

Children & Youth Team Minutes

The Children & Youth Team met on Wednesday November 6th at 6:30 PM. In attendance were Rhonda Linsley, Karen Butner and Valerie Ray.

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.

Sunday School

So far have not received any new to commitment to teaching this school year from my newsletter article. Will have to resort to personal contacts.

- 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 –

Rhonda would like volunteers to come forward to commit to teaching the Spring and Summer quarters of Sunday School. She will begin making personal contacts if additional volunteers are needed.

S.S. Attendance awards for the 1st Quarter will be awarded in the 10:45 service on Dec. 8. Ordered pewter Christmas ornaments in the shape of a French horn on Nov. 5 for this quarters awards.

K-5 Alive

We spent the first four weeks discussing missions. We thoroughly enjoyed Seth Butner's talk about his trip to Nicaragua. We made the following crafts for the Mission Team's Holiday Bazaar. The bead sun catchers seemed to be the hit.

- Bead Sun Catchers (made 11 and sold 9)
- Bird Sun Catchers (made 23 and sold one) – \$4 was too high of price

- Teddy-Bear stuffing craft from S&S Toys (made 10 and sold none)
- Toilet Paper Tube Crosses (made 18 and sold 3)
- CD tops (made 23 and sold 11)
- Hot Cocoa Mix (made 37 and sold 10)

As soon as we hear if Serving Team is doing this again next year, we need to be planning what craft items to make that would sell well. I'm thinking soup jars and/or cookie/brownie gift jars, wind chimes & some sort of sun catchers craft again.

Valerie has a soup/cookie jar cookbook she would share so Rhonda could choose some recipes. There was also discussion about getting donations for some of the ingredients and jars, due to the expense.

Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes

Our goal was 125 boxes. As of today, we have collected approx.. 56, but know there are many still out there. We will have our dedication of the shoe boxes on Sunday, Nov. 10 where the children will carry them to the stage and Rhonda will say a prayer.

“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 is working on assigning speaking parts and nativity story parts.

Crystal Smith, Karen Butner, Peggy Chalgren, Rona Nelson and Rhonda Smith are committed to help with this. We may need a few more parents to help with crowd control during the Dec. 15 program.

VBS Set for July 28 – Aug 1, from 6-8:30 p.m

- Ordered Group's "Weird Animals" – Where Jesus is One of Kind on Nov. 5th
- It was \$169.00

Rhonda is going to make sure the dates are on the church calendar for VBS.

Calendar Dates

Wed., Nov 6 3:15-5:00 PM, K-5 Alive – “Good News, Great Joy” practice at 4 p.m.

Sun., Nov 10 9:40 Bell Choir practice “We Gather Together.”

Sun., Nov 10 10:45 Operation Christmas Child Dedication of Shoe Boxes (Song Choice: “Children of God” by Third Day)

Wed., Nov 13 3:15-5:00 PM, K-5 Alive – “Good News, Great Joy” practice at 4 p.m.

Sun., Nov 17 Both Services, Bell Choir Special “We Gather Together.”

Nov. 18-25 Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Collection Week

Wed., Nov 20 3:15-5:00 PM, K-5 Alive

Wed., Nov 20 3:15-5:00 PM, K-5 Alive – “Good News, Great Joy” practice at 4 p.m.

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 – 1st 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

Youth Ministry: by Karen Butner

Vision Statement: Grow.... Share.... Serve.... For the transformation of the world for Jesus!

Mission Statement: "Our Youth Ministry exists to **Share** our faith with non-believing students, to connect with other Christians, to help them **Grow** in their faith, and to challenge the growing to discover their **Service** and worship God with their lives."

Discipleship (Grow):

Sunday School: meets at 9:45 AM on Sunday mornings in the Youth Center

☑ Jr. High is taught by Scott & Julie Burdin: for all students in 6th grade to 8th grades

☑ High School is taught by Jon & Karen Butner: for all students 9th grade to 12th grade. We are studying Radical by David Platte. We will be teaching Sunday School until the end of December.

Youth Group: meets from 4:30 to 5:45 PM on Sundays: for students in 5th to 12th grades

☑ November 10: Service Project at Loch Haven Garden- 3:00 to 5:00 PM

We had a group of 14 to prepare the garden for winter. We dug bulbs, prepared them for storage, cut back some plants & removed the leaves from the deck area.

☑ November 17: Youth Group 4:30 to 5:45 PM

☑ November 24: Movie & Pizza Night- 4:30 to 6:30 PM

After discussion- the CY Team authorized Karen to order some new dodge balls that are used during youth group and the K-5 program.

Methodist 101: Sunday morning at 9:45 AM

Pastor Julius is leading the class & we have 6 youth participating: Allyson Bramer, Emilee Butner, Evie Nelson, Rayce Truitt, Kattie Peyton & Trever Peyton.

Evangelism (Share):

Dare 2 Share "Reverse" Dates for the Dare 2 Share "Reverse" tour in 2014 are March 21 & 22. It will be based on the life of Daniel- a teenager used by God to change the world!

There are 15 tickets pre-purchased for the event & they will be shipped to the church approximately 2 weeks before the event.

