

The Pitter Patter

Wesley Memorial's Through-the-Week School Newsletter

Volume 5 No. 4

March, 2010

Message from the Directors . . .

Children love celebrations! Even if they do not understand all the symbolism of Palm Sunday and Easter, they can still enjoy the air of celebration. This is what we will be emphasizing in the TTW School. Children can wave palm branches, lay fabric scraps down on the floor and shout, "Hosanna!" just as people did long ago to welcome Jesus into the city of Jerusalem. Older preschoolers will be interested to know that celebrations in Jesus' time were different from celebrations today. Long ago, people used palm branches and cloaks like we use streamers, balloons, and flags today.

Death and resurrection are difficult subjects for young children (as for adults). Therefore, in TTW classes we will be talking about spring and new life during our Easter activities. Preschool children will plant flower seeds. Kgt Fives will be "growing butterflies" – adding live larvae and food medium to culture dishes; then observing and recording the process from formation of chrysalids to the hatching. We especially love to have visiting kittens, puppies and bunnies, so do let us know if you have one to share. All ages will enjoy Easter Egg Hunts around our beautiful campus. Children will take walks outside so that they can observe firsthand the budding trees, daffodil bulbs pushing through the ground, nesting birds, and other changes taking place in God's world. We are so blessed with this beautiful campus at Wesley Memorial offering multiple opportunities to discover God's gift of new life. At Easter we celebrate with great JOY!

Happy Springtime with your boys and girls!
"God has made everything beautiful in its time."

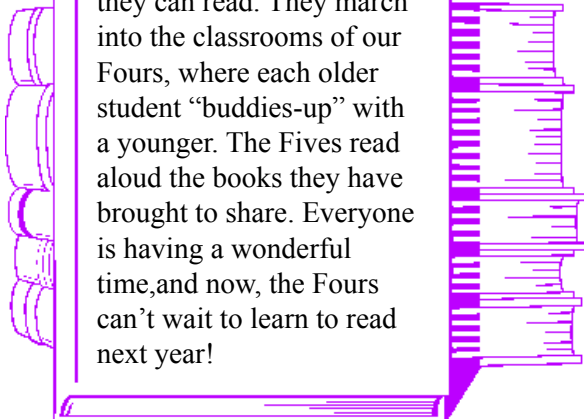
Love,

Susan Sumpter and Susan Kelley



We're So Proud of our Kgt Fives!

Every Friday, the Fives boys & girls walk down the hall carrying books they can read. They march into the classrooms of our Fours, where each older student "buddies-up" with a younger. The Fives read aloud the books they have brought to share. Everyone is having a wonderful time, and now, the Fours can't wait to learn to read next year!



TTW School Easter Holiday Schedule

**Closed the week before Easter:
March 29, 30, 31, April 1, 2
also closed Easter Monday, April 5
Re-open Tuesday, April 6
*Joyous Eastertime, Families!***





Vacation Bible School

Plans are well underway!

Think EGYPT: Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace!

Mark your calendars for June 22-25. Time will be 9 am-12 noon. Children ages 3 yrs through 5th grade will be placed in Egyptian Families & will step back in time by looking at their "travel itinerary" (that's their daily schedule!) They'll be off to visit Joseph while he's in prison (or when he's moved into the palace), and laugh & play at the Pyramid Playground. In the noisy Market-Place, children will craft a jeweled Cairo collar, design a Hieroglyphic Necklace, wrap up like a mummy in the Embalmer's Workshop, visit the live animals (there might even be a snake!) Each day will close with Family Devotions, where the children will connect experiences "in Egypt" to their modern-day lives. They'll discuss how they see God's hand today by talking about God Sightings. EGYPT activities will include a special outreach project, too, for African children through World Vision. Children's registration coming this Spring. Adult Volunteers needed for crafts, food area, games, & to serve as Family Leaders. Contact the Susans 884-4232 to say Yes! I want to spend a while on the Nile!

Springfest is Coming!

