

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWSLETTER!

Fall 2011



Parenting In The Pews

Do you know that we have a wonderful parenting resource in our church library called Parenting In the Pews by Robbie Castleman?

The premise of the book is allowing our children to thrive in worship. For some of us, this may be a bit daunting in several ways: 1) How can I get my child to sit still and be quiet in church as to not disturb the others, 2) How can I show my child how great worship is when "big church" may be perceived as boring to him/her, and 3) I want my child to thrive in worship but need tips on how assist with this?

We gladly welcome you to borrow this very short, quick read Parenting in the Pew book, or here are some quick tips from the book which you can apply:

Start preparing for worship on Saturday night, setting out clothes or items needed Sunday morning, making worship a priority as to not let other activity offers take its place, setting the tone about your excitement to worship, and getting your heart and mind ready to praise God.

Promote the idea of "going to worship" rather than "going to church."

Children learn to worship by worshipping – through participation, practice and patience.

Encourage the child to participate in the life of the church, to share these gifts of unfettered faith and expectation.

Worship is work, hard work. It is also rewarding work, a joyous privilege.

Children need to sense our excitement about worship with God's people... hear how the Lord met us in worship, how much we learned in Sunday School, what we love about our church family.

God is present. He is looking at you, and caring about how you show him that you love him.

Children, ages three, and some younger, can be trained to participate in worship, including the Creed, Scripture readings, music and offering.

Teaching children important aspects of Christian obedience, such as tithing can help develop a generous attitude about giving praise, time, goods and blessing to God.

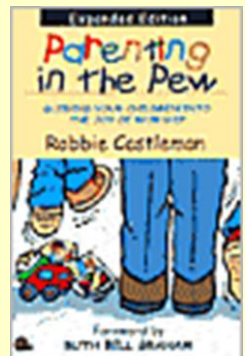
Children who are responding to the service are far less distracting to others than children who are allowed to play in the pew.

Training children to sing hymns and songs in the sanctuary is one of the easiest aspects of parenting in the pew. Children love being set free to "make a joyful noise." Encourage very young to sing "la la la" with the tune if words are totally unknown to them.

Help children feel physically involved in worship. They need to be able to hold a hymnbook or bulletin, or see an overhead screen, and some may need to stand on the pew close to the parent.

Encourage your children to speak to God in their own words... talking to God about things that concern them, confession of wrong-doings, and giving praise and thanks.

Help children listen to "adult sermons" by encouraging them to listen when stories are being told. Kids will ask parents questions as they begin to really listen to sermons.



New Safety Procedures

We are in the process of reviewing our safety procedures and request your assistance with the following.

When entering or exiting the Children's Ministry wing, please use the covered sidewalk along the exterior of the Fellowship Hall instead of going through the kitchen, as that area often gets congested, and has many hazardous items like hot coffee, gas stove, and knives in use. Thank you!

Requests for Donations

If you are wishing to find a good home for the following items, gently-used and in good condition, we may be interested in receiving them. Please talk to Sara first before bringing items in.

- 1) Storybooks: Toddler board books and pre-school age picture books, preferably Christian themed.
- 2) Playground equipment like balls, large, durable, play units with tunnels, forts, slides, etc.

Offering of Praises

In Kid's Worship (targeting 1st-5th graders) we include a time of offering, teaching the kids to be a cheerful giver as a response to God and the blessings He has given us. These opportunities also focus on the church contributing in a variety of ways to follow God's commands to bring people closer to Him, such as volunteering, donating goods, money, participating in a variety of ways within the church.

We would like to extend these teaching moments in the pre-school Junior Church, as well. So now we will include an offering time each Sunday in both Kid's Worship and Junior Church.

THANK YOU! A big thank you to all who donated funds towards buying age-appropriate Bibles for our Children's Ministry. With the money raised, we were able to purchase 30 copies of the Adventure Bible (NIV) to be used in our classrooms and Kid's Worship and also to give to children who are without a Bible to read at home.

Pew Pack Bags

We offer special canvas bags filled with quiet activities for your little ones to borrow during services. We'd like to change the use of these bags to toddlers and pre-school age children, as we'd like to encourage the participation of elementary-age kids in worship before they are excused to Kid's Worship. See page 1 of this newsletter or check out the recommended book for tips on how to involve your child in the worship experience.

"All About Me"

Have you completed an "All About Me" form for your child this fall? Every year we ask parents to complete these forms so we have up to date information to best care for your child. Your child's teacher will provide this to you in the classroom or nursery.

Mark Your Calendars!

Saturday Dec 3rd: 9:15-1:00pm

Shop & Drop: Drop your child off in our care for fun, Christmas-themed activities while you get Christmas shopping or errands completed. RSVP is required. More info to follow.

Sunday Dec 11th: Children's Advent Program

Children will lead a portion of the 10:30 service in a special program. (In order for them to participate, they must attend rehearsals.) More info to follow in coming weeks.

Sunday Dec 18th: Hometown Christmas

We wish for the pre-schoolers -5th graders to experience the joy of the season, witnessing the musical talents from our music ministry during the 10:30 service. Only Sunday School and nursery care will be provided.

Saturday Dec 24th: 7pm Christmas Eve Service

Nursery care will be provided for infants and toddlers. All other children get to celebrate in this special service with their families.

Sunday Dec. 25th:

No child care provided.

Please go to www.collegeparkpres.org for more information regarding the church and the programs and activities we offer.