



Gateway Nazarene Children's Ministries

July 2011

Dear Parents & Families of Students,

We are embarking on an exciting journey in our Children's Ministries Department. Shared below are some of our specific goals, teaching staff, programs, and policies.

As always, our main purpose is to help your child to understand three basic important principles that everyone in the Kingdom must know:

- Who is God?
- What has He done?
- What does He require?

Please take some moments to look over this packet of information. It will familiarize you with each facet of our program. If you have any questions or comments please email (dbzst@msn.com) or talk with me personally (515-447-7433). We are here to serve you and your family.

Betty Phillips
Children's Ministries Director



Psalms 32:8

P.S. Our missions' emphasis this year is about "Children in Need!" We are asking that all children show up with pennies (not nickels, dimes, quarters or even large/small bills)....just pennies. We will watch them grow each week and participate in collecting funds for Samaritan's Purse, *Operation Christmas Child* (a 'global Christmas gift exchange' project). Did you know that from 1993 through 2008, some 69 million gift boxes have been handed out in more than 130 countries? What an exciting way to share the good news!

For Your Information

- ***Beginning August 7th, 2011*** you will need to drop off your children at one of two locations in the children's department. If they stay for both activities (See 1 and 2 below) the department will transition between the activities. Please note the drop off spot below.
- 1. Sunday School Hour - Drop-off location: Children's Auditorium (first double door on the right as you enter).
- 2. Children's Church - Drop off location: Activity Zone (e.g. Play Land)

Each child should be checked in with the playground monitor, and, at that time, the parent will be given a sticker for pick-up. Beginning August 7th all children should be picked up within 15 minutes after dismissal of the service. Please use the far exit (single) door for pick-up from the auditorium.

- Each family should complete a registration card. They will be located on the outside of the Children's Auditorium (on a table by the wall).

Children's Ministries Upcoming Events

Sunday School - May 29, 2011 until January 29, 2012

During the summer (May 29 - September 11, 2011) children in kindergarten through 5th grade will meet together. The topic is *Stories of Great Christians* and *The 10 Commandments*. Each week will zero in on a character trait. The weekly schedule is posted below.

9:00 - 9:15	<u>Arrival</u> : Meet & Greet - Activities and Worship Videos
9:15 - 9:30	<u>Opening</u>
	Announcements
	Koinonia - Praise & Worship
	Prayer Time
9:30 - 10:00	<u>Lesson*</u>
10:00 - 10:15	<u>Activity Time</u> (Work Stations, Crafts or Bible Quizzing)

*Lesson Topics

George Washington and Integrity
Harriet Tubman and Sacrifice
Thomas Alva Edison and Hope
Helen Keller and Perseverance
Abraham Lincoln and Honesty
Benjamin Franklin and Patience
Christopher Columbus and Humility
The Wright Brothers and Commitment
Richard Wumbrand and Faith
Perpetua and Peace

Five week window to complete the 10 Commandments (Two per week)

September 18, 2011: Begin Sunday School Rotation on the Book of Matthew. This will take us through January 2012. Each week groups of children will rotate through 3 stations: (1) Lesson, (2) Activity Time (Crafts, Cooking, Etc.), and (3) Snack & Play Land Gym Time with a Memory Verse Review (to be posted on the church web site).

Graduation Recognition is August 28th and children will be in his or her new classes on September 4.

General Information

- Gateway Nazarene Children's Midweek Summer Schedule, *Wacky Wednesday*, begins June 1, 2011 for children going into kindergarten through 5th grade and will continue through August 17. The timeframe is from 6:30 to 8:15 PM. Our church bus will leave the Gateway campus at 6:45 and return by 8:15 PM. Parents are welcome to attend. There is no fee for *Wacky Wednesday*. Children will meet in the Activity Zone (e.g. Play Land) and will begin with a mini group meeting.

Each week we will begin with a mini devotion based on the character of God. It will answer the question, "What is God like?" The 12 week topic is found on the website (and shared below). Our summer theme is unity and is found in Psalms 133:1, "How Good and Pleasant it is when brothers (and sisters) live together in unity" ☺

June 1: Lake Keomah Hike & A Trip To The Beach (love that sand!) - Need hiking clothes

June 8: Bowling at Mahaska Bowl - Socks Needed!

June 15: Miniature Golf at Vennard College

June 22: Campfire at Lake Keomah (with S'Mores & Marshmallow Roast)

June 29: Swimming at the Y.M.C.A.

July 6: Quest Visitor (Nazarene District Conference - Children's Camp Meeting)

July 13: Ice Cream In the Park (Smokey Row! Here we Come!) & Mini Junior Olympics at Edmunsen Park

July 20: Fishing at Lake Keomah (Equipment Provided by Russell Wildlife)

July 27: Archery at Russell Wildlife

August 3: Canoeing at Lake Keomah (Equipment Provided by Russell Wildlife)

August 10: Gymnastics at the YMCA (Vennard College Campus)

August 17: YMCA Fun Night (Kid's Gym, Relays, & Surprise Guest)



Take A Ride on the Gateway Nazarene Bus with Grandpa Wayne!

Wacky Wednesday Verses/Mini Devotionals

Theme: Unity - "How Good and Pleasant it is when brothers (and sisters) live together in unity!"

