

Living Out the **WORD**



PAM KOBAN and **FRANK WADE** have been teaching Sunday School together for 25 or 26 years - *depending on which one you ask*. Tucked away in a room at the end of the pre-school wing, Pam, Frank, Barbie Draughn and Danielle Crawford join with Westminster's four year olds to sing songs, play games, tell Bible stories, and share God's love for an hour every Sunday morning during the school year. And for that hour, they couldn't imagine being anywhere else.

"Frank and I enjoy teaching four year olds together because we're both children at heart," says Pam. *"We not only understand the children; we understand each other. I often tell my husband Mike that people would pay money to spend one hour a week with Frank Wade. He is as much fun as the four year olds."*

Frank adds, *"Every Sunday I get to be reminded that all we need to have, as Jesus said, is the faith of a little child. My own spirituality is fed and nurtured by the faith of these children. I receive so much from them."*

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Frank first started teaching Sunday School because of an invitation from Martha Bess Dewitt: *"My wife Sissy and I had been youth group advisors, and once our children came along we no longer had the time to commit to the youth group, so Martha Bess thought teaching the four year olds would be a good fit for me. I enjoyed it so much that one year became 25 years."* Frank was also inspired by the memory of Brenda Patrick, his 3rd grade Sunday School teacher when he was growing up. *"Brenda was my role model on how to be a Sunday School teacher, and in a sense I do this to honor her."*

Pam also worked with the junior high and senior high kids before she and Mike started



Every Member Has a Mission



their family. She recalls “a running litany of pediatrician appointments, ear infections, runny noses, sore throats, and upper respiratory crud” nursing her children through their pre-school years. Emerging from that time, Pam decided “that the best way to ensure Sunday School was locked into the family’s schedule was to begin teaching. I saw Frank one day at lunch, and told him I had decided to teach Sunday School, and he said, ‘Oh, good! Teach the four year olds with me!’”

Not surprisingly, both Pam and Frank will tell you how rewarding it has been for them to teach the four year old class through the years. Perhaps more surprising for them has been how wonderful it has been to teach with so many other dedicated Sunday School teachers. “Frank and I have been amazingly lucky to teach with so many gifted members of Westminster. All of our teachers have brought a love for children and enthusiasm for teaching them about God.”

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Frank adds, “We have had many, many other teachers who have taught with us over the years, and even though they may no longer teach with us, we still have a strong connection with them.”

This camaraderie among Sunday School teachers has been instrumental in Pam and Frank’s longevity teaching the four year olds. Pam explains that their four-teacher team allows one teacher to be in charge each Sunday with the others acting as helpers. “You get three weeks off for every one week you’re on.” Frank praises the organized curriculum and adds, “Sophie offers incredible support and is always available to help.” Indeed, he and Pam agree that they will retire together “only when we can no longer sit in those little four year old chairs, or need assistance getting up off the floor after story time.”

Teaching the same class for 25 years at Westminster has been gratifying for another reason as well. Frank explains, “Our first class of students is now 29 years old. I find great satisfaction and joy that these ‘children’ remember us and call us by name when they see us. My hope is no matter where they attend church that when a call goes out to become a Sunday School teacher within their congregation, they’ll have a fond memory of their Westminster experience and answer that call to serve... just as Brenda Patrick did for me over 55 years ago.”



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