Sunday, May 2

4-7 pm

What a grand CARNIVAL CELEBRATION for Children of all ages & families!
Games galore! Hot dog supper! Pony Rides! Face Painting! Silent Auction of Class Crafts!
Gently-Used Treasures Sale! New Household, Furniture & Toy Items! Theme Baskets!
SAVE THE DATE!!

Parents, you've been asking about our . . .

TTW Summer Enrichment Program!

It's going to be 4 great weeks in July on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays
9 am-12 noon, for all ages Infants through Fives
\$50/week per child – You may select just one week, or register for all 4!

Week 1: July 6, 7, 8

Cowboys & Cowgirls (the wild West)

Week 2: July 13,14,15

The Backyard Barbeque (camping fun)

Week 3: July 20,21,22

Let's Go Cruisin' (bathing suits/ sprinklers/ ship cruise)

Week 4: July 27, 28, 29

Fun On the Farm (animal activities/live petting zoo)

Registration forms to be sent home after Easter.

Easter Egg Hunts for children...

~ Toddler age through 2nd grade

Sunday, March 28 (Palm Sunday), 4 pm

No reservations – just come!

Each child should bring one dozen plastic eggs containing individually-wrapped candy. Bring your Easter basket, too! Come to the Dining Hall. While all the eggs are being hidden, children will enjoy creative activities & snack. Then each age will be directed to a special area on the grounds for their age-level Hunt!

and for Older Siblings . . .

Big Kids Easter Egg Hunt

Friday Night, March 26

6-7:30 pm

3rd, 4th, 5th grades

Reservations needed – call or contact the Susans, 884-4232. Bring \$5 for pizza supper and your flashlight. Come to the front entrance to meet together – if nice weather, we'll eat outside. Hunt for eggs in the dark Sanctuary with your flashlight! We'll provide the wrapped candy eggs. Games & devotional time.



The “Wishing Well”

A Lenten Offering for TTW School Families

Last year, parents Mary Wolff (Matthew’s mom) and Kathryn Yarbrough (Joseph’s mom) introduced a very special way for our TTW children to share love during Lent. “Wishing well” containers were placed in every classroom for collection of coins to give for an outreach project. Teachers and children decorated their wishing wells. Last year’s Lenten project was so successful that we would like to continue the tradition this year. The Early Childhood Team has selected HELPING HAITI as our outreach for 2010. The boys and girls (and parents!) were so responsive in preparing the Health Kits for Haiti, and the children have actually been asking “can we do something else?”

In the Lenten tradition of prayer and meditation, Wesley Memorial TTW Preschool classes will participate in a special offering. Each classroom will have a “wishing well” container in which coins can be placed after making a healing or Thanksgiving prayer to God.

Prayers can be anything from the healing of a friend or relative to thanking God for a beautiful day, whatever is on the mind of your preschooler that morning.

This outreach project will run from now until Easter). Children who wish to participate should bring coins in to school. (Quarters, dimes and nickels work just as well as pennies!)

After Easter, the money from the “wishing well” containers will be collected and donated to Haiti’s relief fund to help with supplies lost in the earthquake. We will send this money through UMCOR (United Methodist Church Organized Relief).

Not only are the children, their families and teachers focusing on prayer and thanksgiving to God, they are showing compassion for our global neighbors.



Kate Thornton American Red Cross Blood Drive & Benefit Bake Sale

Saturday, April 10

9 am-1 pm

Wesley Memorial Dining Hall and Foyer

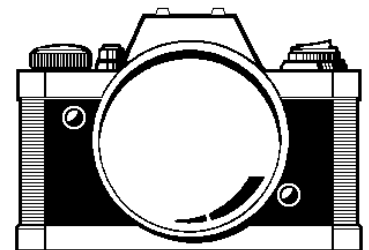
Please keep the Thornton family in your on-going prayers: Parents Joe & Susan; children Jared, Parker, Kate, Julia Faith & Bella. Sadly, Kate’s leukemia has returned and she faces the challenge of a bone marrow transplant this Spring. Kate is enrolled in Helen Rice’s Kgt 4 class, but has not been able to attend this year. Julia Faith attends our N 2-3, and Bella is in Beginners Room. The Red Cross Blood Drive on April 10 will be in honor of Kate. PLEASE come out to be a donor – for Kate and for all persons in our community who so desperately need that blood. Free childcare in The Way Station Afterschool area while you donate – no reservations needed.

