

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES
REPORT TO LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
MARCH 2017

Our current Sunday morning attendance has been averaging 6-8 elementary and 2-4 Pre-K kiddos each week. We are seeing new visitors as well as returning and regular members. We have established a regular schedule for our Sunday morning teachers and they are excited about the new curriculum we have introduced; however, we could still use additional teacher volunteers, especially in Pre-K. We begin by providing a music & worship component in a large group setting, reciting the Lord's Prayer before we break out into separate Pre-K and Elementary small groups for age-appropriate lessons and activities.

On Wednesday evenings, our "Armor of God" class for elementary ages is wrapping up its study, and we have had anywhere from 6 to 8 in attendance. We have 2-3 lessons left in this study. Once we conclude our Armor of God lessons, we will have a celebratory wrap-up before we begin a new study the following week.

We have started a "children's choir" with the CrossOver program students, and currently have 12 enrolled. Rehearsals are held on Tuesdays at 4:30 pm and Thursdays at 4:00 pm. We are focusing on learning songs that we can sing for the congregation on Sunday mornings. Additionally, the kiddos are being introduced to this year's VBS music in hopes of encouraging their enrollment in VBS this summer. We are including music in our Sunday morning and Wednesday evening programming, and the same music is being taught to the kiddos in the CrossOver program.

The Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper was a big success and the parade and children's singing performance added a lot to the festivities. In addition to our DPUMC families, WE were excited to have five of our CrossOver program families join us for dinner, and the kiddos had a great time participating in the parade and singing for the adults.

Our first Family Movie Night is scheduled for Friday, March 24 at 7 pm. This is a free event which we will publicize through the Methodist Day School, CrossOver, and several local DPISD elementary schools. Popcorn and lemonade will be provided to all our guests.

We held a VBS preview meeting on Monday, March 6, and had 3 in attendance. Registration for VBS opened online as of March 1, and we currently have 12 kiddos and 4 volunteers enrolled. We are working hard to recruit additional VBS leadership and volunteers. Also, we will be sending out flyers to the Methodist Day School, CrossOver, and several local DPISD elementary schools to promote VBS registration.

In late April, Karen Parma and I will be attending the Orange Conference in Atlanta, hosted by The ReThink Group, which produces our Pre-K and Elementary curriculum. We will have an opportunity to attend special training labs, hear from great speakers, and learn how to more fully implement the principles of the Orange philosophy of actively engaging parents and families to partner with the church in raising young disciples. We are excited to see how we can not only grow this ministry, but increase its effectiveness and influence in the lives of our children and their families.

Our Children's Ministries Committee will meet in the next couple of weeks to discuss current and future programming and events, with a focus on summer activities and outreach.