

Trinity UMC Playschool

Newsletter

March 2009



Happy Birthday



DATES TO REMEMBER

- Mar. 2nd - Cookie Fundraiser Begins
- Mar. 5th - Trinity's 50th Annual Bar-B-Que
- Mar. 12th - Last Parenting Fellowship @ 6:00pm
- Mar. 13th - Cookie Fundraiser Ends -
(Last day to turn in Orders and Money)
- Mar. 13th - 19th Outdoor Spring Pictures
- Mar. 17th - St. Patrick's Day
- Mar. 20th - Spring Begins
- Mar. 20th & 24th Graduation and Class Pictures
- Mar. 27th - Playschool Closed

LOOKING AHEAD

- April 4th - Easter Egg Hunt/Party - 10-12 noon
- April 6th - April 10th - Spring Break
- April 12th - Easter Sunday
- April 30th - 4's & TK Spanish Program 6:30pm

TWO YEARS OLD

- | | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| Annalee Shank | March 19 th |
| Lily Butler | March 21 st |
| Dawson White | March 30 th |

THREE YEARS OLD

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Angela Smith | March 6 th |
| Aidan Alvey | March 8 th |
| Charles Campbell | March 14 th |
| Elizabeth Tran | March 23 rd |

FOUR YEARS OLD

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Isabelle Szymura | March 11 th |
| Nicholas Szymura | March 11 th |
| Sophia Szymura | March 11 th |

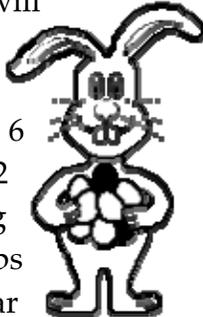
FIVE YEARS OLD

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| Emily Presson | March 1 st |
| Hannah Cox | March 6 th |
| Patrick Royster | March 17 th |
| Lon Callis | March 19 th |
| Zachary Kinley | March 19 th |

Easter Egg Hunt Coming soon!



Come join us on Saturday, April 4th in the Family Life Center from 10 am until Noon to have an Easter Egg Hunt and Party. We will have games, tattoos, snow cones, cookie decorating, egg dying and much, much more. Please bring 6 hard boiled eggs to dye and 12 plastic candy filled eggs for the egg hunt. There will be three age groups for the hunt, 0-3 year olds, 4 & 5 year olds and 6 year olds and up. We hope to see you there and remember to bring your cameras!



It's Picture Time

We will be doing outside pictures Friday, March 13th through Thursday, March 19th. Our photographer for these action shots will be Crystal Horne from TSS Photography. Crystal is a playschool graduate and looks forward to coming back to Trinity to work with your kids that week.

Friday, March 20th and Tuesday, March 24th Event Images will be taking class pictures. Those days, our photographer will also be making graduation pictures of our 2008 - 2009 Playschool Graduates.

Life in the Classroom

With Mrs. Shae & Mrs. Cheri

Five Finger Prayer

Your thumb is nearest to you. Begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you.

The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct, and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction.

The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the President, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.



The fourth finger is our ring finger. This is our weakest finger; as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or pain.

Lastly comes our little finger; the smallest finger of all. Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.

This is a prayer that I learned long ago and I always remember it when I'm praying. I hold it dear to my heart and wanted to share it with you all.

Wow! Fours, Fours Everywhere!

Secrets to keeping our Fours happy!

1. At some point during the morning Ashton and Hannah have to either sit together or stand in line together. Their smiles are priceless.
2. Emily bringing pictures that she has drawn from home and giving them to her friends.
3. Helping Addie put on her favorite princess dress.
4. Letting Alison & Shelby take turns erasing dry erase boards.
5. Telling Ty what classroom job he will be doing next and when.
6. Looking at all of Zach's cool wash off tattoos.
7. Letting Ryan and Meagan sit together at circle time as long as they don't do too much playing.

8. Making sure the classroom jobs are up so Caleb sees his job when he first walks in.
9. Having Jessie read to us.
10. Pretending not to see Brennen when he runs up behind us because he loves to sneak up and tickle us.
11. Answering Patrick's "Guess Whats!"
12. Keeping Lauren's leaves and flowers that she brings us on the playground.
13. Letting Sean use his fine motor skills. He loves to do all the different centers weekly. His focus is amazing.
14. Last but not least, Mrs. Cheri and I love what the kids love and what makes them happy is what makes us happy!!!!

It's the "little things" that keep a four year old class going. Not always the things that we as adults consider the "big things."

With Love, Mrs. Shae & Mrs. Cheri

Every Sunday:

Open Hearts.
Open Minds.
Open Doors.



