



# Adult Classes & Groups, 2008-2009

## Where Faith & Life Connect.

*"If you work these words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock. Rain poured down, the river flooded, a tornado hit—but nothing moved that house. It was fixed to the rock."*

*--Matthew 7:25*

### **Sunday Morning Classes**

**7:30 am**

**John Neal Packard Memorial Men's Bible Study (115)** Class leader: Doug Dorer. Men of all ages studying God's Word together. This Fall continues an ongoing study of the book of Isaiah. We invite you to join in the journey through this challenging book.

**9:20 am**

**Faith In Community (FIC)** (103) Class leader: Cindy Caldwell. Faith in Community participants dig deeper into the sermon topic each Sunday, asking how each week's scripture and message transforms our lives.

**11:00 am**

**Faith In Community (FIC)** (103) Class leader: George Newberry Dig deeper into the sermon topic each Sunday, asking how each week's scripture and message transforms our lives.

**Managing Our Finances, God's Way** (115) Class Leader: Tony Ciampaglio A Biblical and practical study to help you manage your finances and move toward debt-free living. A 7-week study with student workbook. Starts January 11, 2009. Cost of workbook: \$15.

### **Mid-Week Classes**

**Mondays, 7-9pm, Women's Bible Study.** (115) (Class leader: Judy Jones) Studying *What You Always Wanted to Know About Heaven*, an audio series presented by Dr. David Jeremiah.

**Wednesdays, 10-11:15 am. UMW Bible Study.** (Library) Class Leader: Rev. Carol Pazdersky. Sponsored by the United Methodist Women, but men are welcome! This is a continuous journey through God's Word in the *Genesis to Revelation* Bible study series. Currently studying the book of Jeremiah.

## **DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDIES**

Disciple Bible Studies are the most in-depth Bible studies that we offer. Each course examines a portion of the Bible and its application in our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ. Each requires a commitment to 30-34 weeks of class meetings, daily readings, and workbook preparation. The cost for participant materials is \$40.00, which you may bring to the first class. All classes are contingent on a minimum of 7 participants, and are limited to 12. Every September we offer one or more Disciple courses. Dates for Fall 2009 will be announced in May. For more information on Disciple classes, contact the church office.

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### ***“Beginnings”*** ***An Introduction to Christian Faith***

Be our guest on this nine-week journey through the basics of Christian faith. Each session of *Beginnings* includes a meal, an engaging message and interactive small group time. Ideal for anyone who desires to learn more about Christian faith. Bring your friends!

#### **THE BEGINNINGS CLASS Topics**

- 1- So, Is This All There Is?
- 2- Who Is Jesus, and Why Should I Care?
- 3- Why Am I Not Where I Want to Be? Sin and the Cross
- 4- What Happens When I Die? Death and Resurrection
- 5- Can I Trust God? Providence and Suffering
- 6- How Does God Speak to Me? The Bible
- Day Apart** (Sessions 7, 8 and 9 in one day)
  - 7- If I Don't Feel Lost, Why Do I Need to Be Found?  
Salvation and Conversion
  - 8- Can I Start Again? Forgiveness and Wholeness
  - 9- How Do I Speak to God? Prayer
- 10- How Can I Make a Life and Not Just A Living? The Good Life
- 11- Why Should I Join Any Group That Will Have Me as a Member? Church
- 12- Love Feast! Remembering, Sharing and Continuing the Journey

BEGINNINGS is offered during the spring and fall semesters. Spring dates will soon be available. If you are interested in participating in our next BEGINNINGS class, please contact the church office, 410-838-5181, Ext. 13, or [caldwellc@baumc.com](mailto:caldwellc@baumc.com).



## ***Life is Better in Groups.*** **Home Groups at Bel Air UMC**

At Bel Air UMC, we believe we're created for community. What a great gift it is to connect with others for a better, stronger, less lonely, more fun way to confront the challenges of life. Home Groups are gatherings of spiritual seekers who meet weekly or bi-weekly to encourage one another on our journey toward Christ. We study, serve, share, and grow together. Unlike most of the classes at the church, home groups reach beyond our congregation to include our neighbors and friends on our life-changing journey with Jesus. We currently have about 30 home groups meeting throughout the week in people's homes. Watch this column in the Spire each month to learn why people join groups, what groups are doing, and how lives are changing through this ministry.

### **Coming soon: A Season For Connecting**

Our congregation has been working hard to develop a culture of "Radical Hospitality" that helps people connect deeply with one another and with God. Home Groups are an important part of that culture. The Adult Discipleship Team is working to make home groups more available and accessible for folks in our congregation, our neighborhoods, and our workplaces. We are preparing for a special "***Season for Connecting***" in January 2009, when we will launch many new groups designed to help more people to "believe, belong, and become." Our plans include some new developments in Home Group ministry:

- New groups, new group leaders, and new kinds of groups to meet a variety of needs.
- A team of coaches to encourage and support group leaders
- Small Group Workshops for Group Leaders at 11:00 on Sunday mornings
- Short-term "starter groups" that give people a taste of group life
- A Four-part worship series in January to explore God's gift of community
- 2 "Connecting Sundays in January 2009 to help people join groups.

You'll soon be hearing more about Home Groups and "A Season for Connecting." Meanwhile, if you would like to learn more about joining, hosting, or leading a home group, contact Cindy Caldwell at the church office or at [caldwellc@baumc.com](mailto:caldwellc@baumc.com).