

# First United Methodist Church Preschool / MDO Newsletter - December 2007



## FROM THE DIRECTOR

What a great fall semester we have had with your children. It is a joy having them in our program, watching them grow and change. What a gift!

### Dates to Remember

Dec. 10 Tuition Due  
Dec. 21 - Christmas Break  
Jan. 4 No School  
Jan. 7 Classes Resume  
Monday

### Enrichment Tickets for the New Year

Love your children by giving them Enrichment tickets in their stocking this Christmas. (Parents, you may love yourselves and your child by suggesting this gift to grandparents! Have them call our office at 341-1230, for more information!)



### Guidelines for Illnesses

Regular attendance at our Preschool/MDO is essential. However, in fairness to your child and other children, do not bring your child to school if they are ill, have a fever, or are overly tired. In case of a communicable disease, the child needs to stay home until the doctor releases him or her to return to class. Communicable illnesses include, but are not limited to the following: thick, colored nasal discharge, colds, productive coughs, vomiting and/or diarrhea within 24 hours, and fevers. In the event that a child becomes ill at school, we will call you to pick them up, and they may not return to school the same day.

Please call the Preschool Office if your child will be absent, and we will notify your student's teachers.

### Giving Tree

The Giving Tree was originated by a parent group several years ago. Teachers appreciate this as an alternative to a personal gift.

Giving Tree works like this: A

large paper tree will be on the glass windows outside the Preschool office. Decorating this tree will be colored ornaments with class names and "gift wishes" on them. If you would like to purchase a gift for your child's class - please stop by the tree and remove the ornament. Also, please return the ornament with YOUR name on it when you bring the gift back to school. This way, we can properly appreciate your generosity. **THIS ACTIVITY IS COMPLETELY OPTIONAL. Please do not feel obligated in any way.**

### Advent Activities

Attached to this newsletter are church activities for your family during this holiday season. If you do not have a church home and would like to participate with us, please consider this your personal invitation. We'd love to have your family share this holiday season with ours.

*Glennis J. Peterman, Director*

### BUNNIES (Tuesday/Thursday)

The Bunnies are going to be learning *Jingle Bells* this month, as well as hearing the Christmas story, as told by Wally the Worm (our school mascot). We will be making fun crafts, and reading wonderful Christmas stories.

What a joyous time of year with children. We hope all of our families have a very merry and blessed Christmas.

*Ms. Janice and Ms. Lisa*

### BUNNIES (Wednesday)

Thank you all for coming to the Bunny Open House in November. It was very nice to see everyone!

With the holidays upon us, our little Bunnies will be very busy. We are planning some fun activities.

The Bunnies are venturing into the activity center to play, and in the classroom we are reading fun books during snack time and singing songs. Please don't forget to bring blankets for nap time and label everything.

The last day of school for the holidays is Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. We hope you all have a blessed and very merry Christmas.

*Mrs. Tracey, Mrs. Cheryl  
and Miss Vicki*

### BUSY BEARS

Thank you to everyone who came to our Busy Bear Open House. November was a fun month. Our Busy Bears were very busy making Native American headbands, tootsie turkeys and pretzels. They all love the rice table and dancing to the animal boogie.

December will give the Busy Bears the opportunity to create holiday crafts. Our colors for December are red and green, and our shape is the triangle. Pine needles and garland are just a couple of our textures.

Don't forget to label everything you send to school. Please send jackets for outside play and blankets for nap time.

Our last day of school for the holiday break is Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. We hope you all have a very Merry Christmas.

*Ms. Amanda, Ms. Stephanie,  
Ms. Cheryl, Ms. Tracey,  
and Miss Vicki*

### GUMMY BEARS

The Gummy Bears have had a great November! We really appreciated all who came to our Open House. It was great to see the children show you our classroom.

During November we had a cooking experience with pretzels and melted chocolate. Yum! We practiced using good manners. We learned that saying "please" and "thank you," sharing toys, waiting our turn and being nice to one another, helped everyone work and play together pleasantly.

The Gummy Bears also practiced sharing when we read *Stone Soup*, and learned how the villagers shared and made a great pot of

soup. Our soup tasted great too!

In our learning centers we painted with Indian corn, and made hand turkeys. We talked about orange and brown. We also worked on patterning, sewing, counting, sorting and recognizing shapes.

December promises to be a month full of great fun! We will focus on Christmas colors--red, green, and white. The children will observe shapes in many Christmas related things: for example, circle ornaments and triangle Christmas trees. Before the Christmas break, we will have a pajama party and watch the Polar Express.

