



April 2018

www.Graceumcarlington.org

SUNDAY SCHOOL-THE PLACE TO BE!

PAMELA PINKERTON-WHITLEY

From the youngest to the more mature participant, classes are designed to “meet needs”. As a Sunday school teacher and a person who has a “need to know” spirit, I asked a few members some questions about Sunday school. Taking time to evaluate ministries at Grace lets us know how we are doing as we **seek to bring people into a life changing relationship with Jesus Christ**. Following are the questions and some of the responses I received.

Why is Sunday school an important part of your church ministry? Sunday school allows you to come together to learn about God’s Kingdom & share wisdom & views with each other. It’s a good time to interact with our peers on an intimate level. Sunday school allows for small group discussions which helps people understand what God’s expectations are for their lives. The lessons often coincide with Pastor’s message and in Sunday school, we are able to talk about them in more detail.

How has Sunday school been an effective disciplining program in your church? We offer a variety of classes and course curriculum for people of all ages and walks of life. “Faith comes by hearing” (Romans 10:17) so our journey of faith grows as we hear the Word of God. The topics discussed in Sunday school, as related to God’s word, allow people to relate to situations in their own lives. When you’re knowledgeable about God’s Word, you can inform others & get their interest in becoming disciples for Christ.

How do you see Sunday school as a way to disciple people for ministry? Sunday school provides a way for participants to understand that the faithfulness of people in the Scriptures model ways to actively engage in behaviors that demonstrate obedience, courage, and strength of faith. Participating, thought- provoking questions & preparation help to make us disciples, so we can reach out to others to make disciples.

How do you change the perception of those who believe Sunday school is a thing of the past? By informing and encouraging people to give Sunday school a try, have topics that people can relate to in today’s world and offering a variety of classes for age groups and interest. You can change the perception by sharing testimonies about how Sunday school is a place where you experience God’s unfailing love.

What can be done to get more people to attend Sunday school? Interactive discussions so that self-expression is encouraged and not judged. Invitations from those who already attend Sunday school on a regular basis and highlighting classes on the website. We can also pray that others will come to the place of seeing that the Word of God is as essential to our spirits as food is to the body.

What do you think about Sunday school? If you have comments or ideas that you would like to share, email us: info@graceumcarlington.org

Grace UMC Arlington seeks to bring people into a life changing relationship with Jesus Christ by making disciples through our words and actions in cooperation with God’s Grace.

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Grace and Peace to you!

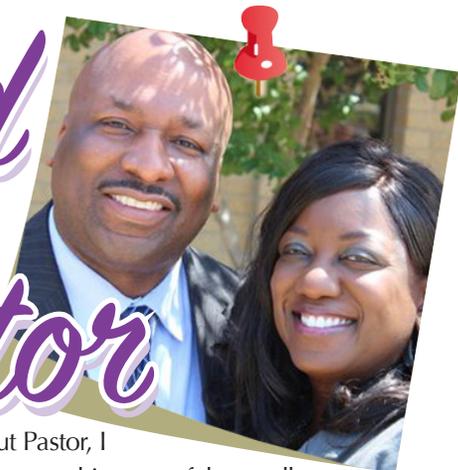
“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near”

Hebrews 10:24-25

How is it with your soul? This was question used by many Methodist over the years to check the spiritual welfare of the members in their community. We may not ask the question with the same verbiage, but we still need to ask the question. I believe we are not checking on each other as much these days because we are doing something that Scripture warned against. Brothers and Sisters, we are “neglecting to meet together.”

I am a firm believer that meeting together in small groups is essential to growing and developing into mature Christians. God placed us in the “body of Christ” as members of each other. Can the eye say to the ear, “I have no need of you?” Can the feet say to the head, “we don’t need you?” As absurd as this may sound, we essentially say the same thing when we neglect not only to attend worship services on Sunday morning, but also the small groups such as Sunday school, Bible Study and membership in small group ministries. Small groups are just as important as attending the Sunday morning worship service. Small group attendance should not be lagniappe (something thrown in as extra) but should be a regular and vital part of your spiritual development.

a Word from our Pastor



Someone may say, “But Pastor, I don’t feel as though I get anything out of the small groups,” or “I don’t really need small groups.” My response is simple...you may not need the small group, but the small group needs you. Your gifts, talents, presence, witness and prayers are vital to my spiritual development. God did not intend for me to successfully grow alone. God made us so that we “need” each other to fully function in the Church—The Body of Christ.

See you in Worship Services (and) Sunday School Classes (and) Bible Study (and) Corporate Prayer Gatherings. Your presence is needed.

Thank you for your continued support in prayer, service, witness, financial gifts, and presence as Grace UMC Arlington continues to “bring people into a life changing relationship with Jesus Christ, by making disciples through our words and actions in cooperation with God’s grace.”

—Pastor Bates and Rona

Together We Do More!

Connectional Giving goes beyond your local church. The connection comes to life when we share our resources with our sisters and brothers in the Philippines, Africa, Europe and United States. Working together with other congregations, every church- regardless of size or location- can do more than it could on its own.

The Finance Committee is excited to present the Connectional Giving Campaign for 2018. This campaign will run from **April 4 - June 24, 2018**. The goal: **\$17,635**. How can you help?

Option 1—Each individual that filed a 2017 tax refund and received a refund give 10% to the church.

Option 2—Give a one-time gift of \$200.00 per person or a weekly gift of \$12.50 over the course of the 12 weeks. **Note:** each option is over and above your regular giving.

Over this period you will hear and read about specifics of what your Connectional Giving is accomplishing. Information will be in the bulletin, posted on media and a Progress Report recapping as we reach our goal. Thank you in advance for your support of this worthy 2018 Connectional Giving Campaign goal.



Juanita J. Rischer
Finance Chair

April

Experience Grace!

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Tuesdays @ 7:30 pm

Bible Study

Wednesdays @ 7:00 pm

Overture to Music

April 7, 21 @ 10:30 am

Worship Meeting

April 11, 25 @ 6:00 pm

Finance Meeting

April 9 @ 6:15 pm

Administrative Council

April 9 @ 7:00 pm

Outreach Team Meeting

April 18th @ 6:15