

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CHILDREN'S EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Committee Members: Beckie Dicks – chair; Jo Ann Cashwell; and Paul Ytterrock – Staff representative.

The Children's Education committee was re-formed in the spring of 2005.

The committee's first task was to write a summer curriculum for our Sensational Summer Sundays, and to run a combined Sunday school for preschool through fifth grade. The theme for the summer was elements of worship, such as water, bread, flame, etc. Bible stories were chosen accordingly, and memory verses were taught. The children participated in a variety of activities ranging from music to baking to drama, with an emphasis on crafts.

The ongoing goals of the committee are:

Support of Sunday school teachers: to be available to advise, to provide materials, ideas and training, and to offer moral support and discipleship, as needed.

Fostering community among teachers: for mutual encouragement, strengthening and sharing of ideas

Direction and goals for the Sunday school department: Developing, with the teachers, a clear vision of what our purpose is as a Sunday school (i.e. Biblical literacy, ongoing spiritual growth, prayer), and finding ways to work towards those goals in the classroom throughout the children's tenure in our program.

Sunday school vitality: to make the Sunday school a visible entity in the church, attractive to members and non-members alike.

During the fall semester, the committee sought to assess the needs of the Sunday school department, and to provide support to the teachers as appropriate. There was one teachers' meeting, in which we began our discussion on purpose and needs. In December, we held a Christmas party for teachers and family to express our appreciation and to celebrate their service. A further planning meeting for teachers is scheduled for January of 2006.

We are thankful for a consistent and dedicated volunteer teaching staff:

Preschool: Luz Ytterrock and Bob Szczechura.

Kindergarten through second grade: Olimpia Todor and Jenny Miazga

Grades three through five: Jo Ann Cashwell and Sue Ingram

Wednesday Night FISH: Jane Lewy and Donna Barranger

On Sunday Mornings from 10:10 to 10:50, classes from Preschool through fifth grade make use of the *We Believe* Curriculum, published by the Presbyterian Church, USA. During the fall, grades three through five participated in an extended course of Bible survey, since each of these students received a Bible in September of this year.

On Wednesday evenings during the FISH/ALPHA program time, Jane Lewy worked with the children on a dramatic and musical production. *In Bethlehem Inn* was presented on December 17, 2005.

We are thankful to have Veronica Phalen as our new paid nursery worker as of November, 2005. She is supported by several volunteers, whose schedules are coordinated by Luz Ytterrock.

Sunday school is an essential element of any church's mission, and we greatly appreciate the congregation's support. At this time, support may be expressed primarily through Sunday school attendance for the entire church family. As our children see the adults of the church involved in and excited about Sunday school, they will follow their example, first as children, and then as teens.

Respectfully Submitted,
Beckie Dicks