



# The Second Page

A detailed look at the mission of Bethpage Presbyterian Church.

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## New Ways of Growing in Christ

The Christian Education Committee is exploring new avenues for the education ministries at Bethpage. **With the session's blessing, we are going to be making two exciting changes in June.** The first will be an experiment in Small Group Ministry for our Younger Adults (or anyone who would like to participate.) Second, we will be looking at new ways to maximize our children and youth's growth in Jesus Christ by moving their Biblical Education to Children's Worship and Youth meeting times. Our goal is to try this as a 6 month, limited experiment, with the hope (if it works well) of rolling it out for other's interested in small groups to form their own in January 2017. This will give us a time of reflection, correction and a shared discernment with the whole congregation. Before anyone gets too upset . . . please read the reasoning for these changes.

### **Small Groups:**

For the last two years, the younger adults have been loving the relationships that have been created during their Young Adult Suppers each month. We'd like to have more freedom of time and place to expand our Bible Study. We just never seem to have enough time on Sunday mornings for the deeper discussions we crave!

This Small group/s would meet at an agreed time and frequency for Bible Study at an off campus location. The leader or group would decide on a curriculum approved by session; as per our SOP. *The benefits?* Small groups will allow us to meet for a longer amount of time, with more opportunity to get to know one another. Redeemer Presbyterian Church has found that Small Groups are the primary place where younger Christians are known and can build personal relationships and practice applying the gospel to their lives. They say, "*In these groups, people of all ages experience Jesus Christ in their midst, enabling them to be transformed through mutual ministry.*" Added bonus; we can invite friends from outside the church (who might not feel comfortable meeting in a church) to experience life in the Family of God. Please read these articles about the benefits of small groups at <http://www.smallgroups.com/> and [10 Benefits of Small Group Ministry](http://ministrytodaymag.com/leadership/discipleship/20558-10-powerful-benefits-of-a-small-group-ministry) at <http://ministrytodaymag.com/leadership/discipleship/20558-10-powerful-benefits-of-a-small-group-ministry>. **We will meet during Sunday School on June 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss small groups. If you would like to be a part of small groups or have questions, please come by that morning.** My hope is that other members of BPC-K will want to join our younger adults in Small Group ministry!

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### Children's Worship:

We know this is different . . . but we have actually put a lot of thought into it! Our current ministry for kids isn't really working. We have a low attendance during Sunday School, usually 2, and we have upwards of 8 to 10 kids during worship. Our little ones are very active. When we ask them to be engaged for Sunday school time and then do it again for Children's Worship it is really hard for them. Most Sundays, the lesson happens during Sunday school and it is a bit of playtime for children's worship . . . so we miss teaching the bulk of kids by teaching during Sunday school. We plan on doing everything during Children's Worship. We would be able to use that time to give the kids a lesson, a craft, prayer, song and a snack. If you have ever volunteered for the children, I think you understand what I am talking about. The kids would be getting exactly the same education as before . . . we would just be educating more kids! **Starting June 19<sup>th</sup> our children will get all of their education during Children's Worship. There will be no children's Sunday school.**

### Senior High/Pioneers:

We are having similar issues with attendance during Youth Sunday School. We feel like there are more kids attending the evening meetings. If we can have Bible study, mission work, and fun stuff during Youth group time, we think that will be more beneficial for everyone involved.

Finally, another reason for all of these changes involves the number of members who volunteer for these teaching spots each week. We don't want to burn out the people who are teaching our children and youth. We feel if we make the meeting times fewer, but give the kids "more bang for their buck" it will be better for everyone involved.

We understand that these are some big changes. We are asking that you think and pray. We would love your *support as well as your questions and concerns*. **Feel free to talk to me, Carrie Paxton, or any other member of the Christian Education committee.** We truly feel like this could be great opportunity for growth in Jesus Christ!

