

April 2010

theParentLink

Children's Ministry Edition



Children's Ministries Staff

Director-Cindy Gangstad
cindyg@whpc.org
327-1116, ext 125

Assistant-Lisa Ruth Pullen
lisaruthp@whpc.org
327-1116, ext 147

Supervisor Childcare and Preschool
Sunday School
Judy Crochet
judyc@whpc.org,
327-8028

Mission Project

Layettes for Nicaragua!
Collections of layette items are being collected in the downstairs lobby thru Mother's Day to take on a mission trip to Nicaragua! The layettes will be given to new mothers' in hospitals the weekend after VBS!

We are asking each grade to bring a different item.

Items Needed:
Kindergarten-Onesies
1st Grade-Infant socks
2nd Grade-soft baby washcloths
3rd-Bars of Ivory
4th Grade-Receiving blankets
5th Grade-Bibs

Drop your donations in the barrel in the downstairs entryway marked Layettes! Remember to involve your children in helping pick out the items! Thank You!

Celebrate Jesus' Resurrection

Each spring, we see reminders of new life and rebirth. Trees bud, flowers bloom, and butterflies emerge from their cocoons. For Christians, the most important celebration of new life is Jesus' death and resurrection at Easter. Children may associate this holiday mainly with bunnies, baskets, and candy. So it's important to share with them the real reason we rejoice: the empty tomb.

Use these creative ideas to share the Easter message with children of all ages. Let them know that Jesus, our loving Savior, died and rose again so we can go to heaven and be with him forever.

Palm Sunday—Make "praise shakers" to celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Decorate the bottoms of paper plates, fill them with beads or unpopped popcorn, and then staple together the edges. Add streamers and then have a parade. Shout out praises to Jesus and make noise to celebrate that he is our King.

Good Friday—Buy a small vine wreath at a craft store and insert toothpicks to resemble the crown of thorns Jesus wore. Whenever a family member makes a sacrifice for someone else, they should remove one thorn. On the night before Easter, after your children are asleep, remove the remaining thorns and decorate the crown with white ribbons and bright flowers.



Easter Sunday—Using a stamp pad and colored pencils, make thumbprint pictures that tell the Easter story. For example, draw a tomb with a rolled-away thumbprint rock and a butterfly with thumbprint wings.

Faith Findings

- Researcher George Barna found that children are most likely to believe in Jesus as their Savior and form a lifelong relationship with him between the ages of 5 and 13. According to Barna's findings, people are up to eight times more likely to become Christians before age 13 than they are after age 13.
- According to a Gallup Poll, 84% of people who don't go to church believe that Jesus rose from the dead.

OpenTheBook

"Don't be afraid!" [the angel] said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen."

Matthew 28:5-6

By dying in our place and rising from the dead, Jesus gives his followers eternal life in heaven. That's worth celebrating at Easter—and every day!

Teachable Moments

1. Jelly Bean Joy—Use the candy in children's Easter baskets to remind them of God's love. In this poem, each color represents part of the Easter story:

Orange is for sins we've done.

Red is for the blood of God's only Son.

White is for the grace he gives.

Green is for new life in him.
Yellow is for your place in heaven.

Invite Jesus into your life and be truly forgiven.



2. New Life—Go on a walk to collect lots of twigs (or use toothpicks instead). Use a low-temperature hot glue gun to attach the twigs to a clean, empty soup can. Then fill the "vase" with fresh flowers as you talk about how the twigs are like our lives before Jesus (dead and broken) and how the flowers represent our lives with Jesus (new and alive).

Kingdom Court News April 2010

Monthly Virtue: Friendship

Memory Verse: Proverbs 17:17 "A friend loves at all times. He is there to help when trouble comes."

April-4th-Easter Sunday-No Sunday School today only Childcare for children preschool and younger; Pre and Post Court will not meet.

April 11th-Lesson-Jesus appears to Thomas John 20:24-31

April 18th-Mission Sunday-No Sunday School today only childcare for children preschool and younger. Pre and Post Court will not meet. We invite you to take your children Kindergarten thru 5th to the Mission Fair in the Gym. We encourage you to read this week's lesson at home with your children-Breakfast w/ Jesus John 21:1-14

April 25th-Lesson-Straight Up-The Ascension of Jesus Matt. 28:16-20

Home Court Monthly Assignment-Books of New Testament
Home Court Advantage Class-5th Grade (delayed until May 16th)

Food Pantry-TUNA

Family Experience: Easter Is for Me!

Get closer to one another and to God during Easter by using these simple activities that will have a lasting impact.

- **Prayer Eggs**—During Easter week, use a basket of eggs to encourage your family to spend time together talking to God. Place slips of paper with prayer topics inside plastic eggs. Make enough eggs for each family member to open one per day during the week leading up to Easter. Include praises and gratitude, as well as prayer requests for family members, your church, and the community. Open the prayer eggs at meals or bedtime and pray together for the opened requests. Place special prayer eggs in the basket on Easter morning to celebrate Jesus' resurrection.



