



# Union Grove Christian Church Happenings



An Occasional Newsletter from the Union Grove Christian Church, Eheart, Virginia

January 2015

*Happy New Year!!*

In this edition of our newsletter, we want to focus on the Bible education opportunities offered here at Union Grove. The apostle Peter exhorts us to “*grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*” -- *2 Peter 3.18* [actually Peter commands us since ‘grow’ is in reality an imperative!] Essential to that growing is deepening our knowledge and understanding of God’s Word. To that end, we offer several venues to explore what Paul calls “the unsearchable riches of Christ.”

## *Adult Sunday School Class — 9:45 am*

A little over a year ago we relaunched our Adult Sunday School class. In the past we had studied through individual books of the Bible. Under the new format, we have been using the Answers Bible Curriculum developed by Answers in Genesis (AiG) ministries. [AiG is a conservative apologetics ministry devoted to the absolute truth and authority of Scripture; seeking to relate the relevance of a literal Genesis to the church and world today].

Answers Bible Curriculum was developed to present the gospel, beginning in Genesis, to all generations; to train believers to know, obey, and defend God’s Word; and to encourage believers to become conformed to the image of Christ. This cutting-edge curriculum was written with the following principles integrated throughout the lessons:

- ✓ We can trust all of God’s Word beginning in Genesis, from the very first verse
- ✓ The Bible presents true history
- ✓ God’s plan of redemption is woven throughout and is the singular focus of the Bible message
- ✓ God’s attributes are displayed throughout the Bible
- ✓ We must take care to “rightly divide the word of truth” to ensure we accurately interpret the Bible
- ✓ We must be ready to give an answer for what we believe
- ✓ We are to live in light of what the Bible teaches

We have completed the first three quarters of the year one curriculum and are now starting into year one, quarter four. The theme of this current quarter is *God is In Control* with focus on the sovereignty of God in successfully accomplishing His plan of redemption. Because of the flexibility of this curriculum, we have been able to take time to do special studies when needed, review critical Biblical concepts to reinforce our learning, and examine in detail questions asked or prompted by the specific lessons.

We cannot emphasize enough that just because you have not been with us from the start of the current curriculum you will find it seamless indeed to jump right in and engage in our current studies.

Each New Year provides the opportunity to set and keep resolutions — diet, exercise and yes, even Bible learning. If you have never attended our adult class or if it has been some time since you last attended, we encourage you to prayerfully consider attending. We’re confident that it will be a worthwhile start to the year as we strive together to respond to Peter’s exhortation to grow. We look forward to seeing you in our class soon!



## *Wednesday Evening Bible Study — 6:30 pm*

Our Wednesday Evening Prayer Meeting and Bible Study is another wonderful venue to examine the depths of God's Word. We begin each Wednesday with a dedicated prayer time. Following our prayer session, John leads us in Bible study. The focus of our Wednesday studies is individual books of the Bible with an occasional special study thrown in for good measure.

Starting in January we will begin studying the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew is organized around five major discourses of Jesus — chapters 5-7 [The Sermon on the Mount], 10, 13, 18, and 23-25 [The Olivet Discourse]. Our upcoming study will focus primarily on these monumental discourses. However, we will briefly explore the intervening material in an attempt to glean the spiritual and theological fruit contained therein. Matthew, the Gospel of the Kingdom, is a virtual treasure house of spiritual gems certain to bless, challenge and strengthen us in our daily walk with God.

Again, if you have never attended a dedicated Bible Study we ask you to seriously consider joining us for these Wednesday evening studies. Oh... as an added bonus, John always provides fresh baked cookies for our snacking pleasure!

## *Wednesday Precept Bible Study — 9:00 am*

Currently meeting on Wednesday mornings, the Precept Bible Study utilizes material produced by Precept Ministries International. These studies are non-denominational in nature and seek to enable participants to study the Bible for themselves in order to better understand God's truth. The total authority of Scripture is the foundational principle on these studies. It is not necessary to be an experienced Bible student — all that is required is to have an honest desire to better understand God's Holy Word.

Starting January 7th the Precept group will continue their study with Hebrews part 2. Similar to our adult Bible School class, it is not necessary to have completed Hebrews part 1 to attend.

## *January Sermon Series*

Yet another opportunity for growing in Bible knowledge is the planned sermon series kicking off the New Year. Starting the first Sunday of January, *Encounters with Christ* will explore four specific encounters individuals or groups have with Jesus. These encounters, one from each gospel narrative, are both interesting and instructive. Of the many resolutions we can make for the New Year, more consistent Sunday morning church attendance would certainly make the list. We encourage you to commit to attending each Sunday in January as we delve into these *Encounters with Christ*.



## *Monthly Sunday Evening Youth Bible Study — 6:30 pm*

As important as it is for adults to grow spiritually, the same also applies to our youth. This group meets the second Sunday of each month for pizza and a Bible lesson. Tailored for our teenage youth [although we are flexible with any young people who desire to attend] the specific goal of this study is to facilitate what we call, "Transitioning from what we have been taught, to what we actually believe."

Our youth, especially those who have "grown up in church," have been taught many things about God, Christ and Christian living. As teenagers, they are now entering a period of life where the rubber meets the road, so to speak. At this age comes the challenge to actually put the things they have been taught into practice. Our studies are designed to reinforce the authority of God and His Word, provide practical defense of the Christian faith and relate the real life experiences of Bible characters to the real lives our youth today. In other words, to equip our youth to fulfill Paul's exhortation to "walk worthy of the calling with which you were called."