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Grace and Peace to you



“Preparing for Worship; It’s Not Just for Children”

“Mr. Mitch” Townley

Director of Children’s Ministries

My oldest daughter Kristen, and her husband Ben have recently embarked on the adventure of introducing their two-year old son, Everett, to our Sunday morning corporate worship service. During his first Sunday, he made it through the announcements and didn’t even say, “Hi Poppy” out loud while I was informing all of you of the upcoming events. The next Sunday he made it through the prelude and then surprised everyone on his pew by maintaining “radio silence” until the Pastoral Prayer. He is making progress. Teaching your children about the worship of God is a process that requires practice and participation.

Over the years, I have been able to witness the managerial, instructional and yes, even sometimes, the survival strategies, which parents have employed with their children during worship. And while it can often be a challenging endeavor, corporate worship on Sunday morning is the primary activity our covenant community engages in together (Acts 2:42; Ephesians 10:24-25). Therefore, our children as members of this community need to be included and welcomed in this crucial aspect of covenantal life. It is a parental privilege, blessing, and rigorous responsibility to instruct and train children in the ways of worship.

During my preparation and research for this article, I discovered numerous resources with consistent overlapping content. Instead of trying to re-invent the proverbial wheel on this subject, I will mostly be sharing some of the splendid encouragement and instruction that PCA Pastor Jason Helopoulos has already composed. My additions to his thoughts will be in italics.

Implement family worship at home: A family that worships together at home will find it much easier to worship together in corporate worship. A child will find it natural to hear the Word of God, to read the Word of God, to sing the hymns, etc. This will also help our children to learn to sit still, to understand the importance of worship, to focus during prayer, etc. *Assist them in learning and memorizing the Lord’s Prayer, Apostle’s Creed, Gloria Patri, and Doxology.*

Focus on Sunday Worship before Sunday: *Our upcoming Sunday bulletin is now being emailed out to the congregation on Fridays.* Read the sermon passage to your children. The children will then be familiar with the text that John is preaching on. With this knowledge, give them some words or concepts to listen for in the sermon. *Discuss any special elements like Baptism, Communion, Missionary Commissioning, Receiving of New Members, etc.*

Talk about Sunday morning worship all week long. Help your children to see that each week begins with this privilege ([Acts 20:7](#); [Hebrews 10:24-25](#)).

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**Six Week Summer Bible Camp for
Ages 4 years – 5th grade,**

**Wednesdays, June 14 - July 26, 10:00am –
Noon at WHPC**

Theme: Kamp Kaboom. Bible Lessons, games, music, crafts, multi-media, recreation. For all WHPC children and children of moms participating in the women's Wednesday Bible study. Sign up your child by contacting Mitch Townley or the church office. Nursery care for ages (birth –age 3) available

to those participating in the Bible study. Adult Volunteers are needed

About Kamp Kaboom through hands-on activities that draw on children's innate curiosity about science, Kamp Kaboom teaches children about the seven days of creation. Not only do the lessons teach children the events of each creation day, but also what creation reveals about God. We find that God is orderly and detailed. We find that His creativity is more than we could ever imagine. We find that He is powerful and majestic. As we learn more about Him through His creation, we have the opportunity to enter into a deeper relationship with Him.



(Continued from Page 1)

Model excitement about the Lord's Day: Children learn a great deal by watching their parents. If Mom and Dad reluctantly go to church, then the children will reluctantly go to church. If Mom and Dad are critical of the preacher, sermon, etc. then the children will most likely be critical. *Consider whether you approach Sunday worship with excitement and anticipation or with a dulled habitual obligation. Arrive early to the Sanctuary to allow for a mindset of worship*

In the pew: Children are easily distracted, so sit near the front where there are less distractions. *Make sure you are not being distracted by your phone, text messages or online activities by turning off your device or putting in on airplane mode.* Encourage your children to pay attention, direct them to stand when everyone stands, to sing when they are to sing, to bow their heads in prayer when the congregation is to pray, etc. *Have high expectations for them based on their age. Have them bookmark the hymns and scripture readings so they are prepared. If they are not yet reading, guide your finger across the words as you sing and read. Engage them in the service.*

Use transitional moments in the service to whisper in your child's ear how much you loved a certain verse in a hymn, how you need to remember to pray for the sick person mentioned, or how you were convicted by that application. It keeps them engaged and allows them to see you participating intently in the service.

Stop Worrying: Many parents are concerned about what other parents or members of the congregation think of their parenting skills or how annoyed someone else is with their child's fidgeting during the service. DON'T! If your baby is a little fussy, papers are rustling, or a few things are dropping on the floor it is o.k. As congregations, we need to willingly and joyfully join in this great privilege of welcoming our covenant children into corporate worship. And that takes some minor adjusting on our part.

Do not be Overzealous: *Be patient with your children and shower them with grace.* It takes children time to adjust and different children adjust or accept on different time tables. Your child may come into the service and sit attentively and quietly within a few weeks or you may have to help your child with this for months or even years. Be patient! Love them and do not compare them to other children.












