

# St. James UMC Children's Newsletter

**March/April 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

<b>March 10</b> —No Wednesday Night Activities
<b>March 11</b> —Men's Gathering (at the home of Charlie Dobbins)
<b>March 14 (12:30—2)</b> - Children's Ministry Team Meeting
<b>March 15 (6:30 p.m.)</b> - Ladies' Movie Night (Home of Jessica Beaver, 1340 Calls Creek Circle)
<b>March 19—21</b> "Get In the Game" St. James Church Retreat (we will have only one worship service at 10 a.m. on March 21)
<b>April 2 (7 p.m.)</b> —Good Friday Worship Service—Children's Class and Nursery will be available
<b>April 3 (3—5 p.m.)</b> —Easter Celebration and Egg Hunt—canceled if cold or inclement weather
<b>April 4</b> —Easter
<b>April 7</b> —No Wednesday Night Activities
<b>April 11 (12:30—2)</b> —Children's Ministry Team Meeting
<b>April 25</b> —Teacher Recruitment for VBS
<b>May 5</b> —Route 54 Connecting Event (more details to come)
<b>May 12</b> —5th Grade Graduation
<b>Vacation Bible School/School of JAM</b> - June 14—17 (Registration will be online from May 2— May 30)

## Children's Ministry Team

If you want to be a part of planning events for the children and families at St. James, join us at our upcoming meetings on Sunday, March 14 and April 11 at 12:30 in the Parlor. We would love to have you join us!



## Easter Celebration and Egg Hunt

You and your family are invited to our Annual Easter Celebration and Egg Hunt on **April 3 from 3—5 p.m. at the home of Penny Mahoney**. Join us for activities (nursery through youth), food and age-level egg hunts (5th grade and younger). **Bring a healthy snack to share**. This is also a great event to invite a friend.

Can you help us by . . .

*Bringing in individually wrapped candy (no chocolate or nuts) or small prizes to fill the plastic eggs (bring by Sunday, March 28).*

*Contact Heather with any questions. Directions will be e-mailed as the event gets closer.*

## 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.**

#### **March Memory Verses and Themes**

##### Pre-k/Kindergarten

Theme: Jesus Wants to Be My Friend Forever, Jesus Loves Everyone

"Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:12, NIV

##### 1st-5th Grade

Virtue - Honesty: Choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do

"The Lord detests lying lips, but He delights in men who are truthful." Proverbs 12:22, NIV

#### **April Memory Verses and Themes**

##### Pre-k/Kindergarten

Theme: Jesus Wants to Be My Friend Forever, Jesus is my good friend.

"A friend loves at all times." Proverbs 17:17 NIV

##### 1st-5th Grade

Virtue - Friendship: Spending time with someone you trust and enjoy

"A friend loves at all times. He is there to help when trouble comes." Proverbs 17:17, 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 conclude on April 28.** Dinner is served at 5:15 each week (reservations should be made to the church office by Tuesday each week). Children's classes, youth, and adult studies begin at 6:00. There are 4 great options for adults. Be sure to check out your options and get involved. *There will be no Wednesday night activities on March 10 and April 7 (due to Spring Break).*

#### **Vacation Bible School/School of JAM**

Vacation Bible School (open to kids who are currently in Pre-k4 through 4th grade, or 3 and under if parent teaches) and School of JAM (open to our rising 6th graders) will be June 14—17 from 9 am to noon. This will be a great week for our kids to continue to learn more about God and have fun with one another.



### Connecting with Others

**Ladies' Night Out/In**— The next Ladies' Night In will be a movie night at the home of Jessica Beaver (1340 Calls Creek Circle). Join us at 6:30 p.m. for fellowship, desserts and a movie. The April Ladies' Night Out will be determined soon. Look for more information.

**Men's Gathering**— The next Men's Gathering will be on March 11 at 7 p.m. (at the home of Charlie Dobbins). Then the men will meet for Movie Night On April 15 at the church. More details to come.

**Easter Celebration and Egg Hunt** - You and your family are invited to our Annual Easter Celebration and Egg Hunt on **April 3 from 3—5 p.m at the home of Penny Mahoney**. This event is always a great time to catch up with old friends and meet some new ones. It's also a great day to bring a friend or two. Join us for activities and games (nursery through youth) and age-level egg hunts (5th grade and younger). **Bring a healthy snack to share.** *The schedule for the egg hunts will be:*

**1's and 2's 3:30**

**3's, pre-k4 and kindergarten 3:45**

**Route 54 - 4:00**

**1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade 4:15**

The event will be canceled if there is inclement weather.

### Serving Others (as a family)



- \* **MARCH- Month of Honor**—*We are going to extend our month of honor to include March. This is a great way to teach our children to honor others above themselves by showing 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!*
- \* **APRIL—This month, we will collect Fruit Snacks 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. They will be collecting fruit snacks, raisins, fruit roll-ups, etc. in April We would love for each family to bring a box or two.*

**We collected 157 cans of soup for Food 2 Kids during the month of January!**  
**Thank you.**

## Praise Kids

(Wednesday Night Music  
for 1st-5th graders)

**Great Job, Kids!** You helped lead worship at 9:40 and 11 o'clock worship on February 28 and sang Heaven's Kitchen at Iris Place on March 3.

**Still to come on May 2**—Sing at 8:30 and 11 o'clock worship

## Children's Ministry Team Meetings

March 14 (12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.)

March 31 at 6 p.m.—stuff Easter eggs

April 11 (12:30 p.m.- 2 p.m.)

### Questions about the Children's Ministry?

Contact Heather Julian at

706-548-1680, **ext. 17** or [hjulian@sjumc.org](mailto:hjulian@sjumc.org).

Check out calendar dates, ministry events and updates on our website [www.sjumc.org](http://www.sjumc.org). The Newsletter can also be found on the website.



**Save the Date, 4th and 5th Graders!** You will not want to miss this awesome event just for your class on Wednesday, May 5 at 6 p.m. More details to come soon.

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

***The Children's Ministry Team is considering leading a project to collect kits for Haiti. If you are interested in us helping organize this project, please let me know or come to our Ministry Team meeting Sunday, March 14 at 12:30. Thanks.***

### **Candy (or other small treats)!**

As we prepare for our Annual Easter Celebration and Egg Hunt, we need your help by bringing in bags of individually wrapped candy (no chocolate or nuts, please). Just bring your bag to the Children's Hall by March 28 and the Children's Ministry Team will take care of stuffing the plastic eggs. Thanks!



**Vacation Bible School** (and **School of JAM** for rising 6th graders) will be here before you know it, so save the date: **June 14–17 (9 a.m.—noon)**.

Online registration for children will take place during the month of May. Teacher and volunteer sign up will be on April 25. Be on the lookout for more information in the upcoming months.

