



This month we are preparing for our Vacation Bible School Beach Bash! While this is very exciting and quite possibly the children ministry's biggest event of the year, it takes a lot of work to pull it off. Thus, you will find fewer items in this month's newsletter. But never fear we do give you a few things to read and feel encouraged by this month.

NEW: Children's Ministry Philosophy and Value Statement.

The philosophy is actually not new, its just updated a little and then we added a section of values to show how the philosophy actually plays out in the children's department. What we wanted to give families was more than just "here's what we believe" but "here's what we believe and how that actually plays out in the classrooms". Our reason for this is two parts; first that you as parents and volunteers would have a clear understanding of what Christ Community's vision is for the spiritual education of children, and second that parents and volunteers would understand what guides the decisions we make for this ministry in our church.

If you have any questions about these or want to talk about them please feel free to contact Holli or Harmony.

Philosophy:

We believe that children are whole and complete persons created in the image of God with vast potential. We take seriously that children are spiritual beings capable of learning the biblical story of God's restoration of his Creation through the person and work of Jesus. It is of utmost importance that children are taught in gentle, nurturing, creative, age appropriate, concrete and imaginative ways. We trust in the work of the Holy Spirit and build from our partnership with parents, to help children understand, embrace and develop a vibrant and transforming faith.

Values (for more details on these, please see the back page):

1. Respect for Children as Persons
2. God-centered teaching
3. Kid relevant, Age appropriate
4. Partnership with Parents
5. Serving
6. Relationships

Values:

1. Respect for Children as Persons

- Our standards for teaching children must never be compromised by forgetting our role in helping children reach their full potential
- Recognizing that Children's Ministry is a part of a child's spiritual foundation. And taking seriously the job of their spiritual education.
- Scripture tells us that children are a "heritage" they are a joy and pleasure and they ultimately came from God and belong to God.
- We see children as gifts, not only to their parents, but also to our church, our community and our world. For one day they will become husbands, wives, friends, neighbors and citizens.

2. God-centered teaching

- We desire that through our education all children will gain an understanding of God and his desire for us to glorify him. Thus we desire for children to want to follow God with their heart, rather than just going through outward motions.
- Helping children discover the joy they can find in God
- Helping children discover their need for God
- Teaching must be application oriented, rather than just imparting knowledge.

3. Kid relevant, Age appropriate

- Teaching must have in mind the cognitive, physical, emotional and spiritual development of the child.
- Teaching must look at the whole child, understanding there are different learning styles. Thus a variety of creative teaching methods are used.
- We must seek to understand the child's cultural influences and relate to that culture, without ever compromising biblical truth.

4. Partnership with Parents

- God has designed children to learn in the context of family relationships.
- Partnering with families is vital to the growth of our ministry and the spiritual growth of our children. When the two are combined we make a greater impact in the life of the child, and we can offer one another support.

5. Serving

- Developing care for others
- Developing concern, compassion and awareness of people in need both inside and outside of the church
- Developing an understanding that everything we have belongs to God and should be used to bring Him glory.

6. Relationships

- Putting in place an environment for friendships to flourish
- It is of utmost importance that our children are able to learn in a safe, encouraging and caring environment. (Please see our safety policies)
- The scriptures show us that the context for Christian growth is within a community. This is an essential component for spiritual growth.

List of resources we drew from to gain a deeper understanding of the spiritual education of children:

1. "A More Vibrant Theology of Children" by Marcia Bunge (Available online)
2. For the Children's Sake by Susan Schafefer Macaulay
3. Spiritual Parenting: An Awakening for Today's Families by Michelle Anthony
4. The following passages from the Bible: Psalm 51:5; 58:3; 127:3, Genesis 30:20,22; 1 Sam 1:11, 19; Proverbs 22; Deut 6:7 and 11:18-19p; Gen 18:19; Proverbs 2:9; Gen 1:27; Matt 18:2-5 and 19:14 and Luke 2:52.

VBS is here!

Don't forget to register your children on our website and contact kids@christcommunitychurch.com if you would like to help.



July 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
3	4 Independence Day 	5	6	7	8	9
10 VBS 2011 Volunteers Meeting 4:30 pm	11	12	13	14	15	16
VBS! All week...9:00 am - Noon!						
17 	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Kanapaha Park Night 6:00 pm Bring picnic dinner!	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Church Wide Lunch on the Grounds 11:30 am			 Now recruiting volunteers for the 2011-2012 year! If you are interested please contact kids@christcommunitychurch.com			