

Partner with us as we,
together with Christ, lay
a sure foundation . . .

Christ Covenant Church Children’s Ministry

From The Director



Dear Covenant Families,

A new year! 2012 will be for Christ Covenant a **Year of Worship**. The theme verse for the entire church will be Psalm 122:1, *“I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord!’”* As a church we will focus on the Joy of the Worshipping Community. Our purpose is *to make disciples*. This is not just for the adults of our church family – our children are a vital part of our church, and we desire for them to have joy in worship and to lead a life of worship – now. We will be striving in all of our classes to help children understand that all they do is to be done to please the Lord, with an attitude of worship. But we also want them to have joy in corporate worship with their church family.

We are blessed and privileged to be able to gather every Sunday with no fear or limits and hear from God together. Please help your children to take an active part in corporate worship. If they are coloring or doing some other activity to keep them sitting still, have them stop and pray with the congregation, have them stand when we sing. Get them to participate as much as possible. Use the bulletins and sermon notes to help them understand what each part of worship is about. Worship is the greatest means of grace for us. Help your children to receive this.

I also want to challenge each family to read Psalm 100 before you come to church or on the way each Sunday and set the tone for your time of worship.

I look forward to our new year together and to seeing what God will do in and through our children in the upcoming year!

Karen

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Winter

Jan.–Feb. 2012



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A Spotlight On Our Volunteers



Jim Rea

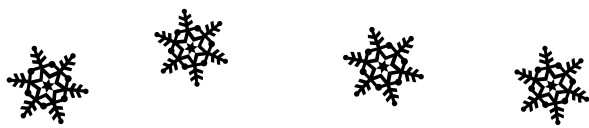


The New Year is a time, much like Thanksgiving, to reflect on God’s blessings to us, particularly His son Jesus and how we are a new creation through Him. It is also a time to thank God for those He has given the desire to help us teach our little ones about living with the hope of Christ’s sacrifice in our hearts. This month we are especially grateful for Jim Rea, his wife Sherri, and their three boys JT, Austin and Maclendon.

Jim Rea and his family have been serving Christ Covenant for several years in many capacities. Jim is an elder as well as head of the children’s ministry department team. He served for several years as a small group leader for the 4th and 5th grade boys in the elementary Sunday school and greatly enjoyed his job as their teacher, mentor and prayer partner. Sherri is just as involved, serving once a month in the newborn nursery as well as preparing goodies for our volunteers once a month on Sundays, and doing the laundry from the nursery rooms. The boys have their fingers in ministry too. JT helps his dad take up offering on Sundays, and Austin has been a small group shepherd with the 3-year-olds. So here’s a big thank you to the Rea family for all that they contribute with their time, smiling faces, and servant’s heart for ministry.

Jessica

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- Family Fun Activities

Bonus Section

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Getting Organized

In 2012

Nursery News



2012...I can't believe we are beginning a new year! Traditionally, January brings with it renewed hope for the year to come. We think of all the things we will do better or different in this new year, and it makes us hopeful. For most of us, however, that hope has faded by mid-February. Thankfully, as believers, we have a different kind of hope for renewal that can only be found in Christ. Psalm 146:5 says "Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God." My prayer for 2012 is that you and your children might fully grasp the hope we have in Christ. May you find refreshment in this new beginning as you find rest in Him.

Every lesson in our 2-year-old curriculum points to Jesus and our need for Him. Some of the Biblical truths your child will be learning are that the Bible is God's Word and it is true, prayer is talking to God, God loves and takes care of His children, God always keeps His promises, we all sin and need a Savior, God sent His Son to be our Savior, we put our trust in our Jesus, we obey God because He loves us, and the church is made up of God's people.

I love partnering with you in the raising of your precious children. If you have any questions about the Nursery Ministry, please contact me anytime at 704-814-1024 or smckissick@christcovenant.org.

Trusting in Him,

Sara

Catechisms for 2-year-old

- 6.) Q. Is there more than one true God?
A.) *No. There is only one true God.*
- 7.) Q. In how many Persons does this one God exist?
A.) *In three Persons.*
- 8.) Q. Name the three Persons?
A.) *The Fathers, the Son and the Holy Spirit.*



2-Year-Old Upcoming Lessons

- 1/1 The wise men (Matthew 2:1-12)
- 1/8 Jesus in the temple (Luke 2:40-52)
- 1/15 Jesus' baptism (Matthew 3:13-17)
- 1/22 Water into wine (John 2:1-11)
- 1/29 The ten lepers (Luke 17:11-19)
- 2/5 The paralyzed man (Mark 2:1-12)
- 2/12 Blind Bartimaeus (Luke 18:35-43)
- 2/19 Jesus and the fishermen (Luke 5:1-11)
- 2/26 Jesus and His disciples (Matthew 4:18-22)

Preschool News

Happy New Year! I hope that this new year has brought a new hope and longing to be closer to Christ. I am continually amazed at how much the Barnyard children are growing in knowledge and excitement for the Lord. I pray that you are able to have meaningful conversations with these little ones about spiritual matters. If you need somewhere to start, use the parent page from Sunday school; there are questions about the Bible Story, you can also talk about and pray for the missionary that we introduced. You could also pray for your Small Group Leader and work on memorizing John 14:1-14 that we have been working on. If I can help you or pray for you in any way please let me know.

