



THE ACADEMY DISCIPLER

NEWSLETTER FOR TEACHERS AND FACILITATORS

January 2012

Dear Teachers and Facilitators,

The New Year is a time of new beginnings, new goals, and renewed commitments. Therefore, it is a great time to invite our classes, small groups, and our entire congregation to a renewed commitment to the discipleship journey. I pray that you are already experiencing God's abundant blessings in 2012. Click [here](#) for my reflections on the New Year in the recent [Witness](#).

Please read below for more information on the following:

- ❖ Jan. 22 Academy Spring Update 2012 is here!
- ❖ Jan. 29 Small Group Ministry Presentation and Training
Academy registration table
Lenten Study update
- ❖ Feb. 19 Lenten Study begins (Readings begin Feb 15)
- ❖ Feb. 26 Fifth Anniversary Speaker Series: Bishop Charlene Kammerer
- ❖ March 4 Fifth Anniversary Speaker Series: Dean Samuel Wells,
Dean of Chapel and Professor, Duke Divinity School

As always, you can find news and other information on the [Academy web page](#).

Blessings,

Cynthia

ACADEMY SPRING UPDATE 2012

The new Academy Spring Update has been published and is being distributed on Sundays by the ushers. The brochure promotes upcoming classes, speakers, and Lenten Study 2012. Online registration also begins this week.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY AT AUMC

*Sunday, January 29, 2011 at 12:30-2:30p**

All adult teachers and leaders are encouraged to attend this presentation and training as we present a new vision for small group ministry at AUMC. We will overview a shepherding model for small group ministry that shifts from primarily informational to formational and transformational. We will also overview the new coaching structure. Please save the date and plan to attend this event. A light lunch will be provided.

*Please note that a Merger Information Session is also planned for this time. If you did not attend last Sunday's session, please plan to attend one of the other remaining information sessions at Wednesday Night Together on Jan. 25 or on Sunday, Feb. 12 at 9:45 a.m.

ACADEMY REGISTRATION TABLE

An Academy information table will be stationed in Wright Hall beginning Sunday, Jan 29 to promote the Lenten study, register for small groups, and sell the Lenten books. We will also be registering for the Love and Logic parenting class. The table also provides general information on Academy classes. Reply to this e-mail to sign-up to volunteer at the information table.

Sunday	9:30-10:00am	12-12:30pm
Jan 29	1. 2.	1. 2.
Feb 5	1. 2.	1. 2.
Feb 12	1. 2.	1. 2.
Feb 19	1. 2.	1. 2.

LENTEN STUDY 2012

When Bad Things Happen to Good People by Harold Kushner

Feb 19 – Apr 8, 2011

Lenten Small Groups

We already have eight (8) classes and small groups registered for Lenten study 2012. Help us shatter our previous record (ten) by having 15 Lenten small groups this year! E-mail Rev. Johnson-Oliver to register your new or existing class or small group for the Lenten study.

Lenten Small Group Leaders

- If you have already enrolled your group in the Lenten study, pick up your advance copy of *When Bad Things Happen to Good People* on this Sunday or in the church office.
- Download a [Discussion Guide](#) to use with your group.
- Books will be on sale beginning Jan 29.
- Readings begin on Feb 15; therefore encourage books purchase by Feb 12.
- If you are still considering being a Lenten small group leader, click here for a [Sample Chapter](#). Feel free to e-mail [Rev. Johnson-Oliver](#) with questions, or call or stop by to discuss leading a group.

Lenten Study Announcement

We are pleased to announce that Lenten Study 2012 will be the now classic, *When Bad Things Happen to Good People* by Harold Kushner. Known as theodicy, theories of evil and suffering in the world have vexed theologians, philosophers, and ordinary people for centuries. As a Lenten study, this book will provide timely guidance for those troubled by the occurrence of tragedy, natural disaster, economic crisis, illness, death, and other suffering in the world.

"Rarely does a book come along that tackles a perennially difficult human issue with such clarity and intelligence. Harold Kushner, a Jewish rabbi facing his own child's fatal illness, deftly guides us through the inadequacies of the traditional answers to the problem of evil, then provides a uniquely practical and compassionate answer that has appealed to millions of readers across all religious creeds. Remarkable for its intensely relevant real-life examples and its fluid prose, this book cannot go unread by anyone who has ever been troubled by the question, 'Why me?'" (Amazon.com Review)

In keeping with our Lenten Study tradition, there will be a sermon series, book study, small groups, and other opportunities to reflect on this topic.

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY SPEAKER SERIES – SAVE THE DATE!



Bishop Charlene Kammerer
Virginia Conference, United Methodist Church
Sunday, Feb 26 at 11:00am



Dean Samuel Wells
Dean of Chapel, Duke University
Professor, Duke Divinity School
Sunday, Mar 4 at 3:00pm

IDEAS FOR CLASSES AND SMALL GROUPS

Looking for a study for your class or small group for late spring? Make an appointment or just stop by and discuss the options. The following studies, and many others, are available for preview in the church office:

Marcus Borg, [*The Heart of Christianity*](#)
Anne Crumpler, [*The World-Shattering Ministry of Jesus*](#)
Adam Hamilton, [*Christianity and World Religions*](#)
Adam Hamilton, [*Confronting the Controversies*](#)
Adam Hamilton, [*Making Love Last a Lifetime*](#)
Bill Hybels, [*Just Walk Across the Room*](#)
Timothy Keller, [*The Prodigal God*](#)
John Ortberg, [*If You Want To Walk On Water, You've Got to Get out of the Boat*](#)

[Disciple Short-Term Studies](#)

Invitation to John
Invitation to the New Testament
Invitation to Psalms
Invitation to Romans

[Companions in Christ](#) (long- and short- term studies)

Look for updates in the "For Teachers" section on the [Academy web page](#).



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