

Children & Youth Team Agenda

December 4, 2013

The Children & Youth Team met on Wednesday, December 4 at 6:30 PM. In attendance were Rhonda Linsley, Pastor Julius, Kristen Burks, Stephanie Schneider, Valerie Ray and Betty Vancil.

Children's Ministry: by Rhonda Linsley

Rhonda's Mission Statement

To teach the children to love God, love others and share that love with the world. To teach the children to memorize scripture that will affect the way they live their lives.

Children's Church

- We will work on the Christmas songs for the Dec. 15 "Good News, Great Joy!" Christmas Program in children's church with the younger kids. I will not require the 4th graders to participate during this time, unless they want to.

Sunday School

So far no one has committed to teaching the spring or summer quarters in Sunday School from my newsletter article or personal contacts. In January, I may set up a sign-up board.

- Dec, Jan, Feb
 - Preschool – Matt Kauffman
 - Grades 1-2 – Kristen Burks
 - Grades 3-5 – Jeff & Rhonda Linsley
- Mar, April, May
 - Preschool – Matt Kauffman
 - Grades 1-2 –
 - Grades 3-5 –
- June, July, August
 - Preschool – Matt Kauffman
 - Grades 1-2 –
 - Grades 3-5 –

S.S. Attendance awards for the 1st Quarter will be awarded in the 10:45 service on Dec. 8. Will be giving out pewter Christmas ornaments in the shape of a French horn that goes along with our Good News Great Joy Christmas Program.

There were a total of 22 students who received awards...9 of them having perfect attendance and receiving a Certificate of Recognition.

K-5 Alive

After the Christmas Program, we will have one week before Christmas break. We will play games and do crafts for the December 18, and will resume again on January 8th. That Wednesday, we will start with our LIVE Curriculum.

I have lost Karen Butner, Carla Grant as helpers, and Peggy Chalgren is no longer available every week. I have recruited Judy Headley to help with the remainder of the school year, except she will be gone the month of January. I think Carla will be available in April, maybe. I need to find at least one more reliable volunteer from 3-5 p.m. for the following dates.

January 8, 15, 22, 29
February 5, 12, 19, 26
March 5, 12, 19, 26
April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Rhonda has recruited Sandy Dutton to help with the program through the end of the school year. She will start on December 18th.

Sounds like the Mission Team will be doing a Holiday Bazaar again next fall. I ask the team to keep an eye out for crafts that would be inexpensive to make, or that could involve donations from the church. Some ideas I'm thinking of are:

- Soup jars and/or cookie/brownie gift jars.
- Wind chimes made out of recyclables.
- Some sort of sun catchers craft again.
- Christmas Tree ornaments (I have an angel idea with beads and pipe cleaners.)

I don't mind spending four weeks doing things like this for the bazaar, but want to have one or two crafts that the kids can make two of...one for missions and one for a Christmas gift for their family members.

Team members will be on the lookout for inexpensive craft ideas that the children can do during K-5 Alive throughout the year to prepare for the Fall Bazaar. It was discussed to not do as much mass production of something, but to have a variety of stations for the kids to choose what they want to make, thus having more variety in what is made.

Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes

I delivered 132 shoe boxes to the First Baptist Church on November 24th. AWESOME participation from the church! I will put in the newsletter where our boxes were shipped, once I receive the email from Samaritan's purse. Our boxes were taken to the Denver distribution center this year for processing before being shipped to other countries.

Rhonda mentioned at the meeting that Silver Dollar City was promoting participation in OCC Shoebox by providing free tickets. After submitting our 132 box count into the program during the week of Dec. 9th, this is what was put in the newsletter regarding that program:

Silver Dollar City is demonstrating God's love to hurting children in a tangible way by partnering with churches worldwide to deliver gift-filled shoeboxes and the Good News of Jesus Christ. Last year they established a Shoebox Challenge, which resulted in over 48,000 shoeboxes collected through participating churches. This year their goal is 60,000 boxes. When I submitted the S&H of our 132 boxes, I also submitted that count to this challenge, which will result in complimentary tickets for the 2014 season. Aside from our 132

boxes, Dana Marshall, from La Plata granted us an additional 69 boxes, which was collected from her church. This gave us a total of 201 boxes. It is my understanding, we will receive FIVE complimentary one-time visit tickets to Silver Dollar City. I will receive an email in January confirming our number of tickets and will be giving you all a chance to submit your names into a drawing for these complimentary tickets.

“Good News, Great Joy” Christmas Program

This will take place on Dec. 15 in the place of the sermon for both services. We have 34 children & youth committed to the program, and Rhonda Smith is helping me with the live nativity. Rona Nelson is providing the piano music during this program for both services.

VBS for Summer 2014

During the transition of a new secretary, the dates for VBS did not get put on the calendar. The team had set July 28-August 1 for Weird Animals VBS, from 5 – 8:30 p.m.

The Book Fair is now booked in the Worship Center for August 2, with set up to happen late Friday afternoon on August 1. We cannot have VBS in the Worship Center on Friday.

What is everyone’s thoughts about doing a 4-day VBS, and not have VBS on Friday, August 1? Will that affect the turn out for the VBS Program on Sunday morning any more than in the past?

It was decided by the team to do a four-day VBS, set for July 28-July 31. There was discussion of the constant reduction in attendance on Friday each year, in both the children and the volunteers. Many people have weekend plans and vacations scheduled in July and August, and take off on Friday afternoons. The team did not think this would encourage people to not participate in the program on Sunday. Those you miss the program have already had their plans made ahead of time anyway.

Calendar Dates

Wed., Dec 4	3:15-5:00 PM, K-5 Alive – “Good News, Great Joy” practice at 4 p.m.
Sun., Dec 8	10:45 – 1 st Quarter SS Attendance Awards.
Wed., Dec 11	3:15-5:00 PM, K-5 Alive – “Good News, Great Joy” practice at 4 p.m.
Sun., Dec 15	8:45 and 10:45 Worship Services, “Good News, Great Joy,” Christmas Program.
Wed., Dec 18	3:15-5:00 PM, K-5 Alive, - Bell Choir Practice at 4:00 “What Child is This”
Tues., Dec 24	5:00 PM, Bell Choir Special “What Child is This,” Christmas Eve Service

The Children’s Bell Choir will be first thing in the Christmas Eve Service.

There was some discussion about whether children’s ministry should have separate meetings from youth ministry meetings and maybe come together once a quarter. There were mixed feelings about that. Some shared that volunteers may be either interested in only children’s ministry and/or only youth ministry and may be apt to become more involved in meeting participation if we were only focusing on one area. One shared that separating them might have a negative effect on the unity that she likes to see in the two ministry areas.