

## **Children's Ministry**

### **Elder, Christi Severance**

#### *Introduction*

Children's Ministry is responsible for those in the church family who are 6th grade and younger. Passing on the faith to the next generation is our joy and our blessing. The programs of Children's Ministry are designed to nurture, instruct and affirm the Christian faith as well as draw their families into the church family. So we rejoice for each and every child and family that comes and participates in the life of the church. The Elder for Children's Ministry is Christi Severance and the Children's Ministry director is Janis Wallis.

#### *Sunday School*

We have Sunday School for 6th grade and younger all year round. Our teachers for this school year are: Rick Savolainen, Stefanie Wiltse, Debbie Morrison, Annie Flynn, Marilyn Hallberg, and Brian Auer. Our substitutes and helpers for S.S. are: Christi Severance, Tricia Savolainen, Cindy Stewart, Jean Evans, Stacy Snodgrass, Sonnie Mitchell, Margaret Claassen, Barb Auer, Jordan Sharp, Cheri Guillotte, Deb Parent, and Jennifer Wohl. Barb Myklebust has directed music for special events, and Jamie Fiorino has led worship music for Sunday School. Average attendance is 22 and the number on our Sunday School rolls is 55.

#### *Wednesday Night Gatherings*

On Wednesday Night Gatherings, we have Bible learning and fellowship groups for all ages. L.A.M.B. club is for preschool and kindergarten age and J.A.M. club is for 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade. (What do those names mean? L.A.M.B. stands for the Lord and Me and my Bible. J.A.M. club stands for Jesus and Me) Crusaders fellowship group is for 4th, 5th and 6th graders. Crusaders meets all year; the other two meet only during the Wednesday Night Gatherings. And both have swim parties during the summer. Crusaders have service projects such as hosting Bunco parties, and being the clean up crew for a Wednesday Night dinner. Our volunteers for Wednesday nights are: Rachel Harder, Janis Wallis, Barb Myklebust, Lindsay Reade, Renee Charlton, Luella Schulze, Cathy Mannschreck, and Jan Steiner. Wednesday Night attendance for children averages 20.

#### *Baptism and Communion Workshops*

Teaching the sacraments of the church, Baptism and Communion, is done through workshops for Sunday School students and their families. We held two workshops this year. These workshops are presented by Forrest Claassen and Janis Wallis.

#### *Special Events*

There are special events during the year that are family oriented such as Advent Night (Average attendance is 75) and the Fall Festival Party on Halloween (Average attendance is 85).

### *Vacation Bible School*

Vacation Bible School takes place every year in June for a whole week of exciting music, learning and games. This year, we had 100 children and 40 volunteers.

VBS volunteers:

Lindsay Reade, Karen Vallandigham, Erik Loeth, Cindy Stewart, Annice Edmundson, Sydney Hunter, Cody Johnsen, Mary Guptill, Zach Knopes, Christian Everett, Marilyn Hallberg, Clint Heimgartner, Kaci Strickfaden, Christi Severance, Jan Steiner, Carolyn Ashby, Cami Strickfaden, Vicki Izenhower, P.J. Jurgens, Alyssa Hopkins, Sonnie Mitchell, Valerie Hopkins, Kolina Burton, Barb Myklebust, Caleb Carlyle, Breanna Burton, Sam Claassen, Gena Monda, Carla Paradis, Josh Dingman, Katie Wilson, Tricia Savolainen, Clare Lyman, Tamara Arrasmith, Judy James, Elena Price Mars, Kyle Briney, Megan Milholland, Cara Smead, Karli Charlton, Pam Moore, Tamara Arrasmith, Marge Briney, Bondell Phillips, Kaye Poindexter, John Bender, Brenda Johnsen, Jeanne Weber, Cathy Mannschreck and Emma Haas.

Plus many hours were put in by the receptionists and staff of the church.

### *Kingdom Kids Preschool/Playschool*

An outreach that is also under the umbrella of Children's Ministry is our Kingdom Kids preschool that has over 70 students this year. Our director is Karen Parkman and our assistant director is Gena Monda. They are also teachers along with Cheryl Jurgens. The aides are Carla Paradis, Kim Bellenger and Janis Wallis. The Kingdom Kids Preschool board is a set of volunteers that oversee and attend to issues that pertain to our church preschool. This is a subset of Children's Ministry. All major decisions relating to the preschool are sent to Session for approval. The board currently consists of Christi Severance (Elder), Jim Poindexter, Charlotte Rodgers, and Janis Wallis.

### *Childcare*

Our Childcare Coordinator is Leigh Bottenhoff who takes care of childcare for Sunday mornings and special events. Cindy Stewart is a volunteer for the nursery.

### *Goals for 2009*

One goal for Children's Ministry would be enhancing our Christian education with more opportunities for students and teachers to learn Presbyterian reformed theology and to incorporate more of this theology into the children's curriculum.

A second goal would be to set up prayer partners for the children with members of the congregation so there would be more interaction between the different generations and they would learn to pray for one another.

### *Volunteers*

None of this happens without a legion of volunteers. We are very thankful for all the volunteers

that make these programs possible and enable us to pass on the faith to these wonderful and precious children. Volunteers who help with Children's Ministry (who are not already listed as volunteers) are Christi Severance, Dorothy Locken, Janette Cool, Penny Bosley, Sam Claassen, Sally Briney, Alyssa Hopkins, Jeanette Krause, Renee Charlton, Karli Charlton, Tim Flynn, Cameron Flynn, Cindy Stewart, Robin McPeak and Julie Pitner.

We are always welcoming new volunteers who would like to be involved in this ministry. There are many ways that volunteers can help with Children's Ministry all year long. We need volunteers for the special events such as Lenten Activity Night, substitute teachers and helpers, and..... for VBS, we need 40 volunteers for different jobs and different levels of time and commitment. If you would like to be involved in the ministry that passes on the faith to the next generation, contact Christi Severance or Janis Wallis.