



EXPRESSIONS

*"O love of God, how strong and true, eternal and yet ever new,
uncomprehended and unbought, beyond all knowledge and thought!"*

Horatius Bonar, 1858



DELIGHT IN BEING AT CHURCH

Kathy Young, Director of Children's Ministries

I think a lot about how children learn. In 2010 when I had just come on staff as the Director of Children's Ministry, a friend shared words of support reminding me that there is nothing better to teach than the Gospel. Around that same time, another PCA Children's Ministry Director told me that it's a wonder that somehow, we've managed to make the Bible boring. He was right, and I've thought about that many times. We are teaching our children the most magnificent story in the whole world, filled with more sub-plots, amazing characters, and the best, biggest, literary thread that's ever been written. On top of that, that singular thread came through many different authors over centuries. Yet the most overwhelming part is that The Story, that amazing Best Story, is one hundred percent true. Wow! When our children learn Bible stories, we want them to be in awe, not bored.

There is brain research which shows what kinds of things activate the learning centers of the brain, and



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SUNDAYS

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship, 10:45 a.m.
in McIntosh Hall



I think it is so much fun that play (and playful activity) is most effective at paving the way for learning. This is the way that God made our kiddos! It is fascinating to think of the creativity of our Creator. Also, back in 2010, a Christian Education subcommittee really began working on how we wanted our children's ministry to look and function. The theme verse that was chosen was **Psalm 122:1**. "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD'." We want our children to know and hear regularly how glad we are that they are at church, and we also want them to BE glad they are at church. We want our children to know they are loved because it points them toward the love of their Heavenly Father. We want our children to feel seen and heard because it points them to a Savior who knows every part of them and loves them. We want our children to delight in learning about The One who delights and sings over them.

If you walk by one of the classrooms, toddler or older elementary, you will likely hear some noise. You might hear children reciting scripture verses or answering catechism questions as they catch and toss balls. You might see reenactments of the Bible lesson through puppets or costumes (maybe even with plastic swords). Our children learn about God's care for his people by building and marching around the Wall of Jericho made from cardboard boxes. They learn about God breathing life into his children as they blow on pinwheels. They doodle while they are listening, build the tabernacle from Legos, march while waving scarves while learning music, conduct experiments during object lessons about God's faithfulness, have quick, fun competitions between song verses, and so much more. Each week in each class, we want our children to develop a sense of awe and wonder and "to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge" **Ephesians 3:18-19**.



So, I think a lot about the ways that they learn, and I pass along what I can to our many volunteers who teach our children and want learning about the Greatest Story

to be a great joy! Sometimes it's easier than others for our children to delight in being at church learning about God because, they are human, just like the grown-ups in our church. Sometimes it's easier than others to focus on the greatness of God. Sometimes the ways we work to help improve that focus is by including a lot of playful activity in the learning process.

When you hear the noise and see the activity, please remember that the Lord built them with shorter spans of attention and active, wiggly, growing bodies, and with brains which learn through activity. Understanding how children



learn helps them learn. And, like my friend said fifteen years ago, "What better can they learn?"

PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

The **Pastor Search Committee** has been meeting weekly to pray and to develop a profile of our church and the qualifications they are seeking in our next senior pastor.

Please pray for the work of the committee as they complete the profile and begin to solicit nominations from the congregation.

Visit the FPC Pastor Search Committee [website](#) for information about the committee and its work.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

The most wonderful time of the year is almost here. The long awaited Operation Christmas Child Packing Party has finally arrived. Put the dates on your calendar and choose a time for you and your family to come. Come one!! Come all!!

November 13-16 (Currie Hall Room 206)
Thursday-Saturday 10:00-5:00
Sunday 2:00-4:00



Coloring books, combs/brushes, Hot Wheels cars, and balls are excellent choices if you need ideas for gifts to fill the boxes. Scan the QR code for our Amazon Wish List that's available for additional ideas.

\$10 donation per box for postage and gospel booklet is a great need. We have 1300 boxes to fill. Make checks payable to FPC and designate it OCC postage.

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world. Let us all come together to follow our Lord's love for these precious children.

Love in Christ,
Lacretta Shurden and Debera Shaw



JOINT SUNDAY SCHOOL NOVEMBER 2

Please join us on November 2nd for a joint adult/youth Sunday school gathering in McIntosh Hall beginning at 9:30 a.m.

During our time together, church officers will be sharing information on these important matters—

**FPC-Hattiesburg Vision, Mission, and Core Values
Update from the Pastor Search Committee
Progress report on Harvest renovation projects**

There will be light refreshments and an opportunity for fellowship prior to worship.

Let's make it a high attendance Sunday for our church family!

Remember to set your clock back one hour on November 1 for the return to standard time.



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