

### Crestwood's Sunday School Program

#### LIFE-LONG LEARNING

What is the first memory you have of church? Was it your Sunday School experience?

Larry Hinderberger and I compared our earliest memories. We both remember warm feelings of happiness as we were cared for in the toddler/infant section of our respective churches. Now many decades later at

the other end of the age spectrum, we are both still in Sunday School, exploring the questions and challenges we continue to find within our always maturing lives and faiths.

My attraction to Sunday School has lasted my entire life time. While the fact may not enchant ministers, when I think back on my many years of church involvement, it is my Sunday School classes that I think of first. It is where I grew most as a Christian. It is where I could ask questions and test out doubts and beliefs. It is what drew me into the life of each congregation. It is what kept me within the church when the temptation was to drift away.

When I remember my time at Crestwood almost fifty years ago, I enjoy warm memories of the Seekers class. The related WHO group (Wives, Husbands, and Others) became our social arm – and what wonderful times we had together! That Sunday School group helped each other raise our kids, helped one other through achievements, divorces and remarriages, through illnesses, through the death of parents. At the heart of the Seekers and the WHO group was the kernel that makes Sunday School so important to those of us who remain involved today.

This week, the Spotlight shines on Crestwood's Adult Sunday School program which is once again on the rise. Covid decimated many things we took for granted in the church, the adult Sunday School program being one. But slowly things are regrouping. There are two active classes with room for more to form.



#### Bradford Seekers

The class now known as the Bradford Seekers is a blend of the former Seekers class and the on-line zoom class that took over during the Covid shut-down. It has recently reorganized with renewed vigor and a growing membership under the leadership of Rev. Kelly and Ric Hale. The Bradford Seekers is described by its new facilitators as being "eclectic, with a mixture of discussion of current issues against a backdrop of justice and Disciples of Christ Doctrine. It is a discussion of theology with people from across the theological spectrum. It is a place where you can be respectfully listened to and have a chance to listen respectfully to others who may not agree with you." The topic of current exploration is the declining membership of mainstream denominations.

The class is designed to allow the participants to choose topics and to lead classes of particular interest to them. They describe themselves as "family" and have enjoyed a summer picnic and class Christmas party together. And they are service-oriented. As a class, they established the children's book box connected to the Blessing Box, now turned over to the Youth Group as their own outreach project. The Bradford Seekers will continue to help with funding. At the moment, the class is reaching out to a special ed class at Glendover Elementary, providing snacks for the children.

For the Spotlight, class members were asked to respond to why they go to Sunday School. Bonnie Huddleston, the most recent newcomer to the Bradford Seekers class, replied, "If you like feeling comfortable, this is a good class for that. If you like discussing stimulating ideas, this is also a class for that. And if you are looking for a place where you want to feel like you belong, this is the class."

Patsy Anderson said for her, the Sunday School "is a time to ask questions. I like to talk about spiritual matters with like-minded opinions." She also joined the Sunday School program for fellowship. Not a regular church member until landing at Crestwood, she felt like she was in a transition period and needed friendships outside of her work place.

At the opposite end of the spectrum, Roberta Buckley has been involved in the Sunday School experience "always" in her life and enjoys this class. "Sunday School gives me an opportunity to get closer to my church family. By meeting with this smaller group weekly, I feel connected on a deeper level. I like the age range, the openness of the class to express opinions and to respect the opinions of others. This class is interested in our personal growth as Christians, and how we can use that to help others. We welcome new members who bring different views and talents. This is a loving, caring, and curious group." The Bradford Seekers meet in the Bradford Room next to the Library in the Mission Center. Ages range from the late 40s up to age 90. Both couples and singles are regulars. Attendance is in the 10–15-person range.

Rev. Kory Wilcoxson heads up a second class that is growing rapidly in popularity. Started after the pandemic, he originally targeted young parents for the class. But as the popularity of his class grew, other age ranges came, and members now range in age from the upper 20s to 70. He reports they average 12-14 in weekly attendance with a nice mix of singles and married couples. They meet in room MC4 in the Mission Center.

Affectionately known as “Kory’s class” people seem drawn to the group because of its Biblical orientation, as well by an attraction to Kory himself. They have studied particular books of the Bible in the past, but currently are doing an overview of the entire Bible. Rev. Wilcoxson explains, “Currently, we’re working our way through the books of the Bible using a video curriculum. The video is about eight minutes. Then we spend the rest of the class discussing the book. Each class is stand-alone, so a newcomer wouldn’t feel like you missed anything if they joined us.

He continues his explanation. “It’s different from my weekly Bible study in that we’re taking a broad overview of each book rather than drilling down into it. We’re looking at themes, settings, how the book fits into the larger biblical narrative, etc.”

Sunday morning when I slipped into Kory’s classroom just as the class was arriving, I found a member of the Bradford Seekers visiting his class. They admitted to being drawn by the biblical nature of the class, something that seems very important to other members of the class, as well. It has been interesting, watching church members first trying out one format, and then the other, before settling where they are the most fulfilled.

David Richard, an active class member, spoke enthusiastically about the interesting nature of Kory’s class. “We have a lot of fun, and there is a lot of laughter here. . . Kory makes it very interesting. In fact, he’s so good it makes it worth getting out of bed!”

Their class is also tight as a group and has enjoyed social events – most recently a shared Christmas party.

It seems to me that Crestwood is off to a good re-start. There are two, uniquely different Sunday School classes for those who are interested. All ages and stages are welcome in both.

We are on the right road but there is always room for more. Crestwood thrives as we continually expand opportunities to grow spiritually and to increase bonds with the church and with one another. Adult Sunday School provides opportunities to do just that.

Rev. Wilcoxson says he is open to any ideas church members might bring forward and he’s always open to new ideas for classes. Anyone who is interested should talk with him.

.....

If there is some area of the church you would like to know more about, please share your ideas with me. Let’s explore together. Gaye Holman:gdholman@bellsouth.net.



Crestwood Christian Church | 1882 Bellefonte Dr., Lexington, KY 40503

[Unsubscribe office@crestwoodchristian.org](mailto:office@crestwoodchristian.org)

[Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by office@crestwoodchristian.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!