

Children's Ministry Report

For November 17, 2015 Ad Council

Rhonda's Mission Statement: To teach the children to love God, love others and share that love with the world.

Sunday School

I'm continuing to research curriculum for the elementary Sunday School classrooms, and need to talk with the current teachers about how things are going in their classrooms. Group's Buzz is not getting the kids INTO the Bible in 3rd-5th Grade like I want to see happen. Prayers would be appreciated as I discern options for what could get these kids excited about God's Word.

I viewed "Teaching with Legos" from TeachSS.com and have decided against that for the upper elementary. It seems too young for them. Trying to gather all of the various Legos that would be needed to lead the lesson also sounds difficult when you have to somehow borrow them from families that are currently still playing with them at home.

I am still very interested in using the NKJV Early Readers Bible, which has some great teaching tools at the front of the Bible that can be incorporated into SS lessons, such as:

- What is the Bible?
- Who Wrote the Bible and How the Bible came to be.
- Building Christian Character Through the Proverbs.

For any parent wanting to purchase a Bible for their elementary age child, I would strongly suggest this Bible, which contains full color maps, illustrated timeline, dictionary/concordance and 100 pages of cool study stuff.

There is an overwhelming supply of curriculum out there on the market, and I'm continue to search through the many options to see what will best fit our children.

LOGOS Program

I encourage those involved in LOGOS to share their joys about this program with the congregation. The more we share the good things that are happening, the better chance of new people joining us. We will be losing a few teachers during the winter months. The recruiting pool is small.

November 18, the middle and upper elementary classes will begin the study of the following curriculum:

Grades 2nd – 3rd Faith For Life – Friends and Family in Faith
Grades 4th – 5th Faith for Life – God's People Worship

Children's Church Program

I'm loving the "Shine Your Light Devotional," by Sheila Walsh that we are using in Children's Church. The children enjoy taking turns being a part of the worship service when they get to read the scripture and say the prayer after the story time. I need to follow up with the parents to see if they are doing their homework. Twice now I have forgotten to talk with the kids about the home activity. For November 22, we will play the activity in our worship, so they realize the fun

that can happen in their own homes when they talk about what they are learning in their Christian walk.

Safe Sanctuaries

Meghan and I have not had a chance to get together on Safe Sanctuaries. We will work on this after the holidays. Our goal is to create some resources we can use to do our own church safe sanctuaries training for those individuals who are only doing ministry at the local church level. The current safe sanctuaries on-line training that is provided by the conference office is out of date and not conducive to our needs for those just doing ministry on Sunday morning or during VBS.

Hanging of the Greens Advent Program

November 29 is the first Sunday of Advent. The children and youth will be doing this Advent program in the 10:00 Unity Service in the Worship Center. As we begin the Christian Year, it is a time when we prepare ourselves for the coming of our Messiah. Advent means "Coming." We celebrate these days of Advent in expectation and preparation for Christ's arrival.

The program will include readings from the youth kids, as the elementary children carry in various traditional decorations to adorn the alter area. Being as the Unity Service is in the Worship Center this Sunday, we will be using the short section of the alter rail from the Sanctuary as our decorating base.

Children's Ministry Calendar Dates

Nov. 16-23	Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Collection Week
Wed., Nov. 18	3:15-6:30 LOGOS, "Give Thanks Night" 4-5 PM Practice for the Hanging of the Greens Program
Sun., Nov 22	Both Services, Dedication for OCC Shoe Boxes
Wed., Nov 25	NO LOGOS - THANKSGIVING
Sun., Nov 29	Advent Sunday, 10:00 Unity Service – "Hanging of the Greens Program." (Worship Center)
Wed., Dec 2	3:15-6:30 PM LOGOS, "Blowing Bubbles Night"
Wed., Dec 9	3:15-6:30 PM LOGOS, "Star Wars Night"
Sun., Dec 13	11:00 Worship Service—1st Quarter SS Attendance Awards
Wed., Dec 16	3:15-6:30 PM LOGOS, "Christmas Carol Night"
Wed., Dec 23	NO LOGOS