

# Church School Chatter

St. Andrew's Wesley United Church - Summer 2010

**Dear God, how did you know you were God? Who told you? *Charlene***

**Dear God, I bet it's very hard for you to love all of everybody in the whole world. There are only 4 people in our family and I can never do it. *Nancy***

**Dear God, I didn't think that orange went with purple until I saw the sunset last night. That was really cool. *Thomas***

I feel truly blessed to be in ministry with children! To spend my Sunday mornings with thoughtful and inspiring theologians is a gift! Many folks have said that it is so important to have something for the children now for they are the future of the church. I **strongly, strongly** believe that Children are no more only the Future of the Church as the Seniors are no more only the Past of the Church. We are all an important part of the present and need to be celebrated and recognized as such!!! Our Children's Ministry is growing and our need for caring volunteer support is HIGH!!! I ask you to prayerfully consider how you might offer your time, faith and presence with the children of your church. Be it being a teacher, be it volunteering on a Sunday morning twice a month, once a month or even once a season. It might mean you volunteering with the Parent and Tot program on a Wednesday or simply sharing a program idea. Many folks are reluctant as they would rather remain in church on Sunday or feel that they don't have the gifts possible to share with children. We will support you, offer you tools to share your gifts! And like I, you can hear the sermon on line on Monday!!!

Below I have an outline of the stories we will be focusing on through the summer. My hope is that knowing the stories we will be focusing on, will help to continue the discussion begun in church school. . . in the home. Please know that I am here to respond to your questions and suggestions and to offer you and your family support. I enjoy visiting with families in your homes, getting to know you, listening to your stories, your worries and your hopes!

I will be away from Sunday, July 18th and I will return to the office on Wednesday, August 18th. During this season of Pentecost may the Holy Spirit surround you with peace and enliven you with hope!

*Jen Cunnings*

Minister with Children and Families

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DATE	UPPER ROOM	MARNIE'S ROOM
June 13	The Story of Abraham	I wonder!
June 20	The Story of Sarah	<i>Year End Party &amp; Prep for Worship on June 27th</i>
June 27	Baptism	Junior Youth in Worship
July 4	The Story of Jacob	
July 11	The Story of Jacob	
July 18	The Story of Joseph	
July 25	The Story of Joseph	
August 1	The Story of Moses	
August 8	The Story of Moses	
August 15	Sabbath!!	
August 22	The Story of the Prophet Elijah	
August 29	The Story of the Prophet Elijah	

September 5

Labour Day Weekend

## Did You Know???

- \* we have special **bulletins for children**, available from our ushers with an activity page on the front and special descriptions inside - our hope is that the children will follow along in worship and feel included.
- \* we have **worship bags** for children (simple books, crayons and colouring pages) on Sunday mornings. They can be found in the “narthex” (back of the church) or near the baptismal font at the front of the church or simply, by asking an usher.
- \* each Sunday, a child opens our worship time together with the **lighting of the Christ candle**, if your child is interested, please speak with Jen or Gary.
- \* we have a **Nursery** at St. Andrew’s Wesley called “*the Ark*.” It is located by walking through the south door by the pulpit. Our Nursery Caregiver, **Lauren Cryder**, looks forward to welcoming children 2 and under, and their parents to this cheery, safe place with toys, books, an incredible mural and access to a washroom. It is important to us that we always have Lauren plus at least one adult in the space for safety.
- \* we have a **Church School** for children 3 to 9ish, located in the “*Upper Room*.” Follow the children as they leave the sanctuary by the North west door at the front and then head up the stairs to your right. **Christine Coles, Nicole Morgan and Bill Lacombe** have been working with our older children (grades 4 and up) alternating Sundays in “*Marnie’s Room*” but through the summer they will be taking a break and we invite the older children and teens to remain in worship or if they like, to join us in the Upper Room.
- \* we have **Offering Envelopes for children** too! Offerings collected in church school go to the Core Funding of St. Andrew’s Wesley and support the overall mission and ministry of our church family.
- \* we have a **Junior Youth Group** for children grades 4 and up that meets once a month! Check out our calendar of events on the bulletin board—we are taking a break for the summer as many are going away to camp and holidays but plan to have some fun at Splashdown Waterpark on Friday, August 27th.
- \* Our **Parent and Tot Gathering** meets every *Wednesday through the summer except for July 21* from 10—11:30am at the church. It is open to the community so invite your family and friends to join us.
- \* we offer **childcare** during adult education events if requested, please let Jen know if you are interested in taking a program, please do not let not having someone to care for your child be a deterrent in taking a program.

## Picnic Club for Children & their Families

Following worship join Jen and friends for a picnic in the salons for a time of sharing and fun with the purpose to build some community amongst our young families. Future dates . . . **Sunday, September 26, and in 2011—January 30, March 27, & April 24**  
**Come and join us!!!**

## Upcoming DATES . . .

**Summer day at Splashdown: Friday, August 27th**—You and your family are invited to join Jen and the Junior Youth Group for a Day at Splashdown Waterpark in Tsawassen. We will meet at the park at 10am ride the slides have some lunch and ride some more before heading home around 4pm. If you are interested—please speak with Jen and she will get the group rate.

**Children and Senior’s Tea:** Come and Join us on **Sunday, October 31st** for our Annual Children and Senior’s Tea—come dressed in your Halloween attire. We will serve a light lunch, share in a craft and build some community through singing and storytelling!

**Advent Party: Sunday, November 28th**—join the church family as we celebrate the beginning of Advent which is the season that helps us prepare for the Mystery of Christmas!!! We will have a light lunch, and stations set up around the sanctuary where you might make your family advent wreath, create some crèche figures for your nativity scene out of clay, you might sing with a gathered choir or simply connect with members of your church family.

## Keep your eyes Open for:

- National United Church Art Contest for Children (check the bulletin board outside the Upper Room)
- Children’s choir practices resuming in the fall
- Parenting Programs
- Child Safety Course
- Temple Tours for Families in conjunction with the Interfaith Festival this Fall

**Please speak with Jen if you can help, need more info or if you have any questions**



