

**Doorways** Thursdays, 9:30am | Parlor Doorways is a group of mostly retired, active women who meet for fellowship and Bible study. Recent studies include a ten-week study of the Old Testament books of Esther and Ruth.

**Men's Breakfast Book Study** 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 7:00am | Parlor & Hope Valley Diner This group meets twice monthly for fellowship, breakfast, and good, faith-filled conversation. Facilitated by Chris Tuttle, we study books of the Bible and read and discuss contemporary books related to faith and discipleship.

### Special Events & Retreats



**Aperture: Third Wednesdays** is a gathering of folks seeking light on God's truth through the stories, struggles and experiences of God's people. Aperture brings speakers and seekers, authors and professors, formers and reformers to help us focus more on God's truth all around us. *Information on speakers and dates coming soon!*

**Women's Retreats** Our Fall Women's Retreat is typically a one-day workshop event that is held locally. The Spring Women's Retreat is a weekend experience at the beach that combines group learning with time for fun and fellowship.

**Annual All-Church Retreat** Take a weekend to get to know your church family better and reflect on God's work in your life. The All-Church Retreat is intergenerational so that all ages can learn and grow in community together. There's time for fellowship, fun, quiet, play, and study. The retreat is held at Montreat Conference Center, an especially wonderful place to enjoy the beauty of God's creation!



**Questions? Ideas? We'd love to hear from you!**

#### Adult Christian Education Committee

Chair: Carol Mansfield (carol.anne.mansfield@gmail.com)

#### Children & Youth Christian Education Committee

Chair: Jennifer Feiler (jafeiler@yahoo.com)



**WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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## Christian Education Programs All Ages

### Special Experiences for Young Children

**Nursery** Nursery care is available at both our 8:30am and 11:00am Sunday worship services. There are two separate nurseries – one for infants and toddlers, and one for children age 2 through pre-K. Our nursery is staffed by paid caregivers, many of whom are Duke nursing students who come to us already trained in pediatric CPR and first aid. Thoko Manzini supervises the nursery and keeps it well-stocked and staffed.



**Godly Play** Offered during the 11:00am service, Godly Play is an interactive, developmentally appropriate model for teaching children the stories of our faith and the sacred language used in worship and faith formation. We offer Godly Play to children ages 4 through first grade.

Based on the Montessori approach to religious education, Godly Play recognizes children as spiritual beings who already have a relationship with God. Adults are guides who offer space, tools, and language to help them deepen that relationship. The storyteller uses simple, beautiful materials to illustrate the story and engage imagination, while the structure of the room offers children a safe space to explore, wonder, and worship.

### Church School Classes for Children & Youth

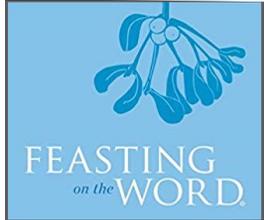
Jesus tells us to become like a child in order to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Children bring a sense of wonder that is a necessary component of faith. It's our responsibility as parents and teachers to nurture that wonder, while fostering an understanding of who God is and God's great love for us. As children and teens journey on towards adulthood, it's our intention to celebrate the young women and men they are becoming, help them mature through knowledge of the Bible's teachings, and guide them in experiencing and sharing God's love and developing a lifelong relationship with God.

**Ages 2 & 3— God Loves Me** A set of 52 colorful books of Bible stories, *God Loves Me* is a meaningful way to nurture faith in young children. Each book tells a Bible story in simple language that young children can understand and includes a prayer and suggestions for learning-through-play activities.

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**Ages 4/5/K — Dwell** Teachers use Dwell to provide fun, interactive ways for kids to learn and explore as together they find their place in God's Big Story. The class begins with music and singing – often with percussion instruments!

**Grade 1-2 — Feasting on the Word (1-2)** These young learners are moving out from their families to explore the worlds of school and church. Our teachers use FOTW (1-2) to help shape learning experiences that joyfully proclaim, “You are welcome here, and you belong to God and to this church family!” The children explore God's Word in ways that engage their senses, their emerging skills in reading and writing, and their need to learn by doing.



**Grade 3-4 — Feasting on the Word (3-4)** Third and fourth graders are growing in their desire to join teams and organizations. Teachers use FOTW (3-4) for learning experiences that address the many ways God's Word shapes the identity of members of the body of Christ. Children dig into the stories of our faith and are encouraged to use their love for questions, while improving their academic skills.

**Grades 5 & 6 — Connect (New Testament)** Students in fifth grade receive a study Bible they can write in and decorate as their own to be used with the Connect curriculum for two years. Students read stories from their Bibles each week, add their own thoughts on the pages, and view a short video.

