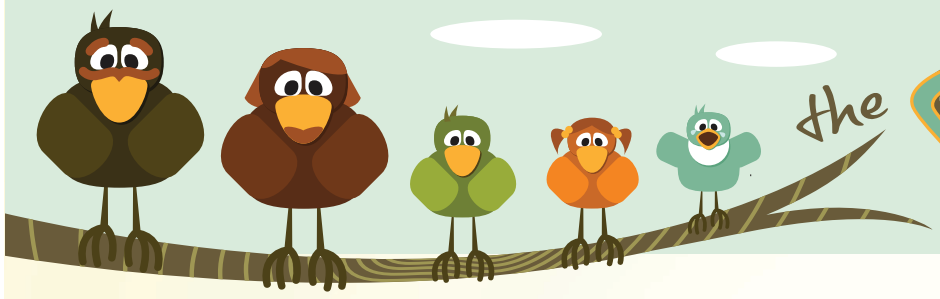

the tweet

first christian church of edmond childrens ministry news

Worshiping with Children of All Ages

by Anna Lisa Stanley, Director of Children's Ministry

So many great things are happening at First Christian Church! I can't wait to see what 2012 will hold for our children.

As we make changes and adjustments within our children's ministry, we still maintain the focus of helping children feel God's love and know that they are part of the body of Christ with special gifts and abilities; particularly in worship.

Recently, I came across an article written by Kaye Edwards, Director of Family and Children's Ministries for Disciples Home Missions.

Three Things That Should Happen for a Church to Include Children Successfully

1. Let children be the people God created them to be. Children need to move. Adults can decide to accept the movements of small children with joy and thanksgiving, instead of annoyance and scorn. Consider that perhaps children have more of a right to be in our holy sanctuaries than we do because they have not yet lost the sense of wonder and awe so necessary to authentic worship of God.

2. Let children know what is expected of them. Tell them, show them, let them practice the behavior and, most importantly, model the behaviors that are expected. Adult worshipers are often upset with children for disturbing their worship and acting in ways considered disrespectful. They talk out-loud, they crawl under the pews, they run up and down the aisles, and they seem to want to touch everything. We cannot expect children to know what is expected of them if it has not been explained to them. There should be a time set aside during which children are allowed to explore and ask questions, and when they can be told and shown expected behaviors such as talking softly, walking instead of running and sitting quietly. They also need to know why such behaviors are expected. AND they need to see adult worshipers act in the same respectable ways.

3. Plan worship with the needs of all ages in mind. Sometimes when people hear the phrase, "child friendly worship," they think that what is meant is "child centered" worship. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Those who plan worship are to keep the needs and likes of all ages in mind as they plan. For instance, this type of planning is manifested in hymn choices, worship leadership, voiced prayer concerns, sanctuary arrangement and furnishings.

As we begin 2012, let us be mindful of how we can be most welcoming of our children.

Peace, **Anna Lisa**

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unite
WEDNESDAY NITES
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF EDMOND, OK

Family Fun on Wednesday Nites

Kids: Live on the "Vertical Edge!"

This Spring during UNITE, children ages 3 years - 5th grade will experience **"Vertical Edge"** - where kids will be challenged to live on the vertical edge by working for God. *"Work willingly at whatever you do." - Colossians 3:23*

Meal Payment Options

- $3.50 per person/weekly
- $50.00 per person/semester
- $12.50 weekly (family of 4+)
- $180.00 semester (family of 4+)

Winter/Spring Dates

January 11, 18, 25
February 1, 8, 15, 22 (Music, Dinner and 6:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service), 29
March 7, 14, 28
April 4, 11, 18 (Rehearse Children's Sunday), 25 (Last UNITE - Spring Celebration!)

Children's UNITE Schedule:

5:00	Music/Instruments (K - 5th) (in the Music Room/Rm 113)
5:30	Cherub Choir (PreK) (Rm 115)
6:00	Check-In/Dinner
6:30	Large Group Gathering (Sanctuary)
7:00	Small Groups
7:30	Check-Out/Pick up

Pre-registering for UNITE ensures that we have enough servings of dinner and materials ready you and your family!
Please **PRE-REGISTER** for UNITE online at www.fccedmond.org/unite **Bring your family for dinner and come join us!**

Coming in Fall 2012 - Children Worship and Wonder!

In the year to come, the Children's Ministry will continue to create a worship space dedicated to the "Children Worship and Wonder" ministry. Work has already begun in the old "movie room" downstairs!

The "Children Worship and Wonder" ministry will be offered to children ages 3 through first grade during the 11 a.m. worship time. Using a sensory-motor style of storytelling as a primary means for encountering God, God is experienced, not just learned about. Children participate in worship practices and hear Bible stories in a way that allows them to enter into the stories and form responses out of their own life experiences.

You can read more about Children Worship and Wonder, on the Disciples Home Missions website at www.discipleshomemissions.org/FamilyandChildren/CWW

Children Worship & Wonder

Pastors' Class Begins February 12!

