A Lesson in Grace and a Preschool Christmas Party!

Each year the children’s ministry plans a handful of Christmas activities for children and families. This year our preschool party was hosted by Norah Pence and Sarah King and was filled with fun crafts, games, and food. This was also a pajama party so children dressed in pajamas of all colors and fabrics enjoyed one another's company on this December evening.

The highlight of the preschool party was the book exchange. Each child brought a wrapped book and then got to choose a book from under the tree that they would get to take home. Each child drew a number and waited their turn to pick a book. Next, it was time to open the books and reveal the treasure that got to go home with them.

All was going as planned until my son decided he did not want the book he had chosen. Envy of other books took over his two-year-old mind and his tired body gave into a full on tantrum. As someone coordinating the event, you can imagine the embarrassment I felt that my child was acting in such a manner. After a good 10 minutes he was still upset but I refused to let him pick another book because that seemed like a reward for bad behavior. I often base my parenting choices on what lesson will be learned from the situation and it seemed like this lesson in “getting what you wanted after throwing a fit” was not the lesson I wanted to teach.

I found myself sitting on the stairs trying to reason with a two year old who wanted a different book when Anna Cate King (an older sibling helping with the party) approached us. She asked Davis if he wanted to switch books with her. Davis wiped his tear-stained face and with a smile said “yes.” She then proceeded to sit on the stairs and read it with him. At first I wasn’t sure I wanted to let him swap books. After all, what was this really teaching him? If you cause enough of a fuss you will get your way? But after I thought about it, I realized that this was a lesson I wanted to teach him, a lesson in grace. You see Davis did not deserve to get his way after acting out, but Anna Cate wanted to extend grace. She knew that there was something she could do that would heal a hurt or ease the pain of someone else and that is exactly what she did.

God’s grace has been extended to us through Jesus Christ. Not because we deserve it, because we all fall short, but because God loves us that much. I certainly don’t always make the best parenting choices but tonight I learned a lesson of my own. Grace is a wonderful thing that I often take for granted. Each time I read this new book with Davis, I have an opportunity to talk about grace with him. Grace that he received from Anna Cate and grace that we all receive through Jesus. May this advent season be filled with grace and love and may we all remember that some lessons are best learned through children!

~Erin Silver
Among Our Family

—In The Hospital—

MWH:  Jane Mann, Carlton Onderdonk, Jerry Stein

—Sympathy To—
The family of Patricia Martufi
Martie Tuthill in the death of her brother-in-law, Wayne Miller
Annie Mae Jones in the death of her nephew, Tommy Senger

Coming Up

Saturday, December 19
To Reach a Minister After Office Hours, please call 540-300-1442
7:30am Men’s Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, December 20
8:30am Worship
9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Worship
12:30pm Kirundi Worship

Monday, December 21
5:30pm Cookie Exchange

Tuesday, December 22

Wednesday, December 23

Thursday, December 24
5:00pm Family Christmas Eve Service
7:00pm Traditional Christmas Eve Service

Friday, December 25
10:00am Christmas Day Service

Saturday, December 26
To Reach a Minister After Office Hours, please call 540-300-1442

Sunday, December 27
8:30am Worship
9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Worship
12:30pm Kirundi Worship

Watering the Roots in 2015

Ministry Budget

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BUOH in Missions

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Capital Fund

| Sunday, December 13 | $932 |
| Y-T-D Total | $70,902 |

There will be no Wednesday Night Supper or activities on December 23rd or December 30th.

Wednesday evening activities will resume on January 6th.

Responsibilities for December 20

--Deacons--
8:30am
John Snellings (Lead), Susan Graham, Cheryl Seay, Sarah Bush King, Mike Wondree, David & Anne Pierce (W)

11:00am
John Fick (Lead), Jack & Phyllis Marcom, Berena Paul, Susan Hildrup, Ndayihaya Abel, Bob Dungan, Pat DiCecca, Rex & Tammy Berfield (W&B)

--Bus Drivers--
Early
Durga Chhetri

Late
Rich Pitts, Jim McGlone

--Ushers--
8:30am
Brian & Amy Blanton, Kyle Loving, Michael Silver, Ben Stewart
Elevator: Mike Wondree

11:00am
John & Mary Wayland Lawson, Dewey & Judy Lowman, Randy Hart, Winston Ward

Watering the Roots

Ladies’ Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10:00am. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is over.

Special Gifts: November 22 - December 13

--In Memory of--

Ministry Memorial Fund for Pat Gordon given by Steve & Sherri Gallahan; for Mrs. Ned Snellings given by Harry & Norma Snellings...for Geraldine Self, given by Bill & Marla Tignor

Embrey Endowment for Pat Martufi, given by Mary-Marta/Caverlee-Perry Bible Study Class; Sam & Laura Smart; Bill & Nancy Young...for Kathy West given by Tommy Higgins...for Geraldine Self, given by Person/Hudgins/McCrae Mission Circle; Annie Mae Jones; Starke & Madelyn Jones; Tom & Joyce Mulcahy; Susan & George E. Clark, III; Warren Self; Debbie Blake; Katie Murphy & Kim Youngblood; Mary-Martha/Caverlee-Perry Bible Study Class; Sam & Laura Smart; Bill & Nancy Young...for Bertha Sullivan & brother Kenneth Sullivan, given by Vernell Sullivan

Music Ministry for Geraldine Self, given by Nolie & Tina Abel

Thursday Night Community Meal for Mary Worley on her birthday, December 7, given by Kathy Snider

Special Friends for Geraldine Self, given by Ben & Janice Clark; Pat & Joe DiCecca; Phyllis Patton; Winston & Mary Ward; Ron & Julie Bove; Mary K. Jett; Robert & Dorthea Minor; Mildred & Davis Self; Joyce Self; Daniel Self; Matthew S. Arboagast; Frank Graebner & Jan Pierson; Jim & Betty Wiltshire; Susan Wright