We invite you to bring your family and be a part of our family each Sunday.

Celebration Service: 9:00AM
Sunday School: 10:00AM (For all ages!)
Worship Service: 11:00AM

Trinity Church also offers Youth Programs for Kindergarten through 12th grade on Sunday afternoons. Feel free to stop by Sunday afternoon and see what Trinity's Youth Program has to offer your family!

K-2nd Led by Shea and Holly Hartsell 5:00 - 6:30
3rd-5th Led by Margie O' Shields and Mike Taormina 5:00 - 6:30
6th-8th Led by Shelly Swaringen and Danny Barth 5:00 - 6:30
9th-12th Led by David and Donna Stroupe 7:00 - 8:30 (Held at Assurance UMC)

Talk to Claudia or call the church office 704-399-1684 for more information!

2009-10

Registration Report

Registration for the new school year has taken place over the month of February. Over 100 children have enrolled. If you know anyone that has shown an interest in Trinity, be sure to let them know that classes are filling up fast for the fall and summer sessions. Come by and see Claudia or stop in at the Playschool Office for forms and availability.

With Love from Miss Claudia

As I looked out my office door, I smiled at the new bulletin board that "Miss" Susan was creating. The background is a soft "Carolina Blue" and she has painted white fluffy clouds. The kites that the TK kids did in her class last week fly through the bulletin board sky. That board is a promise of Spring.



Outside of the school the air hovered around freezing and snow from that wonderful, glorious Sunday night storm still lies on the ground in many places. I closed my eyes and could hear my children and grandchildren's laughter as they rode sleds down the steep hills behind my house. It was one of those mornings that we will always cherish and remember. Not only that, as I watched them I remembered past snows, the way my children squealed with delight when they were small and I would stand them under a snow filled pine bough and pull on it to cause the snow to crash down, a trick I learned from my own mother. When I was in elementary school a gang of us would all meet on Lake View Road which runs beside Hornet's Nest Elementary. Back then on snow days there was no traffic on the road and we would pile three to four high on wooden sleds and slide until we were all soaking wet.



Instead of going home we would go to what is now a funeral parlor in front of the school. Then it was Mundy's Groceries. There was a pot bellied stove in the middle of the store where you could always find a group of older men rocking and discussing everything from politics to religion. They would start fussing as soon as we entered; Tell us to get off those wet outer clothes and gloves and dry them by the stove. Then they would check the bread bags over tennis shoes for the ones of us that had out grew last year's snow boots. I can still hear them say, "Girl, How much good do you think that bag's doing when you have the whole toe scraped out of it. Grab a bag out of that box and get over here and let me take care of it before you get your death of cold, you crazy girl." (It wasn't until years later that I realized that the box of bags and tape didn't just happen to be there, that those grumpy old men had prepared it for our arrival.)

We would sit with them as we ate our Moon Pies and drank RC Colas while they tried to encourage us to try their sardines.

After we had rested about an hour, one of them would grumble, "Your clothes are dry, Get out of here! We can't hear ourselves think." We would race out the door as they remembered their own boyhood and knew that next year God would bring us winter again.



Kid's Say the Cutest Things

In their prayer life sometimes adults are guilty of saying fancy words instead of really talking to God. Cameron Kidd in "Miss" Debbie's Fours could teach us all a lesson.

The other day the class was talking about prayer and Cameron said, "I pray every day. In the morning I talk to God and Jesus, but at night I talk to just God." Debbie asked what he said at night. He looked at her and said, "I don't know, I haven't prayed yet." Now that's talking to God, what ALL prayers should be.

A Plan to Offer Help With



Your Tuition Payments!

In this economy everyone is hurting. It has been over twenty years since budget money was so tight as it is now at the school. We have come up with an idea that we hope will help not only you as parents but will also help the school. Last week we started our cookie dough fundraiser. The cookies sell for \$14.00 a tub and the profit for the school per tub sold is 40% or \$5.60. We have decided to take the profits and take 25% of the profit per tub and apply it to the parent's account who sold them. This means for each tub that you sell \$1.40 will be credited to your account. If you sell 10 tubs, you will get a credit of \$14.00; 100 tubs sold would be a credit of \$140.00. Get creative and sell as many cookies as you can. You will get help on your tuition bill and the playschool will get some needed help on their budget.

Credits will be taken off of your account 15 days after you turn in your orders, after we are sure all checks have cleared. Talk to Claudia or Crystal, Jennifer or Shea if you have any questions.