What is Pastors' Class?

Pastors' Class at First Christian Church is an annual course designed to help acquaint our young people with the basic traditions of our church, the history of our denomination, and the origins of our faith. Through participation in Pastors' Class, they will prepare for baptism, while deepening their understanding of God, and strengthening their relationship with Christ. In our congregation, we offer the course to all 5th grade students and to any 6th grade students who have not already taken Pastors' Class.

Participants are paired with an elder of the church that will serve as a "Friend in Faith" throughout their time in Pastors' class. Also, each participant will have a youth mentor that will assist in teaching some of the classes and praying for that child.

Following Pastors' Class, we invite all participants to attend the New Believer's Class on Sunday mornings from 9:00-9:50 a.m. This class is designed especially for children that have gone through Pastors' Class and will run from April 8 through August. The New Believer's class is taught by church elders and youth mentors. This is a great time for all participants to grow together, to learn, to ask questions, and to have FUN as they transition from the children's program to the youth program.

The Parent Information Session for Pastors' Class is Sunday, January 22 at 4 p.m. in Room 116. The Pastors' Class Retreat is held at First Christian Church and begins Friday, February 10, at 6:30 p.m. and ends Saturday, February 11 at 10 a.m. If you would like more information about Pastors' Class, please contact Anna Lisa Stanley at astanley@fccedmond.org or 341-3544, x. 106.

FCC's Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Join us on Easter Sunday, April 8th, at 10:20 a.m., as the 2012 Pastors' Class participants host our Annual Easter Egg Hunt for ages 3 through Kindergarten and 1st through 4th Grades. It will be held on the church playgrounds during the regular Sunday School hour. Children should meet their Sunday school teachers in their regular classrooms at 10:00 a.m. and classes will walk to the playgrounds for the hunt! **Bring a basket and a friend!**

Can't Wait For Vacation Bible School!

Vacation Bible School is fast approaching - Summer of 2012 will be here before we know it! Again this year, VBS will be held in the evenings Monday through Thursday, June 11 -14. Get ready for this year's VBS theme "Babylon: Daniel's Courage in Captivity."

At Babylon VBS, kids and adults will discover they're not much different from Daniel and his friends...and that they too can take courage in the timeless truth: "**God is with you. Always!**"

As always, we will be looking for many youth and adult volunteers to help us design, create and build a beautiful Babylon...and to participate in VBS...we couldn't do this each summer without all of the wonderful volunteers! Registration begins in May - watch *The Chalice Connection* for more information about signing up and volunteer opportunities!

Summer Church Camp is filled with fun activites, Bible study, and lots of adventure - to build friendships and memories that last a lifetime!

Here are the dates for Children-Age Summer Camps:

- Junior 1 - having completed grades 4-5: June 4-8
- Discovery - having completed grades 1-3: June 22-24
- Junior 2 - having completed grades 4-5: June 25-29

Here are the registration dates:

- Discounted Rates: February 1 - April 6
- Regular Rates: April 7 - May 11

Remember: FCC's Children's Ministry will sponsor half of the cost of the camp for church members, as available.

Important Events

Wednesday, January 11: UNITE begins for the whole family! Register at www.fccedmond.org/unite
Sunday, January 22: Pastors' Class Parent's Information Meeting at 4 p.m. in Room 116. This meeting is for all parents with 5th grade students or any 6th grade students who have not already taken Pastors' Class.
Friday & Saturday, February 10-11: Pastors' Class Retreat at FCC. The retreat starts at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, and, continues through 10 a.m. Saturday morning.
Sunday, February 12: Pastors' Class begins at 10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall-North West.
Sunday, March 4: Low Ropes Course for Pastors' Class - this is an event specifically for the Pastors' Class participants. We will meet at the church at 1:30 p.m. and will return to the church by 4:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 25: Confession of Faith for all Pastors' Class participants
Sunday, April 1: Palm Sunday - Pastors' Class baptisms and family lunch
Thursday, April 5: Maundy Thursday - Pastors' Class First Communion
Sunday, April 8: Easter Sunday - The Annual Easter Egg Hunt for ages 3 through 4th grade will be held at 10:20 a.m. on the FCC Playgrounds. Bring a basket and a friend!
Wednesday, April 18: Children's Sunday Rehearsal from 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The kids will rehearse and prepare to lead the 11 a.m. service on April 22.
Sunday, April 22: Children's Sunday - Children ages PreK - 5th grade will lead us in worship at the 11 a.m. service!
Wednesday, April 25: Last Children's UNITE of the Spring semester (Youth will meet one more time on May 2nd.)
Sunday, May 6: Youth Sunday - The Youth (grades 6-12) will lead both the 9 & 11 a.m. services!

Save the Dates

Monday - Thursday, June 11 - 14: Mark your calendars and get ready for Vacation Bible School! This VBS will focus on "Babylon: Daniel's Courage in Captivity!"