATION MINISTRY AREA

Deuteronomy 6:6-9: *“Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”*

Matthew 28:19-20: *“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.’”*

Christian Education is the sustaining ministry for teaching and passing on the faith to current and future generations. Here at Bethpage, how are we teaching members about the mighty acts of God and the responsibilities of being a Christian? How are we teaching parents how to inform their children about worship and the actions of being disciples of Christ? How are we showing our young people the importance of living godly lives in a me-oriented world? The Education Ministry Area is utilizing a variety of options to address these questions.

Recognizing that some of our educational traditions are invaluable, we continue to lean on some of our ‘tried and true’ program offerings.

- ❖ The Sunday School program is a major source of our Christian education, but some classes have launched new ways of ‘doing’ Sunday School. The elementary-aged classes recently began using the Workshop Rotation Model, complete with wonderfully decorated classrooms and hallways and a new style of learning Bible stories. A new class for Young Adults (post-high school twenty-somethings) now meets in room 203. Several adult classes are using media-driven curriculum with good results.
- ❖ Pioneer and Senior High Youth Fellowship Groups are active and growing. They continue to use a variety of written, media, and service curriculum as they learn to be disciples of our Lord and members of Bethpage church. Through social events for their groups and for the community, mission opportunities with the congregation and a variety of educational experiences, the Pioneers and Senior Highs remind us that they are vital participants in this community of faith.
- ❖ Wednesday morning and evening study programs continue to provide fellowship time as well as quality educational opportunities. These programs bring us new perspectives on biblical passages, as well as an established small group of individuals who care for one another.

Different opportunities for learning have been offered, such as hosting mission speakers and service opportunities, and providing intergenerational Advent-ure activities. Soon you will hear of new opportunities being offered to join fellowship time with Christian studies:

- ❖ Book or Movie Clubs;
- ❖ Small groups for study, fellowship, and/or ministry;
- ❖ Retreat;
- ❖ Possible cluster events with local area churches that will focus on special topics such as parenting, marriage enrichment, or other needs that may arise.

In the future you may see a variety of different learning experiences offered at different times and places as we seek to address the changing needs of our community in today’s world.

If the Education Ministry Area is functioning correctly, and if we Christians are truly serious about working toward a closer walk with Christ, we should see the results of this Christian education within our congregation and our community. We should see acts of Christian kindness, new friends being brought to church events, increased giving of time, talents, and treasure, joy on the faces of worshippers. We should see people **DOING** discipleship! This is the hope of the Education Ministry Area for Bethpage.