We would like to share the following email from a parent:



Dear Claudia,

I wanted to let you know about an event that occurred recently that restored my faith in guardian angels. On February 25th, I picked up my three year old, Hunter, from playschool. I was taking him and our one year old, Harper, to the mall to eat lunch. As we were driving I heard Hunter drop a toy he'd been playing with. When I turned around to see what he was doing I saw a horrifying sight that still gives me nightmares. Hunter was having a seizure. In a state of complete panic, I turned the car around and headed back to the volunteer fire department as I was calling 911. Upon arrival to the department I discovered that there was no one there. Hunter was blue and barely breathing. I took him out of the car, placed him on the cold ground and began praying and sobbing. I have never felt so alone and scared in my life. I could sense cars passing by, but no one stopped. As I was contemplating doing mouth

to mouth rescue breaths, Hunter began to moan and I noticed a car pull up. A woman ran to my side and

began to help. She made phone calls for me because I was still on the phone with 911. She stood by the car with Harper to make sure he was okay, and offered to take him or keep him. Most importantly, she prayed for us.

Paramedics arrived, and transported Hunter to CMC Main Pediatric Emergency Department. Later, we discovered Hunter had had a febrile seizure. He woke up completely fine!! While at the hospital we received an adorable plush dog with a balloon attached and a card that read, Hope you're doing better, from "the lady on the side of the road." It was then that I realized I had never thanked her for all she had done, and had no idea how I would be able to. In the next few days I discovered that "the lady on the side of the road," was Angela White.

Angela is a Mom at Trinity with two small boys! Of course she was!!! Trinity is full of amazing and special people!

I will never forget her, or her being there that day. How do you say "thanks" for something that meant so much? I wanted to let you know there really are "guardian angels" in the world!

Love and God Bless - Wendy Henson

Spanish Performance:



As you read in February's Newsletter, our 3's, 4's, and TK are having a great time learning Spanish from Ms. Rubi. Ms. Rubi presents the new language to the kids through upbeat songs, dances, and games. Coming up on April 30th, you will get to see firsthand how fast your kids are learning. The 4's and TK will be performing together in a Spanish program that will include songs and dances that they have all been working so hard on. The program will be at 6:30pm. Even if your child is not in the 4's or TK, plan on coming anyway to see what your child has to look forward to.

Helping Hands

Over the last thirty years that the playschool has been in existence children have changed. We use to say Terrible Twos and Sassy Fours. We have now realized that as a group these years are a piece of cake. Kids are just getting so much smarter. If you look into our one year old class many times you may think you are back in your college days at a frat party. They adore each other and the wilder and more out of control the activity the more they seem to enjoy it.

Twos seem much calmer at times. Our threes and fours and TK's are performing at levels that were reserved for kindergarten and first grade thirty years ago. All of the fours and TK children if not already reading are very close to it. This is something that has never happened in the past. One or two reading and sounding out words is what we would have each year, not ALL. We credit this to Mr. Howard's program "Making Great Readers" which our fours and fives used this year. We also have many more children with special needs than ever before.

The economy and other worries that our parents are experiencing is beginning to have an emotional effect on the children. We have noticed some major changes in some of the children's behavior. We realized some time ago that teachers needed extra help in the classroom. The only way to hire teachers is to raise the tuition price or either cut salaries of the teachers at Trinity. Raising tuition in this economy is something we feel is out of the question. Likewise some of our teacher's husbands have either lost jobs or their salaries have been cut. Teacher's salaries at Trinity are like all teachers salaries... They don't make what they are worth.

These situations have birthed a new program at Trinity called "Helping Hands". We are asking that parents, grandparents, church members or anyone that you may know that loves children could volunteer one or two days a month to work in the classes between 9:00 and 12:00. We would love to have a volunteer in each of the 9 classrooms each day. There will be a calendar outside of the playschool office for you to sign up in either your child's class or another class. This will be a great way to share in your child's school day or find out about an age level class that your child will attend next school year.

Together we can give each child at Trinity what they need.

Special Easter Services



Palm Sunday- April 5th
Children's Palm Parade during 11:00am worship; any child who wants to participate can meet in front of the Sanctuary steps at about 10:50. "Miss" Doris from Trinity's Choir will be out there to instruct the children on how to enter waving their palm branches.

Easter Sunday- April 12th @ 7:00am sunrise service (sanctuary), 8:00am full breakfast by the Emmett Wilson SS class, 9:00am Celebration Worship (sanctuary), 10:00am Sunday School, 11:00am Resurrection Service

Creative Play Class Returns for Summer Sessions

Once again we will offer the low ratio, Creative Play Strategies class during our summer sessions. This class is for typical and non typical developing children and is led by Christy Knecht, Behavioral Therapist. All children benefitted greatly from last year's class. This class will accept children ages 3 years through 6 years and will have a low ratio of one teacher to 3 to 4 children. We have received calls already requesting this class. See Crystal or Shea in the Playschool Office for more information.



