

# The Playground Observer

The Official Newsletter of Providence United Methodist Church Weekday School  
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## December 2009

### The Month at a Glance:

- Dec 1-18 Decorations accepted for our annual Sock & Mitten Tree
- Dec 2 & 3 My Gym – In house field trip
- Dec 13 PUMC Children's Christmas Pageant, Sanctuary 3PM
- Dec 17 Christmas Program for 4's & TK – 12PM
- Dec 21-Jan 4 **NO SCHOOL** – Christmas Break!!!



"Learning Through Play"



### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

December is upon us and we are once again beginning to focus on Christmas. It is a magical time of year. The stores and houses are decorated with shiny ornaments and twinkling lights. The children are filled with anticipation as preparations are made for Christmas Day. We are all busy getting ready for the season. At this time of year, as Christians, let us make sure we are preparing our hearts and our homes to receive the greatest gift of all, Jesus.

Here in the weekday school, we will focus all month on the miracle of the baby boy born that starlit night in Bethlehem. We will learn about what His birth means to us. We will read together Santa's Favorite Story by Hisako Aoki and Ivan Gantshev and sing together some familiar Christmas carols. The children will be busy making decorations to make our school and your home shine brightly. It is always a beautiful time of year to visit the weekday school. The month will conclude with the annual Christmas program held on Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 12 Noon. The children are already working hard on learning the music they will sing to celebrate Jesus' birth. Please plan to join us for this tradition. It will be time well spent and a perfect way to kick off the Christmas break!

The children are learning not only about receiving but about giving as well. They are encouraged to share coats and mittens with children less fortunate by hanging donated items on the Coat and Mitten tree in the preschool hallway. They are also given the opportunity to feed Ralph the Mouth as they do every month during the school year. My hope is that your family will continue these meaningful lessons at home. There are so many people in need both near and far. Perhaps your family could help a less fortunate family here in Charlotte. What a great lesson for your children and a wonderful way to warm your heart. If that is not possible, please include these people in your prayers this holiday season. Prayer is a powerful gift!

As always, I wish for you all of the blessings of Christmas now and throughout the New Year. Merry Christmas!

Blessings,

*Anna*

### DECORATIONS REQUESTED



Our annual Sock and Mitten Christmas Tree is in place in the hall and waiting to be decorated with new socks, gloves, mittens, hats and scarves. Sweaters and coats create the tree skirt. The sight of the tree and your child's enthusiasm about helping others will warm your heart. The decorations will warm the bodies of people in need in our community. All the decorations will be donated to Crisis Assistance Ministries and will be distributed to the needy. Thank you in advance for your participation.

### CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE FOR 4's & TK

Parents of our 4's & TK students are invited to attend a Musical Program presented by their children on Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00PM in the Church Sanctuary. The program will begin promptly, so plan to arrive early. Light refreshments will follow in the individual classrooms.



Children in our younger classes will enjoy the music of our 4 and 5 years olds as they practice in the Sanctuary prior to their program.

Thank you in advance to **Sharon Whitley**, our music teacher for planning, coordinating and directing this wonderful faith filled program.

Providence United Methodist Church Weekday School is an outreach ministry of Providence United Methodist Church. The mission of the Weekday School is to communicate God's love, as it is revealed through Jesus Christ, to children by providing an environment that encourages each child to grow spiritually, socially, cognitively, physically and emotionally. We are a Christian program, but we do acknowledge and respect the different religions and cultures represented in the program.

## **REGISTRATION 2010-2011**

Watch for a brochure and a registration application to arrive via e-mail before Christmas Break describing our registration procedures for 2010-2011. (Paper copies will be available in the preschool office in January.) Please read the information carefully!! We think you will be pleased with our system that once again involves NO LINES.

Applications for currently enrolled students & their siblings, children & grandchildren of PUMC members and former Weekday School families are due by Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. Applications from the general public are due Friday, Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **YEAR END ACCOUNT STATEMENTS**

Account statements for 2009 are available upon request. If you would like a statement showing your tuition payments for the calendar year, please let Karen know in the office. [klattimore@providenceumc.org](mailto:klattimore@providenceumc.org).



## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY INVITATION**

Providence UMC Children's Ministry invites you to join us for our annual Children's Christmas Pageant on December 13th at 3:00PM in the

Sanctuary. There will be opportunities for all children to be a part of the pageant. Children should come dressed up as whatever role they would like to be - camel, sheep, shepherd, star, angel, wise men, Mary or Joseph. During the service, there will also be time for everyone to bring forward a gift. This year we are asking people to bring canned goods which will be donated to Second Harvest Food Bank. If you have any questions, please contact Tara Bain, Minister with Children and Families, at [tbain@providenceumc.org](mailto:tbain@providenceumc.org).

## **LOAVES & FISHES COLLECTION**

Please help us feed "Ralph the Mouth" and those in need by sending non-perishable food items with your child on his/her designated Chapel or Tiny Chapel day. All donations are welcome. Priority items needed are:

- Canned Meat/Fish
- 100% Fruit Juice
- Beans
- Soup
- Canned Fruit



Please consider purchasing Harris Teeter Brand items for our monthly collection. You will be helping families in need and our school. We will earn 1% of your purchase if your VIC card is linked to #5445.

## **LUNCH BOX REMINDER**



Please remember to label your child's lunchbox with the date every day.

This lets the teachers know that the food your child is eating is fresh. In addition, please include an ice pack if your child's lunchbox includes refrigerated food. This is required to guarantee that the refrigerated food is not spoiled. These requirements are for the safety of your child. Thank you for taking the time and effort to keep your child safe.

## **PARENT - TEACHER CONFERENCES**

The weekday school will be holding conferences for all children in the threes, fours and TK on Monday & Tuesday January 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>. Conferences for the younger classes will be held by request. There will be sign-up sheets located outside all classrooms in early January for you to pick a time that best suits your schedule. The preschool will be closed on both conference days. We are looking forward to meeting with you and sharing valuable information about your child's progress. Thank you for making this conference a priority.

## **Theme for December...**

Happy Birthday Jesus – Luke 2:1-30