



# St. James UMC Children's Newsletter

Happy New Year!  
January/February 2010

Our mission (**new and revised**) is to partner with families to: lead children to salvation and spiritual growth by teaching God's Word, provide a sense of community to our children to which they know they belong, *and* provide opportunities for children and families to serve others.

## Dates to Remember

**January 20**—Wednesday Night Activities - Adult, Youth and Children's Classes Resume

**February 17**—Ash Wednesday

**February 23 (7 p.m.)** -Ladies' Night Out at Chili's

**February 9 (7 p.m.)**—Men's Gathering (home of Danny Morris)

**March 15 (6:30 p.m.)** - Ladies' Movie Night (Home of Jessica Beaver, 1340 Calls Creek Circle)

**March 19—21** "Get In the Game" St. James Church Retreat (Registration Deadline is March 7)

**April 3 (3—5 p.m.)**—Easter Celebration and Egg Hunt

**April 4**—Easter

**April 25**—Teacher Recruitment for VBS

**May 12**—5th Grade Graduation

**Vacation Bible School/School of JAM** - June 14—17 (Registration will be online from May 2— May 30)

## Children's Ministry Team

The Children's Ministry welcomes **Melanie Jenkins** as the co-chair of the Children's Ministry Team. She joins **Jen Morlock**, who is beginning her 2nd year on our Leadership Team at St. James.

If you want to be a part of planning events for the children and families at St. James, join us at our next meeting on Wednesday, February 3 at 6 p.m. in the Parlor.

**Pray for Haiti—You can visit UMCOR (the United Methodist mission) website to find out details of how you can help.**

Thanks to all of the 4th, 5th and 6th graders who participated as



**acolytes** during the season of Advent. This was a wonderful way to serve the Lord during worship as a way of representing bringing in the Presence of God and carrying it out with us as we leave worship. Thanks for your service.

## Conversation Starters:

What was the **best** part of your day?

What was the **worst** part of your day?

What was the **funniest** part of your day?



## 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 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.**

#### *January Memory Verses and Themes*

##### Pre-k/Kindergarten

Theme: Jesus Wants to Be My Friend Forever

"Love God with all your heart." Matthew 22:37, NIV

##### 1st-5th Grade

Virtue - Discipline: doing what you need to do now so you can grow stronger

"Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come." 1 Timothy 4:8, NIV



#### *February Memory Verses and Themes*

##### Pre-k/Kindergarten

Theme: Jesus Wants to Be My Friend Forever

"With God, all things are possible." Matthew 19:26, NIV

##### 1st-5th Grade

Virtue - Honor: letting someone know you see how valuable they really are

"Love each other deeply. Honor others more than yourselves." Romans 12:10, NIV

#### Children's Church at 11:00

Children are able to participate in worship at 11 o'clock through praise & worship, praying and the giving of our tithes and offering. After the offertory, children pre-k4 through 2nd grade are dismissed for age-appropriate Bible teaching and activities. 4th and 5th graders have the opportunity to be "helpers" during Children's Church if they have asked to be involved that Sunday. (The children do return to the Sanctuary for Communion on the 1st Sunday of the month.)

#### Wednesday Night Activities (6 p.m.)

**Our Wednesday Night Activities will resume on January 20, filled with fun, music, science and art to experience how great our God is.** Dinner will be served at 5:15 (reservations should be made to the church office by Tuesday each week). Children's classes, youth, and adult studies will begin at 6:00. There are 4 great options for adults. Be sure to check out your options and get involved. **There is still a need for extra volunteers in the children's classes on Wednesday night.** Please let me know if you are interested in serving weekly or being a substitute for our Wednesday night teachers.

*There will be no Wednesday night activities on March 10 and April 7 (due to Spring Break).*

### **Connecting with Others**

**Ladies' Night Out/In**— All women at St. James (and their friends) are invited to join us on February 23 at Chili's (7 p.m.) for our next Ladies' Night Out and on March 15 for our Movie Night (6:30 p.m.) at the home of Jessica Beaver. This is a great time to get to meet and connect other women at St. James.

**Men's Gathering**— The Men's Gatherings are a great time for the men of St. James to connect. The first gathering for the year will be February 9 at the home of Danny Morris (3174 Boulder Springs Dr., Bishop).

**St. James Church Retreat**— This year, our **Annual Church Retreat (open to all ages) will be held at St. James on March 19 –21** (activities will be held on Friday night, Saturday and conclude during Sunday morning worship). In order to save costs and eliminate the challenge that travel can sometimes be, we are holding our retreat here at the church. We want you to join us and "Get in the Game". **The weekend will be filled with opportunities to deepen our relationship with God through worship and teaching and times to connect with others in fellowship during breakout sessions and meals.** There will be activities for nursery, children, youth and adults. **Registration Deadline: Sunday, March 7.** Be sure to mark your calendars to save the date and look for the registration forms on January 31. This will be a great weekend that you don't want to miss!

### **Serving Others (as a family)**

- \* **JANUARY**—*On the last 2 Sundays of January, we will be collecting standard size cans with pop top lid of Chicken Noodle Soup for the Food 2 Kids Project.* This program is sponsored by the Junior League of Athens and the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia. They provide a sack of 6 meals (kid-friendly and easy to prepare) on Friday afternoons for children in Clarke, Oconee and Barrow Counties who are in jeopardy of not having enough food to eat for the weekend. This month, they are collecting Chicken Noodle Soup. We would love for each family to bring a can or two.
- \* **FEBRUARY- Month of Honor**—*Since the virtue for February is honor (and Valentine's Day is in February), this is a great month to show honor and God's love to someone who has impacted your life.* This might be a church leader, school teacher, co-worker, neighbor, member of the military, friend or family member. Challenge your family to show honor in a special way sometime this month (deliver a homemade goody, give a gift card, deliver fresh flowers or a potted plant, send a package, etc.). Then we invite you to fill out a "heart" for the wall in the Children's Ministry so that we will have a visual representation of how many people were impacted by this way to serve others. It would be great to honor more than one person!