- **Resurrection Buns**—Make edible "empty tombs" with just a few ingredients. Wrap a packaged crescent-roll triangle around a large marshmallow. Dip the roll in melted butter, then cinnamon and sugar. Cook the rolls according to the instructions on the roll package. The marshmallows "disappear" and leave an empty, sweet surprise.

Read aloud Luke 24:1-12. Then give each family member a roll and have them take one bite. Ask: "What do you see inside your roll? How do you think the women felt when they found the tomb empty?" Say: "Remember that even as these rolls are empty, Jesus' tomb was empty, too, because he rose from the dead."

What's Playing at the Movies

Movie: *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*

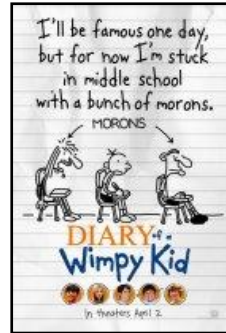
Genre: Live-action/animated comedy

Rating: PG (for some rude humor and language)

Cast: Zachary Gordon, Chloe Moretz, Devon Bostick

Synopsis: This film is based on the first book of Jeff Kinney's popular "novel-in-cartoon" fiction series. It features the adventures of Greg, an awkward kid trying to survive middle school. Greg faces teasing from bullies and embarrassment from his friends and parents. One character calls middle school an "intellectual wasteland."

Discussion Questions: For you, what are the funniest and toughest parts of school, and why? Where do you fit in as part of your school's social scene? What makes you feel either wimpy or strong? Read aloud Ephesians 6:10. How does God give you strength to face each day?



High Seas Expedition-VBS 2010

Date: June 7th thru 10th

Times: Morning-9:30 to Noon

Evening-6 to 8:30

Cost: \$35 per child

How to Register: Online at WHPC.org

Click on High Seas after April 1st!

Discounts: \$5 for registrations and payments in April: receive additional \$5 per child discount if you volunteer all week!

How to volunteer:

Morning-Contact Lindsay Castaneda at

Castanedaclan@att.net or call 301-9198

Evening-Contact Arden Harkins at

teamharkins@austin.rr.com



Culture & Trends

What's happening right now that may affect your children and family:

- New "social mapping" apps such as Loopt, foursquare, and Gowalla track users' movements and alert them to others' whereabouts. Safety experts warn that these apps aren't for kids.
- More kid-friendly electronic devices are on toy shelves, including digital scrapbooking kits, e-reading devices, and toddler-themed remote control items.



Quick Stats

- 30% of preteens say they often worry about their family's financial difficulties. *(USA Today)*
- Parents who are devoted to volunteerism and attend weekly worship with their children are correlated with having teens who are 40% less likely to be sexually active compared to the national average. *(Institute of Marriage & Family Canada)*

April 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
April Birthdays in Bold Print!			VBS REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 1 ST ONLINE at whpc.org! Look for VBS Discounts!	1 st Thursday Women's Luncheon w/Childcare 7:30 Maundy Thursday Service in Sanctuary-Childcare	Good Friday Elliot Moore	Hallie Cunningham Ryan Silvus
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sunrise-6:30 Services at 8, 9:30 and 11:15 with Childcare-Preschool & under, No Sunday School today! Cullen Cline Beck Scott	Bible Study W/Childcare		MWM-Ham, Baked Potato Casserole Beans Emily Enas Peyton Gaughan		Cal Livengood	Grace Ritchie
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Worship-8:45, 9 and 11:15 Sunday School-10:15 Jackson London Zach Rogers Colton Wheeler	Lindy Pankonien	Ty Heironimus Nautica Stokes	MWM-Bar-b-que Chicken Slaw, Beans Kids-Hot dogs Hannah Hopke Mason Nelson	Caleb Aunspaugh Layne Garner		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Mission Sunday Sunday School, Pre and Post Court will not meet; Childcare Preschoolers and under Kate Baxter Carrie Cotter	Cooper Broaddus Brian Barre Brittnany Barre Cannon Bates Kevin Camera		Last MWM Hamburger Night! Lily Broussard Stephen Malish Case Tatum	Ingrid McDuffee Sophie McDuffee James Revelle	Mo Ranch	Mo Ranch Luke Cheatham MacKenzie Depwe Shalisha Meditz
25	26	27	28	29	30	
Worship-8:45, 9 and 11:15 Sunday School-10:15 Mo Ranch Weekend	Nelms Morey		Fritz Aldrine III Ethan McWhirter Walker Smith Serena Warner Rachel Wood	Quinn Pirtle	Bethany Broesche Taylor Grant Brandon Hicks	