Tuition for this class is as follows:

- One day per week for a four week session \$75
- Two days per week for a four week session \$150
- Three days per week for a four week session \$225

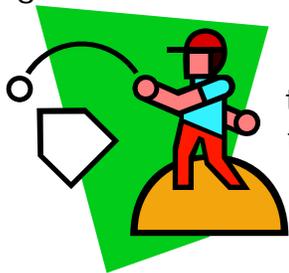
Changes for Next Year



All of our staff will be returning next year and we are going to switch around some of our teaching teams. Two changes that we know for sure are that "Miss" LeeAnn from the younger twos will be teaching with "Miss" Kim in the three year olds and "Miss" Linda from the one year olds will be teaching in the Younger Twos with "Miss" Holly. If we have enough children in the Transitional Kindergarten Class, "Miss" Debbie in the fours will join "Miss" Susan. In a few weeks we will have flyers made up about our classes that can be taken to subdivisions and placed in paper boxes. With this economy, all schools are under the normal sign up numbers after registration. If you could help out by stuffing flyers in your neighborhood, please call Crystal at ext. 24 or Shea at ext. 26 or stop by their office.

We are Looking for Softball Players

In the next couple weeks Trinity's Softball team will begin. This is a coed team and slow pitch is the type played. They compete against other area teams. If you are



interested see me. I have already bragged to the preacher and coach that the playschool can supply some real "Ringers" (is that the correct term?). We

already have on board Chad and Laura Hunning who played school ball and Kyle Cunningham, who looks to me as someone that could play any kind of ball well. The preacher asked if I was going to play and I told him, "Heck no, I'm a recruiter of athletics."

"Miss" Claudia

Assurance United
Methodist Church

Spring Consignment Sale

This sale accepts Spring and Summer children's clothing and maternity clothing, plus toys, books and video games.

They have their own tag system and you can purchase tags at AUMC for 50/\$1. Contact Tina Springs with questions: tina@assuranceumc.org.

Drop off for consignors:

Wednesday, March 11th:
9:30 - 2:00 and 5:00 - 8:00
Thursday, March 12th:
9:30 - 2:00

SALE DATES:

Thursday, March 12th: 7-9pm (Volunteers only!)
Friday March 13th 9:00 - 2:30
Saturday March 14th 9:00 - 12:00 (1/2 off Sale)



Lost and Found



If anyone has found a Spiderman Rain Coat please turn it in to the playschool office. It belongs to one of our TK students. Thank You!

A Special place for my son

It was a cold and rainy morning and I was unlucky enough, or at least I thought to be doing drop off instead of the usually pick up for my neighborhood carpool. I pulled up as I usually do during carpool and retrieved 3 preschool children- 3 different ages and 3 different stages from my car- not exactly an easy task.

As Ms. Claudia stood at the top of the path cheering us on, we began our journey toddling, walking and something in between the two along the path to the school building, again not an easy task with 3 children- different ages and different stages.

Once inside I walk the children to their classrooms. The 2 younger children get dropped off first at their 1 year-old class and I walk the 3 year old up to his class on the second floor. Once I arrived on the second floor of the playschool, it was clear to see that it had a life and energy all its own. I hadn't realized how much excitement existed within the walls of the school. I became so caught up in the energy that I decided to stay around for a little while to observe some of the happenings at the playschool.

I talked to all of the teachers from the 2 year old class to the 4 year old class. I was very impressed with every class that I observed. The teachers were very organized and all of the students in the classrooms were very orderly. All the children were doing appropriate work for their ages and stages of development.

During my observations of the classrooms, three things stood out to me. The first thing that I noticed is that the children were happy, secondly, the teachers were happy, loving, extremely energetic and enthusiastic and thirdly, the children were engaged in the appropriate balance of academics and play. I know that I was struck by this because I realize how difficult it is to achieve these characteristics in a single setting.

As a parent and educator, I have observed schools with one characteristic or the other, rarely have I seen a school achieve all three. After talking to

the 4 year old teacher, I left to call a friend of mine who currently has a 3 year old son enrolled at the

playschool. I encouraged her to take the journey that I had taken that morning. **I championed that her son would be more than prepared for kindergarten.** I reminded her that in addition to his academic preparation that he would also be in a very loving and fun environment. As for me, I was overcome with joy, contentment and satisfaction because I realized that on one random, unexpectedly cold and rainy morning- I had been lucky enough to find a special place for my son.

This article was submitted by Ann Fields the mother of Lucas Fields in our Ones. Thanks Ann!