

Sunday School Campaign

**Free To Choose,
What'll You Do?**

Sing, soul of mine, this day of days, The Lord is risen. Toward the sun-rising set thy face, The Lord is risen. Behold He giveth strength and grace; For darkness, light; for mourning, praise; For sin, his holiness; for conflict, peace.

Arise, O soul, this Easter Day! Forget the tomb of yesterday, For thou from bondage art set free; Thou sharest in his victory And life eternal is for thee, Because the Lord is risen.

Author unknown

BY PEGGY LEE HINA
Director of Christian Education
First United Methodist Church

Over two thousand years ago a man lived upon this earth. The life that this man lived and the message he taught can so affect your life that each day you live can be a joyous experience or only time to be endured.

This man who lived was Jesus Christ. The one purpose of Christian Education or Sunday School and related Christian education meetings is to help each one of us better understand what it was Jesus taught that had such eternal significance for your life and mine, and even today lives are changed and turned around and lives that have been empty and negative become positive and joyous.

How well has Christian education performed this function of proclaiming the Good News of our faith? Christian education should so thoroughly focus upon the communication of faith by and through a community of believers who transmit its beliefs, attitudes, and values

The following attendance was reported in Transylvania County churches Sunday, March 23, participating in the Back to Sunday School campaign:

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|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian | 108 |
| Brevard Wesleyan | 136 |
| Carr's Hill Baptist | 88 |
| Cherryfield Baptist | 119 |
| Church of God | 150 |
| English Chapel United Methodist | 12 |
| Enon Baptist | 113 |
| First Baptist | 356 |
| First United Methodist | 253 |
| Grace Baptist | 107 |
| Little River Baptist | 133 |
| Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd | 55 |
| Morningside Baptist | 89 |
| Mt. Moriah Calvert Baptist | 52 |
| North Toxaway Baptist | 65 |
| Rosman United Methodist | 20 |
| Sacred Heart Catholic | 69 |
| Selica United Methodist | 25 |
| St. Timothy United Methodist | 36 |
| Temple Baptist | 129 |
| Turkey Creek Baptist | 220 |
| Pisgah Forest Baptist | 135 |

through the many ways by which they live their common life together in the world, that lives will be changed as they experience the concept that each person is of tremendous value to God.

Have we Christians failed? How many persons do you know who are so excited about their faith that they wish to teach others about this Christ and about the history of their faith?

Do the events of this Holy Week in the Christian year — the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ — have any meaning for you? We have a problem facing us as a church today: our discipleship has no shape. Christian education is the most important of all education because it teaches that the God of the Bible cares what happens in history; He cares so much that he is working out his purposes through your life and mine — he is giving to each of our lives ultimate meaning.

But — the purpose of God cannot become clear to those who have become confused in their values. Christian education cannot long survive without Christians who are so excited about the Good News that they desperately want to share it with others.

If you are more alive than dead, think about your commitment, your life, your concern that others know this "living water" of the love of God. "GOD SO LOVED . . ." what is your response? You are free to choose — will Christian education continue to be a creative force for good or will it wither and die because we did not love enough?

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