 Globals Missions for Doylene Wilkes, given by Neal & Betty Walters

--In Honor of--

Ministry Fund for Jim & Ann McGlone on their wedding given by Norm & Linda Stott, Ollie & Darla Burton...for Patti English & Larry Haun, given by Melba & Calvin Collier

Watering the Roots for Jim & Ann McGlone on their wedding, given by Clara Patton; Lucille Skinner...for Marian Wiltshire, given by Holly Leitch...for Ellen Gillispie, given by Holly Leitch...for Barbara Wise, given by Holly Leitch

BUOH for Theresie Houghton, Ellen Mayo & Betty Wiltshire, given by Brenda Knight

Music Ministry for Marilyn Dungan, given by the Mary-Marta/Caverlee-Perry Sunday School Class...for Jim & Ann McGlone, given by Don & Cheryl Seay

Embrey Endowment BUOH in Missions

Global Missions for Susan Snellings and Joe DiCecca, given by the Logos Bible Study Class...for Mary Small, given by Neal & Betty Walters

BUOH for Dorotha Minor, given by Sarita Anderson
Winter Wednesday Evening Adult Study Options
Beginning January 6

**Fredericksburg Baptist Heritage** – FBC has a distinguished heritage and it is often enjoyable and instructive to look back at some of the events and movements that have helped shape the church. Over the next eight weeks, Dennis Sacrey will lead a study that will highlight some of these events and movements, examine their significance, and see if those events and movements can help provide lessons for our church today as it seeks to continue its heritage of ministry and service into the future. The class will meet in Ferrell Hall in the room set up in the north-west corner. There are no specific study materials, but a review of our church history "Out of Our Hearts" could be helpful. Copies of the book are available for purchase in the church office.

**Creation Care** – In Genesis 1, humanity is charged with the responsibility of caring for God’s creation. In our world today, we are often faced with options of convenience versus reverence for creation. Mark Houghton will lead a study of ways in which we are called to care for God’s creation, ways we can be intentional in creation care, and how our choices impact creation today and into the future. This group will meet in C-213.

**Acrylic Painting Class** – Church member, Leah Fromer, is an artist who paints with acrylics and will lead a class in the technique she uses to produce her beautiful pieces. If you are interested in participating in this class, please be looking for a picture you would like to artistically replicate and bring it with you. On Wednesday, January 6, Leah will demonstrate her technique and have a supply list for participants to purchase before the next week. This group will meet in C-203.

**Sign Language** – Our church is blessed with the gifts of our Silent Friends and we are fortunate to have Becky Bennett interpret in worship each week. Becky will lead an introductory sign language class and one of the tasks of the group will be to learn to sign an anthem that the Sanctuary Choir will be singing in worship. All you need for this class is fingers with which to sign and a mind open to learning! This group will meet in C-214.

**Raising Healthy Children** - Parent Discussion Group
All parents are welcome to join us for learning and discussion based on what it might look like to raise healthy children. We will discuss body image, spiritual formation, making and maintaining healthy relationships, as well as other topics that will broaden our ideas about what healthy looks like.
Our hope is that this group will challenge and encourage all parents to think about their role as a parent while connecting with other adults who are also striving to raise healthy children. We encourage parents with children of all ages to participate so there is diverse conversation and learning from one another. This group will meet for six weeks in room C-210 and will be lead by Heather Murphy.

**Photography Group** – Do you enjoy photography? Would like a group with whom to discuss your photography? Would you like to take pictures focusing on a theme? This group will focus on photographing images that represent Lent to the photographers. Each week, you may bring images that the group can view, and listen as the participants describe the way they see Lent depicted in the photographs. These images will be collected in a digital format and shown in the welcome center for some time during the season of Lent. This group will meet in C-209.

**Reminder About Year End Gifts**
If you wish to make a monetary gift and have it credited for 2015, your gift must be received in the church office or postmarked no later than December 31, 2015; E-Giving online gifts and gifts of stock must be initiated no later than December 31st.

Again, thank you for your support through your offerings and gifts.
Join With Your Church Family to Celebrate the Birth of Our Savior

Christmas Eve
5:00pm
A candlelight service designed to be especially convenient for families with children. The children’s choirs will be singing, the Christmas story will be told, and the sharing of the light will help all to focus on the coming of the Christ-Child.

7:00pm
A more traditional candlelight service with hymns and music, readings, a time of reflection, and communion for all Christian believers. The service will conclude with the singing of “Silent Night” while the sanctuary is bathed in candlelight, a beautiful time of expectancy for the coming Christ.

Christmas Day
10:00am
A time of informal worship to welcome the newborn King. Casual attire is appropriate and encouraged. Following the service you will have the opportunity to gather with your family and friends in a time of refreshments and fellowship.

Why not take the opportunity to invite other family members, friends, and co-workers to attend with you. Christ came for all, so let us invite all to come and celebrate His coming.

Larry Haun
Patti English
Jeanne Anderson
Erin Silver
Ann McGlone
Chris Ryder
David Haun
Dennis Sacrey
Monica MacIndoe
Tammy Snellings
Dicky Estes
Ndayihaya Abel
Chuck Bugay

We wish to thank you for your many remembrances during this Christmas season. May you have a Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love!

K-6th Grade Christmas Cookie Exchange
Monday, December 21st
5:30pm-8pm

K-6th graders, join us for a cookie exchange and Christmas movie! Dinner will be served and we will enjoy a time of fun and fellowship together. Please bring two-dozen cookies for the exchange.

*Due to allergies, please do not bring cookies with nuts.
We will meet in room A100.

RSVP to Erin Silver with total number attending by December 18th.