

Q4 2015
22 November 2015



CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Children's Ministry Update

Getting to Know Us: **Garrett Cranford**

Parents: **Todd & Mollie**

Siblings: **Bailey & Katherine**

Age: **5**

What's Your Favorite Food: **Cheeseburger**

What's Your Favorite Thing About Church:
Sunday School

What Do You Like to Do for Fun:

Playing With My Toy Dog Because it Spins Around

What's Your Favorite Thing About Worship Service? **Singing**

What Do You Want to be When You Grow Up? **A Policeman**

What's Your Favorite Bible Story? **Jonah & The Whale**

What's the Best Gift You've Ever Gotten? **Jesus**



A Note from Ashley

So...this is the first of what will become a quarterly newsletter from our children's ministry. The purpose of sending this letter out to our congregation is so that you can know, pray for, and join with us as we raise the next generation of warriors for the kingdom. It is vital that we have your support!

At Christ Pres, we ask that children 4 yrs and up join us in corporate worship. I recently read a blog from Pastor Kevin DeYoung about children in worship. Here are six reasons he laid out in support of this theory: our children are members of the covenant community; our children will be present in the midst of the means of grace (the Word preached, the sacraments, corporate prayer); our children will be present with their parents; our children will witness

their parents worshipping; our children will learn the rhythms of church life. Join me in praying for our parents as you see them on the pew next to you. DeYoung reminds us all to be "patient, deliberate, and wise" as we invite the children into worship, and I know you will support us in this process! Pastor Mike also recommends the book "The Nursery of the Holy Spirit" by Daniel Hyde - detailing more of the "why's" of children in worship.

We just finished up with the fall quarter of curriculum with the children, and you'll find updates from each of our class teachers on these pages. As always, we covet your prayers and involvement with us and our precious covenant children.



Operation Christmas Child (OCC)

The Sunday School classes are excited to be putting together Christmas boxes for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. This annual mission project sends shoeboxes filled with special toys and treats to children living in the poorest places on earth. Included in the boxes is a message about God's gift of Christ as the Savior of the world. Please pray for the boys and girls that will receive the boxes, pray that they will feel the love of God in a tangible way through the delights contained in a simple shoebox!

- Denise Brown

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Proverbs 22:6

Upcoming Events

- Christmas Party: **December 13 from 5-7**
- Parent's Night Out is tentatively scheduled for **January**
- VBS Planning Meeting: **January**
- Parenting Seminar & Children's Program: **Wednesday Nights in February**

2s & 3s Class (The Story of Moses)

It's been an exciting quarter in the toddler room as we have studied Moses and the stories of Genesis and Exodus. It all began when we searched for and found baby Moses in the nursery classroom! Eight weeks later, our littles still want to "find baby Moses," even though I have promised them that he has grown up! Our children have studied the theme that God cares for his people and will take care of them. This is so key for our toddlers to understand! We love to sing Jesus Loves Me to remind the precious ones that they are loved greatly! Our nursery staff is also working on a more set schedule during the worship hour. This includes "center time/puzzle/activity time," recreation/play with balls, snack, and a short movie at the end.

-Ashley

4s & 5s Class (God Created All Things)

This fall we have enjoyed the truly majestic reality that God created everything out of nothing! While we as adults may have become slightly apathetic to the wonder that is creation, these children took it in with big eyes and thankful hearts. From sneaking through the fellow-



ship hall to seek out the critters found nearby to creating the garden of Eden out of construction paper, we get to visually apply the stories in God's word. Some of the most beautiful trends this fall have been the excitement when its their turn to pray for the class and when they get to be a helper.. These little ones have a deep understanding of their own sin, which they acknowledge but are quick to point out that they are forgiven because of Jesus: an

important truth that is evidence of the parents' teaching in the home. We ended the fall by hearing about the New Heaven and New Earth, where they were pleased to giggle about the possibility of their new bodies being just like Spider-man's.

-Meg & Leah

1st - 2nd Grade (Trust & Obey)

This past quarter our kids learned about "trusting and obeying" God, even when it is difficult to do so. We incorporated the old hymn "Trust and Obey" into our curriculum. Every time we would discuss a story involving a bible character's trust and obedience of God, the kids would burst into song!!!! It was great. We learned about Noah, Abraham, Jacob, and Joseph. We learned that the "trickster" Jacob got a taste of his "own medicine" when he was tricked by his Uncle Laban into working 14 years before he could marry Rachel. We learned how Joseph suffered hardships at the hands of his brothers, but God used it for good. You could see those wheels turning in the kid's minds!!! On to the next quarter!!!

- Todd & Mollie

3rd—5th Grade (Worship)

In our unit study on worship, we found it interesting to learn that God has commanded in his Word exactly how we are to worship him. The children learned about the two sacraments and how each part of our service corresponds to how God's people have been worshipping for centuries. We learned that because



of God's holiness and goodness, his power and authority over all creation, and his faithful promise to love

and care for his people, He alone, is deserving of our worship and praise.

Our next unit is Listening To Jesus.

-Jeff & Denise

Parent's Night Out (PNO) - Superhero Edition

October 16th marked our 3rd PNO event. The kids got to come in costume, make their own masks and go through a series of Superhero "training" scenarios. We are so thankful for our volunteers, most of whom have no children themselves but recognize and desire to serve parents and show children the love of Christ. We always have a pair of parents overseeing the event in case a real emergency comes up and this time we were blessed with the entire York family (not your typical Friday night family dinner).

The purpose of having PNO is trifold:

- 1) Give parents an opportunity for a few hours alone
- 2) Allow the children to learn, play & fellowship in the name of Christ
- 3) Allow volunteers to get to know the children (& vice versa) as we seek to support families in their efforts to raise these children in Truth

We praise God for the way He provides & His special love for the children!

