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It's striking how much change adolescents undergo in grades 7 through 9. Their bodies grow and mature, their identities develop as they explore fashion styles and cultural preferences, their world views broaden as they become aware of diverse viewpoints and start questioning everything, and their conscience becomes attuned to what's going on in the world and what they can do about it. Teaching these youths as they come of age has been so rewarding, to witness their encounters with lessons about God and to encourage them to voice their questions, concerns, and beliefs. I hope that the belief in God's love and the experience of a caring church community will stay with our children to guide and support them throughout their lives.

In October, the Jr. Youth class will continue to learn about God's covenant with the Jewish people in the Old Testament. We also plan to have one class baking for the CYM coffee hour and another class raking leaves on the church campus.

### **My Faith, My Family, My Future**

