

St. James UMC Children's Newsletter

Fall 2009

Our mission is to partner with parents to teach and lead children to salvation and spiritual growth in a fun and safe environment.

Dates to Remember

October 4—Malachi Challenge Begins

October 4 (12:30) - Children's Ministry Team Meeting

October 16-18- Women's Retreat

October 24 (6 p.m.)—Praise and Worship with Praise Team and Jonathan Kilgore

October 26 (7 p.m.)—Dessert and a Movie at the home of Jessica Beaver

November 8 (3:30-5:30)—Harvest Party at the home of Wayne & Diann Floyd

November 22—Praise Kids sing at 8:30 and 11:00 worship services

Good hygiene is the best way to prevent the spread of viruses. In order to help our families stay healthy, we have provided hand sanitizer dispensers in each classroom and at each door in the Children's and Nursery Hallways. Remind your children to clean their hands when they enter and exit the building.

Our teachers will encourage your children to clean their hands at appropriate times while they are in their class. We will also clean the children's area rooms on Sundays and Wednesdays at the conclusion of worship services and activities.

Questions about the Children's Ministry?

Contact Heather Julian at

706-548-1680 or
hjulian@sjumc.org.

Check out calendar dates, ministry events and updates on our website www.sjumc.org. The Newsletter can also be found on the website.

October is Pastor Appreciation Month!

Candy and prizes are needed for the Harvest Party. We need bags of individually wrapped candy, small novelty toys (bouncy balls, etc.) to fill up goody bags for the children who attend the Harvest Party. Please bring in all items by Sunday, November 1. Thanks!



Are you getting the Children's Ministry e-mail updates? These weekly e-mails include important information about each week's ministry events and needs. Please let Heather know if you would like to be added to the

Knowing . . . Connecting . . . Serving in the Children's Ministry

Knowing Jesus

Sunday School at 9:40

Families of 1st-5th Graders: Be sure to pick up the new "Individuality" Family Virtue Pack. It is a great way to reinforce at home what they are learning on Sunday mornings. Remember, what happens at home is more important than what happens at church.

October Memory Verses and Themes

Pre-k/Kindergarten

Theme: God Made Everything (Creation)

"You made the world and everything in it." Psalm 89:11 (NCV)

1st-5th Grade

Virtue - Individuality: discovering who you are meant to be so you can make a difference

"How you made me is amazing and wonderful." Psalm 139:14 (NirV)



November Memory Verses and Themes

Pre-k/Kindergarten

Theme: God Makes Good Things (Creation)

"God saw all that He had made, and it was very good." Genesis 1:31

1st-5th Grade

Virtue - Cooperation: working together to do more than you can do alone

"Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do." Ecclesiastes 4:9 (NirV)

***The children will be working on their memory verses during Sunday School, but I encourage you to practice them at home and help the children understand the meaning, as well. Make it a family challenge for every member to learn the verse(s).**

Children's Church at 11 o'clock—Children have been learning different names of God as we actually build a "strong tower" of God's names. Be sure to ask your child each week the new name that they learned. So far, they have learned *Creator, Provider, Shepherd, Gardener, Strength, Heavenly Father, and Alpha and Omega*.

Wednesday Night Activities

Through music, science, art and Scripture Shorts, the 1st-5th grade children are able to learn and express Bible truths. Through story, music and games, the Pre-k4 and Kindergarten children are learning that we have a big, big God. Thanks to all of our Wednesday night teachers for their dedication to our kids: Angie Wiggans, Jen Morlock, Aubrey Morris, Bill Emerson, Beth Lowery, Jackie Kirsche, Tammy McCurley, Carrie Chittom, Beth Prescott and Joanne Frantz. [Our Praise Kids will sing at worship on November 22.](#)



Connecting with Others

For moms. . . . Join us for our first **Dessert and a Movie at the home of Jessica Beaver (1340 Calls Creek Circle) on Monday, October 26 at 7 p.m. Bring your favorite dessert to share. All ladies of St. James and their friends are welcome.**

For families. . . . Join us on Sunday, November 8 for the “Orange You Glad You Know Jesus” Harvest Party from 3:30-5:30 at the home of Wayne and Diann Floyd (293 Sanders Rd, Hull). We will have games, hayrides, preschool corner, family relays, food and fun. Bring an item for the Winter Shelter (White athletic sox, gloves, knit caps, scarves, combs, deodorant, toothbrushes, and small travel toothpaste tubes. No mouthwash, shampoo or lotion.) Directions will be e-mailed out closer to the event.

