

## Pikeville United Methodist Church Children's Ministry Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the “All Things Children” newsletter. It is my hope that you will find this and future issues of this newsletter helpful in keeping up to date with the programming and special events for children at PUMC. This information will be supplemented from time to time with other items of interest.

As the Director of Children's Ministry at PUMC, I am dedicated to providing opportunities for children to grow spiritually through biblically-based educational activities, service projects and just-for-fun events.

Please contact me anytime you have any questions, concerns or ideas relating to the children's ministries here at PUMC. We are also always in need of dedicated, loving volunteers to work with our children on both short- and long-term bases. Together we can find a place for you to serve that fits your personality and time availability.

Blessings,

Mary Moore, Dir. of Children's Ministry

### Sunday Mornings for Children at PUMC

The Early Encounter Children's Church allows children through the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade to be dismissed during the sermon to participate in a 20-30 minute kid-friendly message. I currently teach this group, with the help of my Jr. High daughter, McKenzie. While I have been happy to serve in this capacity for the past two years, I would be open to the idea of someone else taking on this responsibility on a short- or long-term basis. Ideally, we should have two adults leading this group.

### Sunday School

Sunday School at PUMC offers something for all children from birth to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Our nursery is staffed by experienced caregivers who make sure your little ones get

the care and love they need while beginning to expose them to the simple teachings of Jesus through board books, special dvd's and cd's, as well as personal interaction. We are currently offering a transitional Classroom experience for 24 – 36 month olds to better prepare them for the structure of the preschool Classroom. After a child turns three years old, is completely potty-trained and is deemed ready by the parents and Classroom leaders, they move into the preschool classroom which is led by Donna Cassell. Donna is in the process of introducing a new curriculum by Group Publishing called Buzz. We'll check in with Donna soon to see how the children are responding.

Kindergarten through Fourth Grade participate in the Rotational Sunday School Model, which exposes them to a different learning workshop each week that relates to a monthly theme. For the month of September our theme is a Biblical perspective on peer pressure. Our workshop leaders for September are as follows: Art, Karena Copley and Stacey Jones; cooking, Christen Rowe; discovery, Laura Cooley; and storytelling, Julie Clark. The children first meet in the gathering room for prayer and offering, and music led by Sherae Murphy, and then they are off to their 30-minute workshop for the morning. A monthly calendar will be posted outside the workshops to inform parents as to where they may find their child at any given time. The workshops will be clearly marked and will encompass the three corner classrooms off of Fellowship Hall, as well the kitchen.

Fifth and Sixth Graders continue to be blessed by the dedicated, loving leadership of Kim Lockhart. I am thrilled to announce that Tonnie Keene has joined Kim this fall and just in time for maybe the largest 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Class we've ever had. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Graders enjoy their own space off of Fellowship Hall.

#### 11:00 Worship

Our Fifth and Sixth Graders serve as acolytes during our 11:00 Worship. I train all children in this age group who are interested in serving as acolytes and Kim Lockhart facilitates the acolyte schedule from her Sunday School Classroom. I will be scheduling a training session soon for those who have not yet received it.

Nursery is available for children up through three years of age. Parents and other volunteers participate in a weekly rotation of assisting the nursery staff when needed. The designated parent/volunteer basically checks with the nursery staff on their scheduled Sunday to see if they are needed for the day. A list is posted outside the nursery to help remind everyone when they are scheduled to serve. If you can not

serve on a scheduled Sunday, please let us know immediately and we will switch dates with someone.

A children's sermon or "Moments Mostly For Children" is presented during the service each week, except Communion Sunday. The children are then dismissed to Children's Church, led by Kim Lockhart. Kim receives weekly assistance from Jr. and Sr. High Students (most notably, her daughter, Hannah). Children's worship bags are provided at both entrances to the sanctuary for the children to use during the service. They may be returned at the conclusion of the service or as the children leave the sanctuary for children's church.

### Wednesday Evening Programming

Our Wednesday evening programming for all ages at PUMC is entitled G.R.O.W. (get revived on Wednesday). Our children in Grades K – 6 are starting a new curriculum in September called Faith Weaver Friends. It's basically a kids' club rotational format that keeps the kids moving every 15 minutes to a new activity. This alleviates boredom and makes the evening fly by. The activity leaders lead a 15-minute activity to one of three different age groups as they rotate through their station each week. My volunteers for the fall – winter session are as follows: Assembly leader - Angie Smart; Projects With a Purpose – Belinda Conley; Games – Danna & David Pruitt; and Surprise Station – Mia Mims and Valerie Bartley. The kids are going to have a blast!

Our Preschoolers will be in good hands also. Julie Clark, Whitney Mayo and Debbie Venters will be leading this group each Wednesday evening. They are doing a Bible Zone study called "At Jesus' Feet", which explores some of the most famous teachings of Jesus while He was here on earth.

Parents will want to take note of the Fall G.R.O.W. Schedule for Children (see other side of this sheet) as it will change from month to month as we progress with our rehearsals for the Christmas Musical. This year's program is entitled "Camel Lot" and is sure to be a hit with everyone.

**Special thanks** to all of you have graciously volunteered your time and talents to help further God's Kingdom here on Earth by helping with our children's programming. Quite frankly, I could not do it without you. Our children benefit when they see adults, and especially their parents, getting involved in their church activities and making spiritual growth a priority.