Our children benefit greatly by being in the presence of Christians of various ages. They are able to see that the faith of their parents is not a faith that they own alone, but is a faith that is important to all of these people who are gathered around them on Sunday morning. This only reinforces what Mom and Dad are modeling and teaching when they see this incredible gathering of people reading the Word together, praying together, confessing together, and singing together (Deuteronomy 31:9-13). They need to see the body in action.

Children's Worship is an optional unique, interactive time of music, prayer and Bible teaching held, just prior to the sermon, during the morning worship service. Following a time of corporate family worship in the sanctuary, children (ages 3 years- 4th grade) may attend Children's Worship, if their parents so choose.



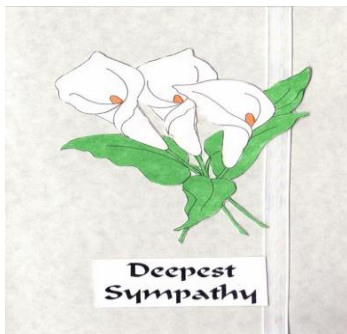


June 2017

				1 Good News Club 1:45pm Night Circle 6:45pm	2	3 Prayer Gathering 10am
4 Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:50am WM Council Mtg Prayer Mtg. 6pm	5 Monday Night Care Group 6:30pm  Charlotte Anderton	6 Lovell Rd. Care Group 6:30pm	7 Choir 6:30pm	8	9  Elena Gonzalez Silas Joiner	10 Prayer Gathering 10am  Les Mitchell Lewis Kinnard
11 Sunday School 9:30am *Communion/ Worship 10:50am Prayer Mtg 6pm	12 Monday Night Care Group 6:30pm Session/Deacon Mtg. 7pm  William Bruffey	13 Women's Day Circle 10am Lovell Rd. Care Group 6:30pm	14 Wed. Women's Bible Study, 10am Choir 6:30pm  Kermit Davis Josiah McKenzie Trevor Tyler	15	16 G.A.P. 11am	17 Prayer Gathering 10am
18 Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:50am Prayer Mtg.6pm  Shirley Hedrick David Zimmerman 	19 Monday Night Care Group 6:30pm Blue Star Moms 6:30pm	20 Lovell Rd. Care Group 6:30pm	21 Wed. Women's Bible Study, 10am Choir 6:30pm  Lila Dean 	22	23 Women's Crafts Evening 6:00pm	24 Prayer Gathering 10am
25 Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:50am Prayer Mtg. 6pm	26 Monday Moms Group 10am  Bud Kelly Richard Trindle	27 Lovell Rd. Care Group 6:30pm	28 Wed. Women's Bible Study, 10am Choir 6:30pm	29	30  Earle Crocker Alice Redman	Did we miss your birthday? Please call the church office 865-693-2031. *Communion is the second Sunday of every month.

Announcements & Prayer Needs:

2017 FLOWER CALENDAR is available on the bulletin board across from the elevator. If you would like to provide flowers for the sanctuary, please sign your name on the designated date and note if you are giving the flowers "in honor" or "in memory" of a loved one. The cost is \$50. Please make your payment to the church marked "Flowers".



Our Heartfelt sympathy goes out to the family and friends of *Louise Stokes* upon her death, May 1st. A Memorial Service and receiving of friends was held at Rose Mortuary, May 5th.

Our Deepest Sympathy goes to Jean Russell and family, upon the passing of her father, Raymond, May 10th. There was a private funeral for the family only.

Sunday Evening Worship Service will start July 9th. July 9th, 6:00pm, we will resume the Sunday Evening Worship Service. Please join us!

Cheryl & Keith Sowder are grandparents again.

Jennifer & Greg Fox had a little girl, Sunday, May 14th, Stephanie Grace, she was 8 lbs.



Welcome to New Members

Jonathan & Laura Brooks

Women's Ministry will have a Summer Crafts evening of fun and fellowship, June 23rd, 6:30-8:30pm. Pat Stogner will show us flower arranging ideas and we will make some jewelry. Please join us! More information coming.

April 2017 Financial Report

Income

Actual Income for April: \$53,071.07

Actual Income for Year-to date: \$152,568.77

Expense

Actual Expense for April: \$39,128.27

Actual Expense Year-to-date: \$152,596.78

Summary

Current Month Income Exceeds Expenses by \$13,942.80

Year-to-date Income Exceeds Year-to-date Expenses by: (\$28.01)

Please Pray For: WHPC Family & Friends

Clara Abercrombie
Charlotte Anderton
Margaret Duggan
Betty Emery
Al & Beth Grant
Shirley Hedrick
Fay Hontz
Kane McAfee
Bob & Betty Mills
Bill & Mimi Morrison
Tammy Owsley
Irene Price
Alice Redman
Jean Russell
Lee & Claudette Starr
Robert Thio
Mary Zitzman
Our Elders & Deacons
Our Church
Our Missionaries
Our nation/President

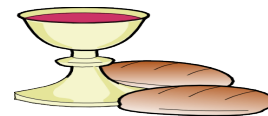
Active Duty Military Personnel

Eric Abercrombie
Jamie Morris wife of Rob Morris
Kevin Bell, Gabe Green

(4-16-17 through 5-14-17)

Average Attendance - 138

Average Visitors Attendance - 6



Communion is normally served during worship hour on the second Sunday of each month. **This month Communion will be served on June 11th.**

The Deadline for the newsletter

is the 15th of every month. Submit your article via email at churchofficewhpc@gmail.com. Include your name with your submission. We reserve the right to edit.