Remember, we will go outside if the temperature is above freezing, so please send a coat and perhaps hat and gloves with your child to school. We ask that your child's name is on all their belongings. Have a very blessed Christmas!

*Mrs. Bivens and Mrs. Glades*

## EXTENDED ENRICHMENT

Happy Holidays! What an exciting time of year! We have many fun art and cooking projects planned for this special season.

Keep checking the file box in the lobby for your child's work and any important information that we need to share with you. Your child's folder is the primary way we communicate with you, so please check it every time you drop off or pick up your child!

As the weather is getting colder please keep sending those jackets! We will continue playing on the playground as long as the temperature is above freezing! Also, make sure that all of your child's belongings are labeled with their name. This will help us keep coats, hats, and gloves with their owner.

As always, we thank you for sharing your child with us. God bless your family during this season of miracles!

*Mrs. Cromer, Mrs. Emery,  
Mrs. Fuller, and Mrs. Sturm*

## RAINBOWS

The Rainbows were active and well fed in November! We had Open House with wonderful family time and then our yummy Thanksgiving feast. The turkeys that your families

decorated were terrific, and looked very festive for our feast. Each year we enjoy acting out the first Thanksgiving celebration and singing our songs for you. Thanks to all the families that helped with food for our feast.

December will be another busy month. Our themes are Christmas, family, and friends. The colors for emphasis are green and red, the shape is the triangle, with the number 6 being the focus of some activities. The Rainbows will decorate giant candy canes and green paper, triangle, Christmas trees with 6 different objects or ornaments. Watch for these and other projects hanging in the hall (and then we'll send them home to decorate your halls!)

We also look forward to the Christmas story, as told by Wally Worm--a school tradition!

Our Christmas parties are Thursday, December 20, for both the a.m. and p.m. classes. Parents, please watch for a sign-up sheet or feel free to call us at home, if you have questions.

Thank you for sharing your Rainbows with us. We know that every household is blessed by these wonderful children. At this giving time of the year, look for your child's special gifts from within and celebrate God's blessings to you this Christmas season.

*Mrs. Nelson and Mrs. Longley*

## SUNBEAMS

We hope you enjoyed Open House! In addition to the artwork and activities your child shared in the classroom, your Sunbeams are learning important life lessons, such as sharing, manners, and structured play. We are excited to see how their minds are absorbing what we are teaching.

We hope you all had a blessed, relaxing Thanksgiving holiday. Thank you to all of who made our Thanksgiving feast so successful.

December will be a fast, eventful month for the Sunbeams class. Along with our letter studies, we will prepare for Christmas through stories, crafts, and songs.

Our letters of the week are:  
Dec. 4-6 Mr. V

Dec. 11-13 Miss E  
Dec. 18-20 Mr L

We hope to see you at our Christmas party on Thursday, December 13th at 10:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Thank you for your support and for giving us the opportunity to work with your most precious gift, your children. Have a blessed Christmas and happy New Year!

*Mrs. Griffin and Mrs. Schutter*

## SUPERSTARS

The holiday season is approaching! Santa is in our thoughts and Christmas carols can be heard. At school the children will learn symbols, plants, and sounds associated with the Christmas season. A few Christmas learning experiences will include: creating ornaments, decorating a Christmas tree, exploring pine branches/pine cones, listening to various size bells, and baking a gingerbread man (we hope he doesn't run away)! Our month will conclude with a Polar Express Day. Be sure your Super Star wears their pajamas to watch the movie in the church theater on Thursday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>.

Music is a fun way to communicate our feelings. Encourage your child to sing our new song:

### Guess Who?

*Guess whose beard is long and white?*

*Long and white, long and white?*

*Guess whose beard is long and white?*

*Dear Old Santa!*

*Guess whose suit is red and white?*

*Red and white, red and white?*

*Guess whose suit is red and white?*

*Dear Old Santa!*

*Guess who comes on Christmas Eve?*

*Christmas Eve, Christmas Eve?*

*Guess who comes on Christmas Eve?*

*Dear Old Santa!*

Also, be sure to mark your calendar for our class Christmas Party to be held on Tuesday, December 18, at 11:00 a.m.

Children are truly an amazing gift from God, and we feel so blessed you would share them with us. Merry Christmas to you and your family!

*Mrs. Bules and Mrs. Fick*