Youth Calendar of Events: January 18, 2014: Snow Day March 22-23, 2014: Dare 2 Share April 25-26, 2014: Crazy Days

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Butner

Serving Team Meeting

November 11, 2013

Five team members were present. The team welcomed Sarah Maddox as a new member.

Holiday Bazaar & Fundraising Meal

The team felt that our first Holiday Bazaar & Fundraising Meal went well and that it was well supported and well received by the congregation. A preliminary count shows approximately \$2,200 was raised. Scott Burdin will analyze the checkout slips so that we can get a better idea of how many meals were served and which craft and food items sold the best.

We talked about things that may need revising next year, including more help with cleanup, shortening the event by an hour, and differentiating our event from other Lord's Acre events by choosing an earlier date or revising the menu.

The congregation was so generous in its donations that we have leftover crafts and canned goods. We plan to sell those at the Women of Today Craft Show on December 7 from 9:00-3:00. Sherry Robertson will secure a booth at the sale and set up a work schedule for the event.

Foster Parent Appreciation Event

The Children's Division contacted the team this fall to see if we would hold another foster parent appreciation event. We chose December 28 because it will give families a fun outing during the long Christmas break. Julie Burdin will be contacting Dennis Carey to discuss availability of the bowling alley. Sara Bramer will contact DFS to discuss an effective way to invite the foster families. We plan to offer a fun activity, snacks, and an appreciation bag to each family with treats and a gift card. We plan to solicit donations for the gift bag from a few area businesses. Helping Hands at Christmas

Specific information regarding Helping Hands for Christmas will not be available from Macon County Ministries until early December. Our goal is to sponsor 25 individuals for our local holiday giving this year.

February Serving Saturday

The team discussed plans for its next Serving Saturday. Due to scheduling conflicts in January, the date of February 15, 2014 was set. We plan to continue work on Dress a Girl Around the World dresses, do the Laundromat outreach, and try a new children's mission project, a Jump-A-Thon, with funds raised to benefit a child through the Rainbow Network. Other projects will be added as the date nears.

2014 Mission Trips

The team discussed plans for 2014 mission trips. There is great interest in returning to Nicaragua for work with the Rainbow Network in July as well as doing a regional disaster relief type of trip. The team chose July as a target date because it allows teachers and youth to participate. The team will check with the UMCOR project listings in the spring to make more concrete plans for the disaster relief trip.

The next Serving Team meeting will be held December 9 at 6:30 p.m.

Sharing Team Minutes

October 9, 2013

Members Present: Sandy Sunderland, JoVaughn Kelly, Linda Smith, Eunice Karr and Tammy Wallace, Nancy Coleman, Mandi Brown

Old Business:

1. We revisited the Attendance Sheets collection. We think it is better, but still not perfect. Still looking for ways to improve the process with less distraction from the service.
2. Eunice reported on her research for travel mugs. The team has decided to order the minimum number of the least expensive travel mugs. We will then offer our first time visitors a choice of the travel mug in plastic or the ceramic mug. We will reassess the mugs again after we know if people like them.
3. We have new plastic badges for the greeters. If we get the names to Deidre by noon on Thursday she will print them for the Sunday service. Linda will be signing up greeters for December, Tammy for January, JoVaughn for February, and Nancy for March. Sandy distributed an instruction sheet to the team for signing up greeters and following up with reminder phone calls, texts or emails. Members of the Sharing Team will continue to work on arriving early and greeting the congregation before services.
4. Gifts for first time visitors will be stored in the Fellowship Hall cabinet and in the storage room. Sandy will take care of keeping mugs and current church information at the Chamber of Commerce for new people moving into Macon.
5. Carolyn is taking care of putting labels on the new items as they come in.
6. Sandy distributed a sheet with team member's contact information on it.

7. The free will offering for the October 31st meal was more than the bill from Special D's; therefore this activity did not cost us any money from our budget. We got a great list of ideas from our table discussions and we will be working on these in the future.
8. We will be assisting Pastor Julius with the Sunday service, communion and prayer shawl distribution at Loch Haven Nursing Home on Sunday, Dec. 1st.

New Business:

1. Sandy shared two cards sent to the team. Pastor Julius sent a Thank You card for his gift certificate for Pastor Appreciation Month and Karen Shearer sent us a Thank You card for hosting the Conference Charge meal.
2. Sandy shared an email from Pastor Julius which contained feedback from first time visitors. The team will add their concerns to our list of things to work on.
3. Sandy shared a few comments about the Charge Conference.
4. Nancy Coleman offered a slogan for our team: "Sharing for God."
5. We are going to try to improve the signs at the church to make things less confusing for visitors as this was mentioned at several tables.
6. Another item that was mentioned several times was the confusion about when to stand during the service. We are going to suggest that the bulletin designate when to stand.
7. Team members are going to start carrying the "cross in the pocket" hand outs and giving them out when they see someone who appears to need one.
8. We are considering doing something for the residents of The Towers at Christmas. Linda Smith is going to contact them and get some information.
9. We are going to put an item in the Newsletter asking church members to notify us or the church when new people move in to their neighborhood so that we can contact them.

Budget 2013: Spent to date: \$1,549.79

Membership Drive \$ 67.72 pens \$291
Advertising \$381.94 pocket crosses \$207
Evangelism (other) \$494.88 (with cards & bags)
Praise CD's \$107.25

Total \$944.54 Total \$605.25