In addition, we will be asking parents to donate baked goods for our BAKE SALE on the 10. We would also like to have meal items to sell: frozen casseroles, vegetables, jars of homemade sauces, etc. Complete details on how your family can help will be coming soon.



Spring Photos!

Class GROUP photos will be taken week of April 12 – 16. These make such beautiful remembrances of your child’s special year. An envelope will go home with each child detailing information for ordering. NO PROOFS. Please return the envelope within 2 weeks if you’d like a class photo. Include \$7 per picture. *Important! Use the envelope provided for sending in the money because we have marked it with the negative # that your child appears in. Thank you!



Registration Time Is Here!

Yes, we know it seems a little early to think about FALL, but time is NOW to re-register your child for his/her next TTW School class. If you have not received a registration packet, please head for our preschool office ASAP! The Susans prefer that you come by IN PERSON when you turn in completed forms & fees, so that we can CONFIRM your choice of days and verify correct age-level grouping for your child. Siblings of our current students should be registered now as well. Please do not delay in getting your registration completed. *We are already scheduling tours with prospective families and accepting their registrations for remaining spaces.



Remember! NC state law requirement has changed the birth date eligibility for school entrance from Oct. 16 to child must be age 5 by Aug. 31. Birthdate has been adjusted for all preschool ages as well (fours and younger) so that children will be on target. This means, for example, that child must be age 2 by Aug. 31 for the Twos class; age 3 by Aug. 31 for the Threes class; age 4 by Aug. 31 for the Fours. The Susans will be glad to discuss these changes with you.

Parents, thank you for being such wonderful advocates of our program as you chat with friends & neighbors. Have your friends CALL US so that we can schedule appointment tours. Call 884-4232.

*Remember the \$85 Incentive Program for sending the TTW School new students!

BRAVO to our Regular Volunteers!

Special applause to Margot Pritchett, Pat Peacock, both retired TTW teachers, and to Ed Brooks, church volunteer, for coming each Weds to lead Storytimes for our Kgt Fives. These volunteers are also shelving the books returned by the children.

Jennifer Euler (Alec's mom) has been creating the beautiful bulletin board displays all year for everyone to enjoy in the Media Center.

Shirley Boyles, retired TTW teacher, plays the piano for music class with the Fives every Tuesday as well as for their special program presentations for families.

"The Pitter Patter" is available for viewing on-line at www.wesleymemorial.org. Go to "Newsletters", then "Through-the-Week"

Attention TTW Families of Current K-Fours and K-Fives!

Are you looking for all-day care for your child this summer?

or

Are you looking for afterschool care for your child this fall?

The Way Station

is just the Christian "home away from home" to meet your child's needs!

We invite you to visit The Way Station!
Schedule your tour through the Susans

This vital Afterschool Ministry of Wesley Memorial has been in operation since 1996. The Way Station serves 35-40 children of elementary school-age. Children completing Fours, and who will be age 5 by August 31, are eligible for the summer session.

The Way Station facility is located downstairs at Wesley Memorial, adjacent to the Fellowship Hall gym. The Way Station is open full-days in summer from 7:30 am – 6 pm. During the school year, hours are 1:30-6 pm– with full-days available on Guilford County School holidays, teacher workdays, & most snow days. Pamela Hill serves as Director, and Michele Kinley as Assistant Director. The teaching staff includes: Merri Mabe, Joy Hughes, and Jana Brotherton.

Information packets describe fees, daily schedule, activity times such as crafts, homework time, recreation and field trips. Come tour and chat with our outstanding staff.

Registration for summer and fall is now open at The Way Station!