What is our God like?

June 1: Psalm 2:4 says God is like a king on heaven's throne. In Bible times a king sat on his throne to give orders and make decisions. To say God is a king on heaven's throne means that he commands what will happen.

June 8: Psalm 7:10 says God is like a shield. A shield protected a soldier from the spears and arrows of his enemies. To call God a shield means God will protect the person who trusts Him.

June 15: Psalm 17:13 says God is like a warrior. He protects us and comes to our rescue when we are in trouble. When others threaten to hurt us and we feel scared and helpless, it is good to remember that God is on our side.

June 22: Psalm 23 says God is like a shepherd. A shepherd loves and cares for his sheep. He watches them closely, protects them from danger, and makes sure they have enough to eat and drink. To say God is our shepherd means that He watches over us and will show us what is best for **us**.

June 29: Psalm 43:2 says God is like a stronghold. A stronghold was a walled city or fort where people went when an enemy army invaded the land. To say God is a fortress means He will keep us safe in times of danger.

July 6: Psalm 38 pictures God as an archer. His arrows wound a person who does wrong. When we feel bad about doing wrong, we confess our sins. Then God will forgive and heal us.

July 13: Psalm 61:3 says God is like a strong tower. Strong towers were built inside walled cities. Even if the walls were broken down, the people of the city would be safe inside the tower.

July 20: Psalm 71:3 says God is a rock of refuge. Some cities and forts were built on high rocky mountain cliffs. To call God a rock of refuge means we are safest when we trust in Him.

July 27: Psalm 89 says God is "Lord God Almighty." He is the one who created the whole universe. He created the stars, the sun, the earth and everything on it, including us. Such a powerful God is surely able to take care of us.

August 3: Psalm 103:13 says God is like a compassionate father. This means God loves us very much. He made us, and He knows us better than we know ourselves. He will not stay angry when we sin, but He will forgive us.

August 10: Psalm 119:97 says God is the lawgiver. He gives us rules to live by, to keep us from doing wrong and hurting ourselves. God is good, and He shows us how to do good. The writer of this psalm loved God's rules, thought about them "all day long" and obeyed them.

August 17: Psalm 139:13 says that God knew David even before he was born. God made David and loved him and watched him grow. God knew you and watched over you before you were born too. You are special to God because he made you.



Fearfully and Wonderfully Made!

What is God Like Quiz

(Anytime During the Month of August 2011)

At the end of the 12 Wacky Wednesday sessions you can earn a treat from the treasure chest by doing one of the following:

- Draw a picture to describe what God is like. Be creative and use at least 3 colors. Take it to Mrs. Phillips to share with our group during Living Epistles.
- Memorize all 12 words and phrases to describe what God is like. Share it with Mrs. Phillips. You make share it with Living Epistles too.
- Open your Bible and pick one Bible verse to memorize. Share it with Mrs. Phillips or Living Epistles.
- Quote Psalm 133: 1 (Wacky Wednesday theme) and share it with Mrs. Phillips



General Information

- **Living Epistles begins Wednesday, August 24, 2011.** *Living Epistles* begins during the school year and continues to the end of the Oskaloosa School District calendar. Living Epistles is divided into two 45 minute portions: **Koinonia** (children's music department) and **Caravan** (Nazarene Scouting Program).

Koinonia Support: Angie Binns (Piano/Keyboard) & Chris Yarkowsky (Choreography).

Two children's musicals will be presented during the 2011-2012 school year (one each semester). Koinonia will be singing in the morning worship service, Sunday AM, the last Sunday of the month.

Caravan Support: Monica Burress with a support team. Caravan is an activity based program earning badges (e.g. Bible, photography, gardening, etc.).

- **Children's Church:** Tanya Milledge & Ministry Team

Beginning in July 2011 Children's Church will meet the first four Sundays of each month.

On the 5th Sunday - children will attend the church service for an all group family worship time (e.g. July 31, October 30, January 29, April 29, & July 29, 2012). Each child will receive a children's worship bulletin and participate in a Children's Sermon & Lesson Treasure Hunt. At the end of the service they are welcome to come on stage and receive a treat from the Gateway Treasure Chest.

Specialized Children's Programs

- **Bible Quizzing:** Heather Hoven & Aimee Moore (Dates & Times to be determined) - Ages 6-12 or Grades 1-6
- **Disciples of God (DOG):** David & Betty Phillips- 4th & 5th graders (Pre-Teen Group)
Sunday 4:30 - 6 PM (January - March): January 8, 15, 22, 29 - February 5, 12, 19, 26 - March 4, 11, 18, 25
- **Upward Basketball:** Al Carlson (Dates & Times to be determined)
- **Nazarene Summer Camp:** Heather Hoven,
- **Gateway Quarterly Family Night Out:** Dates/Times to be determined (e.g. Picnic in the Park, Bowling Night, Skate-A-Thon, & Movie/Game Night)
- **Oskaloosa Children/Youth Leaders** (all churches in the Osky area meet together for activities. In the past they have had Movies In The Park, Exercise Day at Penn, and Swimming at the YMCA)



"Let the Little Children Come!"

**Are you interested in being involved in Children's Ministries?
We are in need of weekly, monthly, or quarterly support staff - contact Betty Phillips.**