WOMEN'S SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

II Timothy 3:16

WHO: Women with a desire to study God's Word

WHAT: Weekly Bible Study;
Facilitator, Dannell Harb

WHEN: June 14 – July 26
Wednesday mornings, 10AM-Noon

WHERE: West Hills Presbyterian Church



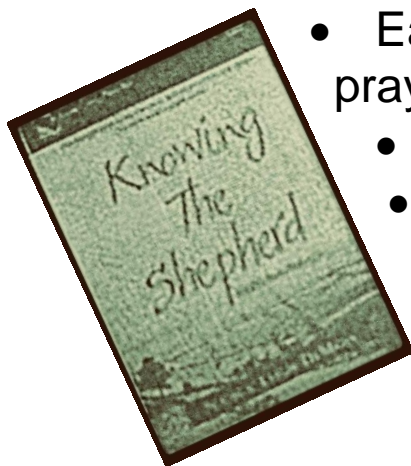
KNOWING THE SHEPHERD

An In-depth Look at the 23rd Psalm

A STUDY BY NANCY LEIGH DEMOSS WOLGEMUTH

Learn to

- Trust God's heart
- Rest in His care
- Live in His presence
- Enjoy His provision



- Each class includes video, discussion, and prayer
- Sign-up sheet in foyer
- Bring a friend! Visitors always welcome!
- For more information, call Suzanne Fowler (584-2483) or Dannell Harb (584-3554)

May Circle – Lesson 4

Guarding and Establishing the Church
Problems in the Cretan Churches Titus 1:10-16

CHURCHES HAVE PROBLEMS ! What kind of problems? False teachers, for one.

This month we studied Paul's instructions to Titus concerning those that were teaching false doctrine and upsetting whole families. The Cretan church, just like our churches of today, had teachers who infiltrated the church with false doctrine. Paul charged Titus to appoint elders who had the qualifications not only to preach right doctrine but also to take a stand and rebuke those who were preaching false doctrine. In other words, confrontation with false teachers. Ouch!

Why is it important to preach right doctrine? Because false doctrine leads us away from truth and spiritual maturity. False teaching assaults our spiritual health and God's Word.

We learned about the qualifications of elders from our last few lessons. Now in verses 10-16 we get an even deeper understanding of why these qualifications are required. Great demands are put on our elders to protect truth and guard against untruth. First, they need to know the Word of God thoroughly in order to spot counterfeit teaching. They need to have no ulterior motive in handling adverse circumstances. They need sound minds, right attitudes, and calm spirits to handle those that are false teachers. And they need to have firm resolve in rebuking and, if necessary, expelling false teachers from the church.

I dare say if you asked any of our elders the question, "Do you enjoy confrontation?" the answer would be a resounding "NO!" False teachers have a motive and they do not take kindly to being rebuked or stopped from whatever gain they hope to achieve.

But we are also responsible for knowing God's Word and discerning false teaching or doctrine. Unlike the Cretan church, the canon of Scripture was not yet complete and the Cretan believers did not have Bibles of their own. The "church" consisted of house churches with no formal structure or oversight and they had to trust that the "house" teacher was teaching them the truth. Today we have the whole counsel of God to read, study, and meditate on. We are so blessed to know the Truth and have God's Word available to us!

The goal of the elders in addressing false teaching is either restoration of a believer who has erred in their doctrine, or converting a false teacher into a true believer. Let's continue to pray fervently for our elders, for our teachers, and for each other that we might all live healthy spiritual lives.

Grateful for Him and you!

Julie Moore



Catequest: A Documentary, was held on Wednesday, May 17th, 6:30pm in the sanctuary of West Hills Presbyterian. The program was written by WHPC's Director of Children's Ministries, Mitch Townley. Music and Lyrics were by the very talented Dana Dirksen, founder of the catechism music series, Songs For Saplings. www.songsforsaplings.com.

Mitch extends his deepest appreciation to all the Wednesday Night ministry volunteers for their service this school year and for helping to make the program such a success. We are blessed by your faithful and dedicated service. Parents, keep on instructing your children in the Catechisms. The rewards are immeasurable.



15 children awarded medals for their achievement in learning new catechisms during the 2016/2017 school year.

Preschool Class, Yellow Ribbon, 12 new questions learned: Hannarose Allender, Devin Cimino, Henry Hurst, Josiah McKenzie, Gesiah Murphy, Xavier Tyler

Elementary Class, Blue Ribbon, 16-23 new questions learned: Elton Aba, Grayson Dockery, Elijah McKenzie, Molly Rhyne

Elementary Class, Yellow Ribbon, 24+ new questions learned: Max Aba, Josiah Cimino, Noah McKenzie, Luke Overton, Jacob Rhyne