**Grade 7 — Teen Spiritual Practices** Students learn the ways to find and experience God in their daily lives and in unexpected ways. They are exposed to different spiritual practices, especially the ones that draw them back into the practices of historic Christian faith. It's a wonderful way to put all they've learned through the Bible's stories and lessons into practice and begin the journey of a lifetime.

**Grade 8 — Confirmation** Students attend a nine-month class to explore what they personally believe and receive an introduction to the basic beliefs and organizational structure of the PC(USA). Covenant partners - adult members of the congregation - are assigned to each confirmand to support them on their faith journey. The class begins in September and ends in May after students write and share a statement of faith. Confirmation Sunday happens in early May, after which the students are recognized as full members of Westminster and invited to serve alongside adults in the leadership of the church.



**Grades 9-12 — High School** Teens come together with their leaders to talk about their lives, their faith, and how it relates to the world around them. Leaders utilize a resource titled *The Wired Word*, which offers talking points on recent events and helps teens view them through the lens of faith. This class offers great discussions, fun and laughter, prayer, and caring for one another.

### Church School Offerings for Adults

**The Present Word | Room 105** We are a group of adults who come together every Sunday to study lessons from the Bible using *The Present Word*, adult Bible study series. For twenty years *The Present Word* has been a staple in PC(USA) churches, providing well-written, biblically-based lessons. It's based on the *Uniform Series: International Series of Sunday School Lessons*. Participants and leaders in this class represent generations from parents of small children or teens, to non-parents and parents/grandparents of adults. We come together to pray and relate our lives to the Bible. All are welcome anytime!

**Bible Roundtable | Room 207** This class gets its name from the place it began—the kitchen! Many years ago a Bible study formed in the kitchen of the old Fellowship Hall, and it continues to be a fun place for friendships to form and prayers to be heard. In addition to that, we like to focus on a specific book of the Bible and read it verse by verse, stopping at logical points for discussion. You needn't be steeped in the Bible to see how these passages relate to what is happening in our lives and community. Join us any Sunday!

**Sojourners | Room 208** Sojourners is committed to providing a safe space where all opinions are welcome, where we can listen to others who may disagree with our opinions, and come away having grown in the love we have for each other and others in our community. Come and join us anytime as we attempt to make meaning of the world around us!

**Electives | Room 205** Elective classes are offered as short-term options for special interest or seasonal learnings. Each year the Adult Christian Education committee designs a schedule to offer adults an additional option on Sunday Mornings. Electives are offered in the fall and spring.

- ◆ **Gospels That Didn't Make the Cut | September 15 - October 6** We grow up in the church learning about Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, four narratives at the heart of shaping what we know about Jesus. But there are thirty or so additional early Christian writings (that we know of) that can be classified as “gospels,” meaning they portray something of the life and ministry of Jesus. Some we have in whole, some only in fragments. Some tell us stories of Jesus as a child, some are filled with sayings Jesus is reported to have shared with his disciples after the resurrection. Join Chris Tuttle for a four-week exploration of these profound and strange texts.
- ◆ **Inquirer's Class | October 20, 27, November 10, 17** Have you been worshiping with us regularly or recently began attending Westminster, but haven't yet joined the church? Would you like the opportunity to discover the various ways you might engage your life of faith here? Led by our church staff and ministry leaders, this four-week class answers your questions about Westminster and the Presbyterian Church(USA). It is offered in the fall and spring. To register for this class, please contact the church office at 919-489-4974 or [Westminster@wpcdurham.org](mailto:Westminster@wpcdurham.org).
- ◆ **Haiti with Pastor Leon | November 3, 9:45-10:45am | Music Room** We are excited to welcome to Westminster Pastor Leon D'orleans, founder of Haiti Outreach Ministries. Pastor Leon will teach a combined class of youth and adults in our Church School and preach at worship on November 3. Mark your calendar, and make plans to attend!
- ◆ **The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem | November 10 - December 22; No class on November 24** Filmed in the Holy Land, UMC Pastor Adam Hamilton is on location in this 5-6 week DVD-driven class on events surrounding the birth of Jesus.

### Through-the-Week Studies for Adults

**Seekers 2nd Mondays, 7:15pm | Parlor** Seekers is a group for women that meets monthly to study and pray. Together we choose, read, and study a different book each season.

**Monday Morning Bible Study Mondays, 9:30am | Room 105** Start your week with rousing discussions and examination of God's Word. Join us for lively conversations and fellowship!