In Christ's Care,

Diane

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Barnyard Bible Lessons

- Jan. 1 Jacob wrestles with an angel and reconciles with Esau (Genesis 32-33)
- Jan. 8 God gives Joseph a dream/Brothers sell him into slavery (Genesis 37)
- Jan. 15 The Lord is with Joseph in Egypt (Genesis 39 - 41)
- Jan. 22 God preserves His people in famine (Genesis 42, 43:1-15)
- Jan. 29 God reunites Joseph & his brothers (Genesis 43:16 - 46:7)
- Feb. 5 God preserves Moses (Genesis 1:8 - 2:10)
- Feb. 12 Moses flees Egypt (Genesis 2:11 - 25)
- Feb. 19 Special Missions Lesson (Missions week at CCC)
- Feb. 26 God calls Moses to deliver Israel (Exodus 3 - 4)



Parent Open House ~ January 15

We invite you to come and see all the amazing things your child will be learning this year in the Barnyard. Just come with your child to their classroom by **9:00 on January 15**. Meet their small group leader, stay and hear the true Bible story, worship with Miss Toni, learn some Bible memory with Laura Silver and more. When the kids go back to their classrooms, you will hear from me and get to ask questions. I can't wait to meet you and share about the Barnyard. ~Diane Dworek

Elementary News

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a happy, happy New Year. The New Year is always exciting as it offers new opportunity and a fresh start. Elementary is changing and looking forward to new opportunities as well. Rejoice (and bear with us) as we seize the opportunities to make Elementary Sunday school a safe place to be every Sunday. Be excited with us over 18/22 coming on board to love on our covenant children, and be patient with us as we continue to tweak the “hard-spots” in the ministry to become stronger and more effective. Our goal is to provide a loving and safe learning environment for our precious children. We continue learning in the Desiring God curriculum this winter and spring, highlighting Christ’s death on the cross to redeem our broken humanity. Rejoice in the LORD for he is good.

KATIE

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Children’s Offering

Once again we are asking all our children to give towards a quarterly collection. This collection will be for a Christ Covenant Missions project to benefit the Shunem house. This is a ministry of the Kibera Reformed Presbyterian Church which is in the Kibera Slum in Nairobi, Kenya. This ministry rescues children from very dire circumstances in the slum and gives them a safe and joyful place to live, an education and a future. Pastor Imbumi and his wife, Martha Makuku have many plans for the new Shunem House, which is being built on property out in the country, including a much larger dormitory for children so many more can be rescued and shown the love of Jesus.

Please help your children to earn and save money above and beyond their tithe to donate. You can have them save this in any type of container, and we will have a special offering from the children during the Missions Conference Worship Service on **February 26** when adults bring forth their Faith Promise offering.



We pray this will be a great tool to help your family in the Biblical raising of your precious children.



Barnyard & Elementary Scripture Memory:

John 14:1-14 “¹Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going. ⁵Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ ⁶Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know Him and have seen Him.’ ⁸Philip said to Him ‘Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.’ ⁹Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’ ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.”

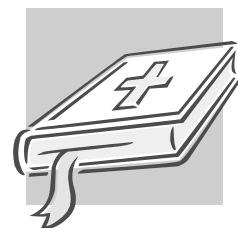
Jan. 1- we reviewed V. 1-11

Jan. 8- v12 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.

Jan. 15- v13 Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

Jan. 22 -v14 If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

**We will review all 14 verses for the next few weeks
and are hoping to share it with the congregation.**





Catechism Questions



97. Q. What is the sixth commandment?
A. *The sixth commandment is "You shall not murder."*
98. Q. What does the sixth commandment teach you?
A. *Not to take anyone's life unjustly and not to sin when I am angry.*
99. Q. What is the seventh commandment?
A. *The seventh commandment is "You shall not commit adultery."*
100. Q. What does the seventh commandment teach you?
A. *To be pure in heart, language and conduct and to be faithful in marriage.*



Family Fun Activities:

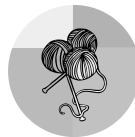


Hearty Breakfast (Children's Ministry Magazine Jan/Feb 2007)

On Valentine's Day, cook a special breakfast as a family with a heart theme. Use heart shaped cookie cutters to cut out pancakes, French toast or eggs. Serve red cranberry juice and strawberries to match the theme. Read aloud Matthew 25:37 and have the entire family share one way they can love God with all their hearts this Valentine's Day.

Valentine Hug (Children's Ministry Magazine Jan/Feb 2008)

Help kids to remember to love our neighbors and friends with this family fun activity. You'll need yarn, white construction paper, red paint, sponge brushes, scissors, tape, glue sticks, envelopes and copies of the below poem. Paint your child's hand with washable red paint, and have them leave a left and right handprint on the paper. Cut out the prints and attach each to one end of a 30 inch piece of yarn. Tuck the "hug" into an envelope with the poem glued on the front. Give to neighbors and friends. Poem: I made this great big hug just for you, To share my love, it's true. Wrap it around you, all snug and tight; Hold it with all your might! For Valentine's Day and all the year, God loves you-that's reason to cheer!