Serving Others (as a family)



During the next 2 months, the 1st-5th grade children will be learning about individuality and cooperation. Through finding out who they are, they can serve better as individuals and as part of a family. I encourage you to help your children find their gifts and strengths and how they can use them to serve the Lord. (If you are unsure of your own spiritual gifts, there is a 21-question inventory at www.umc.org that will reveal to you what your primary and secondary gifts are.) A great resource to use with your children is Discover Your Children's Gifts by Don & Katie Fortune (a copy can be found in my office).

⇒ **Brainstorm with your family a list of ways that your family could serve using your gifts. Here are some ideas to get you started:**

- ◆ Make pumpkin bread (or other baked good) and deliver to a neighbor, family member, friend or teacher.
- ◆ Take a meal to the Winter Shelter (contact information: Keri Bunting at 770-851-2100 or volunteerbiggervision@gmail.com)
- ◆ Serve a meal in 2010 at Our Daily Bread at Oconee Street Methodist Church, a ministry that serves breakfast & lunch Monday-Friday, a sack lunch on Saturday and a sack supper on Sunday to 125 people (contact information: ebarger@actionministries.net or 706-353-6647). St. James has been involved with this ministry for many years. The church currently serves every other 2nd Friday lunch.
- ◆ Give a monetary donation to a ministry—local or international. Examples: Nothing But Nets (www.nothingbutnets.org) or Food for the Poor (foodforthe poor.org).
- ◆ Fill a shoebox with gifts for Operation Christmas Child (www.samaritanspurse.org). Collection dates are November 16-23.
- ◆ Share Trick or Treat candy with a friend.
- ◆ Visit an older congregation member. Visit or help them with yardwork, putting up a Christmas tree, etc.
- ◆ Send care package to a member of the military.
- ◆ Take a meal to a family that has a sick family member or who has a new baby.
- ◆ Have a garage sale and donate the proceeds to a ministry.

I'd love to hear how your family is serving and how it has blessed you. Drop me a quick e-mail to share your story.

How can I help my children grow spiritually throughout the week? Here are a few suggestions:

* **Memorize the monthly Bible verse together as a family. Make it fun and celebrate once everyone has learned it.**

* **Conversation Starters for the car or dinner table:**

Name something positive or encouraging about each family member.

Is there someone at school that we can pray for together?

On a scale of 1-10, how is your heart today?

What is your favorite _____? (for kids) When you were my age, what was your favorite _____? (for parents)

* **Pick up the Family Virtue Pack (on the first Sunday of the month or as long as they last):**

The Family Virtue Packs are offered to the families of St. James as a way to coordinate what children are learning at home and at church. These monthly packs reiterate and build on the Sunday morning lessons for the 1st-5th grade classes. The curriculum for the 1st-5th grade classes is 252 Basics, a virtue based curriculum that uses biblical stories as instructions for how we should live.

The Family Virtue Pack is made of 4 components to parallel God's commandment to parents in Deuteronomy 6:7.

Drive Time CD: This CD includes a recording for kids called KidJam, the monthly virtue song and tips for parents called Parenting Matters. Use this in the car to build on each month's virtue.

Meal Time Notes: This contains conversation starters for a family meal. (1 for each week)

Bed Time Cards: These cards retell each week's Bible story in relevant language for the kids with follow-up questions for both children and parents to answer.

Morning Time Cards: There are 4 blank cards that you can use to write words of encouragement to your child. Place these on their pillow, in their lunchbox or some other place to surprise them throughout the month.

We hope you enjoy this simple way to help your family talk about faith issues each month. Also, feel free to be flexible with how you use your pack. My family has found that it is easier for us to do both the Meal Time Notes and Bed Time Cards at the dinner table. Other families might find it easier to use at another time of day or in the car. This is just another resource to encourage families to talk about their faith.



DO YOU HAVE ANY CONVERSATION STARTERS, FUN GAMES, FAMILY DEVOTIONAL IDEAS OR OTHER WAYS THAT YOU ARE HELPING YOUR CHILD ESTABLISH HIS FAITH THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH THE OTHER FAMILIES AT ST. JAMES? IF SO, PLEASE SEND THEM TO HEATHER. THANKS!

Don't forget about the **babysitting list**. It is available in the Nursery Greeting Station and has a list of nursery workers at St. James who are willing to babysit. This is a great resource!

Information for Praise Kids

October 7—Kids read for speaking parts in "Heaven's Kitchen".

October 14—Kids audition for singing parts in "Heaven's Kitchen".