

An Update on Children's Ministry at St. Andrews
May 28, 2010

NURSERY

Parents:

- Please make sure that your child is wearing a clean diaper when he/she is dropped off at the nursery.
- You are welcome to drop your child off at the nursery before the service begins. All children will rejoin their parents during the singing of the Lord's Prayer, just before Holy Communion.
- Please leave all the necessary diaper supplies with our paid nursery care worker, Marria Somero.

Nursery volunteers:

- It is necessary that a minimum of 2 adults be with the children at all times. Even if there is only 1 child in the nursery, please stay in there with Marria for the duration of the nursery time.
- All nursery workers must have a criminal background check, administered through St. Andrews. If you had a background check last year (May 2009) you do not need to have another one at this time.
- Please clean/straighten the nursery after the service is over.
- Please feel free to look to Marria for direction if you have any questions while serving in the nursery.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Ministry to children is one of our top priorities as a church and we are committed to investing the very best resources that we have to educating and caring for our children.

The goal of our children's ministry is simple: to glorify God by leading our children to Jesus and teaching them how to walk with Him.

Once again, many thanks to Debbie Vruwink for spearheading the effort to get our Children's Church ministry off the ground. Since November our children have been taught Bible stories such as the story of Jonah and the Whale, Jesus' calling of His disciples to be "fishers of men," the account of Jesus' death and resurrection and many more. Many of you have had a turn in leading Children's Church and on behalf of all of us, allow me to convey how grateful I am for your willingness to serve in this important ministry.

Two weeks ago I had an excellent meeting with Marlo, Sara, Paula and Neal. We prayed and talked and strategized about how we (as a church) could build upon the excellent foundation already laid by Debbie in Children's Church.

As a result of that meeting you will notice a few slight changes (beginning in June). The most noticeable is that instead of teachers serving for 2 weeks at a time, teachers will serve for 1 month at a time. It is our hope that this change (which is modeled after the practice of similar ministries in other churches) will give teachers a greater opportunity to teach and reinforce the Bible lessons, while also providing the children with greater continuity.

Another change is that I will no longer be assigning the “volunteers” for this ministry. Instead, I am inviting all of you to consider if this is an area in which you would like to volunteer to serve for 1 month (with a partner). If you are interested, please speak with me at your earliest convenience.

An overview:

- Children’s Church teachers serve for 1 month at a time, in pairs of 2.
- Teachers and children will depart the service during the sermon hymn and return during the singing of the Lord’s Prayer (see pg 9 of our service guide), in time to receive Holy Communion or receive a blessing.
- All teachers must have a criminal background check, administered through St. Andrews.
- Length: Children’s Church lasts approximately 30-35 minutes.
- Format: We follow a simple format each week (a shortened and simplified version of what we were doing before).
- Content: The emphasis of Children’s Church will be upon teaching the major stories of the Bible, and explaining how what we learn in them should shape how we live (giving “life application” in a way that is accessible and understandable to the children), always with the view in mind that we point the children to Jesus.
- The church has been given a wonderful packet of materials which we will be using, beginning in June. It includes 185 Bible stories, activity ideas, suggestions for teachers and an excellent (large!) felt board which will be a great tool to use in telling these stories.

Children’s Church this summer - *The Story of Moses and the Israelites*

June: Sara Patterson & Pauline Urban

July: Neal Matthews & Liz DeCarlo

August: Marlo Francis & Susan Dunzweiler

Please keep our children’s ministry (both the nursery and children’s church) in your prayers.