Children's Ministry Library



Come check out our lending library located in the Resource Room, B01.

We are striving to make this a great resource for parents and have added several new parenting and devotion books. A couple of the new additions include:

- ◆ "Praying the Scriptures for your Children" by Jodie Berndt. This is a great book that not only discusses different aspects to pray for your children, but gives several Bible passages to pray through for each topic.
- ◆ Another new addition is "Give them Grace" by Elyse Fitzpatrick and Jessica Thompson. This book gives a great paradigm for what it means to raise your children in the admonition "of the Lord."

These are just a couple of examples of new additions to our growing library – come and see!

Praying for Your Children

“When you pray for your children to promote God’s Kingdom, you must be prepared to let them respond to His call – even if it means incurring risk or making great sacrifices,” from “Praying Scriptures for your Children,” by Jodie Berndt. This is quite an idea, isn’t it! We pray that our children will be a part of and further God’s Kingdom, but do we really mean this – no matter what? As a parent, we want our children to be successful (at least by the world’s standards), we want them to be happy and healthy. But, if they are truly, radically following God’s will for their lives, if they are passionate about serving God and telling others about Him, if they really give up all for His sake (as we are all called to do), they may not be successful as we traditionally define success.

Are you still willing to pray that they will be a part of furthering God’s Kingdom? Are YOU willing to make the sacrifice of your child and your vision for their future? They might not make much money, they might be called away to a distant land or even a dangerous place close by. Before you can pray for their willingness to follow God completely, you need to pray for your own willingness and ability to let them go. I urge you to pray for their hearts to be willing to give up everything for the sake of God’s Kingdom, but also pray for your own heart to be willing to support any call they must follow. Begin now – no matter the age of your child.



“Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.” Matthew 10:37



Home Security Tips

- ◆ Make sure your home is well lit. Turn on outside lights, spotlights, motions lights, etc. Leave several lights on timers while you are away to give your home that lived in look.
- ◆ Keep all shrubbery trimmed. Do not allow shrubbery to conceal windows or doors.
- ◆ Remove anything a burglar could climb up on to gain entry or use to knock out a window or door; items such as ladders, tools, tables, and chairs.
- ◆ All exterior doors should be solid, rather than hollow core.
- ◆ Don’t leave garage roll down doors open, even while you are home or while you are doing yard work.
- ◆ Use a deadbolt lock to secure your doors. A good deadbolt should have a 1” throw, if you have glass within 40” of the lock a burglar could reach in and unlock the door. A double cylinders lock (this type needs a key on both sides to unlock) should be used if glass is near the lock.
- ◆ If you are going away contact a trusted neighbor or friend to pick up your mail, newspaper and other delivered items.
- ◆ Don’t advertise new gifts or purchases. Break up cartons before leaving them at the curb or dispose of them another way the morning of trash pick up.
- ◆ Don’t forget to engrave new gifts or purchases with your driver’s license number.
- ◆ Don’t open your door to strangers. Be wary of solicitors and salespersons. If a stranger asks to use your telephone, tell them to stay outside, lock the door behind you and make the call for them. Never let a stranger inside your home.
- ◆ Don’t give any information about yourself or your neighbor to a stranger.

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Are you hoping for a better organized house in 2012?

Make it a job for the whole family. Below is a chart to help you with Age-Appropriate Chores

“Do you know which chores your child can do?”

The following article was found on line and written by Sheila Seifert

What chores are important for your children to learn, and what are they capable of doing?

First, recognize the difference between a chore (an ongoing task that benefits the household) and a life skill (an activity that children should know how to do before living on their own, such as managing a checking account). The following list does not include life skills. It is a list of chores.

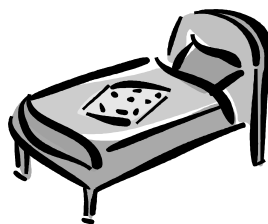
Second, remember that every child matures at a different pace. Adjust this chart to what you know about your children's skills and talents, and realize that no child should do all of the chores listed below every day.

With those two qualifiers in mind, here are some general guidelines for personal and family chores. This list is only meant as a guide and reflects the types of chores that many children in these age ranges are capable of completing:

Ages 2 and 3

Personal chores

- Assist in making their beds
- Pick up playthings with your supervision



Family chores

- Take their dirty laundry to the laundry basket
- Fill a pet's water and food bowls (with supervision)
- Help a parent clean up spills and dirt
- Dust



Ages 4 and 5

Note: This age can be trained to use a family chore chart.

Personal chores

- Get dressed with minimal parental help
- Make their bed with minimal parental help
- Bring their things from the car to the house



Family chores

- Set the table with supervision
- Clear the table with supervision
- Help a parent prepare food
- Help a parent carry in the lighter groceries
- Match socks in the laundry
- Answer the phone with parental assistance
- Be responsible for a pet's food and water bowl
- Hang up towels in the bathroom

