

# Amity

Believe . . . Belong . . . Become . . .

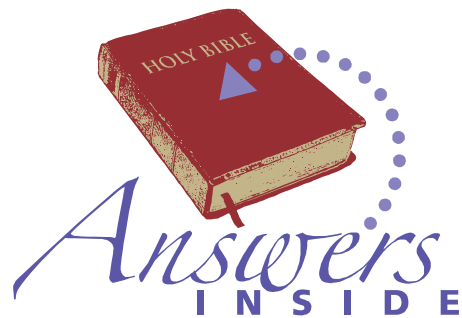
## Pastor's Message Newsletter, August 2009

Throughout my early adult years, I craved a meaningful Bible study. I participated in whatever was offered at the church I was attending. I was so often disappointed: shallow books, trite theology, frustrating and meaningless discussions. This wasn't always the case, but more often than not, I felt as if I was just spinning my spiritual wheels – never going deep enough to make a difference. While I wasn't sure what I was looking for exactly, I knew I was not finding it in these studies. I was bored and frustrated. So you can imagine my doubt and trepidation when a friend of mine told me about Disciple Bible Study, a study that meets for 2 hours each week and spans 34 weeks. Yikes, 34 weeks of shallow, trite, meaningless....



God knows the way to our hearts, however, and is not beneath appealing to our most selfish motivations. I was a stay-at-home mom of 2 preschoolers at the time; active preschoolers, in a small town with no mother's morning out or half-day preschool programs. Disciple was offered on Wednesday morning and childcare was provided! 2 hours every week of adult time! I signed up, and those 2 hours each week changed my life. Disciple Bible Study opened up a new world to me, tilling the soil of my spirit and intellect in way that I had never before experienced. The course began in early September, by mid-October I was sensing a call into ministry.

Disciple Bible Study is not your run-of-the-mill Bible study. First of all, it is a commitment. It meets weekly for 34 weeks, 2 hours each session, and is not designed for occasional attendance. There is homework: approximately 30 minutes of reading each night. Each session begins with a deep examination of the scripture for the week, a short video lecture by the most respected theologians in the field, and guided discussion questions. The second half of each session delves into the practical implications of the scripture, examining how we live out God's word in our day-to-day lives. It is not a study for the faint. It will challenge you. It will change you.



Are you still reading? Perhaps, then, Disciple Bible Study is just for you. We will begin September 15<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 p.m. I urge you to prayerfully consider signing up for this class. Whether you fancy yourself a Biblical scholar or do not even own a Bible (much less



### AMITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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read it), you will grow in spirit and knowledge in ways you never thought possible. I hope you will join me for this exciting journey!

Blessings and Love,

*Tuck*



**Cost for the course:** \$34 for the study manual and you will need a Bible (preferably the NRSV or NIV Study Bible – this will be discussed further during the first class). We do have a few extra manuals for anyone for whom cost is prohibitive.

**To register** for Disciple I Bible Study: [secretary@amityumc.org](mailto:secretary@amityumc.org) or contact the church office @ 919-967-7546. Please let us know if you need childcare.

Addendum: There is so much new going on at Amity this fall: *Disciple Bible Study*, *5 Practices of Fruitful Congregations* study, Contemplative Prayer group, a mission trip to the Dominican Republic in November, Wednesday evening fellowship meals, just to name a few! In addition, new committees are being formed: *Church and Society* to address community concerns and *Amity Grounds Beautification* to address ways to update and beautify the sacred grounds of our church. I want to share it all with you, encourage you to get involved in the various new ministries but, alas, I have limited space. The information is in this newsletter, however, and in the weeks to come you will be hearing more about all that God is doing with and through Amity UMC!



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