

# KIDS COVE FALL NEWSLETTER

*It's great to welcome you all back!*

## We are so glad to see you all again

After a couple of months in an alternate Sunday morning church service, which was geared a little more towards having children in the sanctuary, it is good now to be able to fully and intentionally minister to the children who call Eastview their home church. The summer break was well-appreciated by all those many volunteers who work hard to provide an excellent Sunday morning experience for your children, but we can definitely see the joy on their faces to be back serving the families of Eastview. There is an air of anticipation inside the walls of our church, as we dive into this new ministry year, and our prayer is that your family will fully join in and engage in the family spirit here. We look forward to a year of teaching and learning with your children, of taking part in watching them take next steps in their spiritual formation.

As we anticipate a new season of discovering God together at Eastview, we want to say thank-you for the opportunity to serve you and your family. Through our children's ministry programs, many people are able to search and discover how they were made to serve and be an active and engaged part of this body called Eastview Church. We encourage you to take some time getting to know the people who are spending time with your child at church each Sunday. These are willing and dedicated ambassadors, who have chosen to be involved in this adventure of discovery with your child.

As always, we would love to hear from you. If you have good stories to tell about what you are hearing from your kids. If you notice something special that your child's small group leader or Junior Kids teacher did. If you have concerns or questions. We are serious about our mission to partner with families in teaching your children about God, and we want to do the best job we can in reaching that goal. You can contact any of the staff in the children's ministry office by e-mailing us at [kids Cove@eastview.org](mailto:kids Cove@eastview.org) or by phoning us at 334-4675. If you would like to send an e-mail to one individual staff member, you can use the addresses listed below.

## The Children's Ministry Staff

Andrea Toews	Children's Ministry Director	<a href="mailto:andrea@eastview.org">andrea@eastview.org</a>
Kathy Chandler	Preschool Programs Coordinator	<a href="mailto:kathy@eastview.org">kathy@eastview.org</a>
Laura Kornelsen	Small Groups & Operations Coordinator	<a href="mailto:laura@eastview.org">laura@eastview.org</a>

## **[www.eastview.org](http://www.eastview.org)**

Have you ever checked out our church's website?

It's a great place to get information and times about events, as well as someplace you can direct people to when they have questions about our church.

## Coming Soon:

[www.eastview.org](http://www.eastview.org) will include a weekly family connecting section, to help parents have informed discussion with their children about their Sunday morning experience.



**Partnering with families in teaching who God is and guiding children into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.**

*God Bless You and Your Family*

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## 56 DEGREES ...

### is our brand new Sunday morning environment for children in grades 5 & 6.

Especially designed for this age group, 56 degrees has a focus on teaching kids about being intentional about building relationships with each other and with God. Monthly Sunday morning events include J.A.M. (Jesus and Me) Sessions, Bible Blitz Sundays, M2's (Music and Missions), and YOYO's (Your On Your Own), which encourage the kids to participate in the worship and teaching time. Directed by LaVonne Leclair, and supported by Andy (LaVonne's husband) and 9 small group leaders, 56 Degrees is off to a fantastic start of the ministry year.

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## OUR CHILDREN IN HONDURAS, RWANDA, AND PERU

One of the things children learn on Sunday mornings in Junior Kids Church and in Kids Cove, and in 56 Degrees, is that we have opportunity to share God's love with children in other countries, by praying for them and by collecting offering money to send and help enhance the lives of these children. Kids Cove Ministries are committed to sending three Honduran children, Cindy, Jair, and Blanca to school. Did you know that it costs only \$300.00 tuition for a Honduran child to attend Christian school? This means that we have a reachable goal of providing a Christ-centred education for these three children. We also have committed to sponsoring two children, Tito (Rwanda) and Puspa (Peru) through World Vision. If **every** child who attended one of the Kids Cove ministries on Sunday morning donated as little as **just two quarters** each Sunday, our goal would be easily to realize. (Of course, you can always give as much as you want.) We are grateful to our families for participating in these projects with us, and for partnering with us in training your children of the value of sharing from our hearts and our wealth.

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## ALLERGY ALERT!

A note of reminder that we have children attending our programs who have severe food allergies. To provide a safe environment, we request that snacks for children are provided only by the Kids Cove staff and volunteers. Something as innocent as a chocolate bar, a cookie, or even a cup of milk can be dangerous for some children. Thank-you for cooperating in this matter.

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## PARTNERING WITH FAMILIES: "RESTITUTION" SEMINAR AT EASTVIEW

Sunday, October 19 marks the kickoff of "Sunday XL", an exciting initiative by Eastview to help us all move forward in our faith walk (read all about it in the latest Eastview Link). The first two Sunday XL events, October 19 and November 16, will feature a learning option, called "Restitution". This seminar focuses on relationships not rules. On responsibility, not obedience. And on respect, not gold stars. Research has repeatedly shown that when kids and parents, or students and teachers treat one another with respect, the environment for learning and relationship-building improves. Restitution teaches self-discipline and skills needed to accept personal responsibility for one's actions. Restitution strengthens. The focus of restitution is restituting the self, which teaches children to behave, to be the person they want to be rather than to please others. In this interactive, two-part workshop, you will have opportunity to learn, from Biblical examples, how to apply the principles of restitution for yourself. We want to encourage you to consider joining into this valuable opportunity to be assisted in your role as a parent.

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## Where Parent Responsibility Starts

by David Staal

You will send several messages today.

Whether you intend to or not, you'll communicate thoughts, feelings, and beliefs to other people. And because you're reading this column, some of those interactions are likely to involve children. Maybe your own. Maybe grandchildren, nieces, or nephews. Maybe boys and girls you work with in ministry, sports, or education. Whatever your role, ask yourself: What messages will I send to my kids today?

An unusual question, perhaps, but one worth considering. Estimates of adult vocabularies stretch to more than 60,000 words. Throughout every day, I combine thousands of those words to form the messages I send. Too often, though, I don't carefully select which ones I'll use—they just flow from me like water streaming from a faucet. At times, they are nearly random. But with so many words at my disposal, surely I can do better. In fact, I am determined to do exactly that.

Why should I care so much?

Because relatively simple messages can make really big differences to children. And while some might seem unimportant and are forgotten in a moment, others will remain with us for a very long time.

I learned this lesson a few years ago at the memorial service for a friend's dad. All who attended listened to three adult children share their memories of a great father—and every memory included a specific message that had impacted that son or daughter's life. They shared their late father's comments with details and passion that made you think they had heard his words just the night before.

As a father of my own young kids, two challenging thoughts entered my mind and have stayed there ever since: *Under similar circumstances, what would my kids say about me? What messages do I send them that will make a difference in their lives?*

My conclusion: If I'm going to say lots of words to my kids—and I will—then I should make sure I say words that count. And so should you.

I don't suggest something as unrealistic as scrutinizing and carefully planning every syllable of the thousands of words that we speak. We could never do that. Instead, I suggest something much, much easier—something that involves a mere handful of words.

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*God Bless You and Your Family*

Realistically, parents should focus on a few key messages to continually communicate with kids in thousands of ways across all of the days a child falls under their care. My research has shown that "few" equals seven. Yes, seven. You'll find them in the book, *Words Kids Need to Hear* (Zondervan, 2008). In my role as children's ministry director of a local church, I often suggest to parents that they make these messages a priority—the critical first step in a mom or dad's responsibility for their kids' faith development. As parents, my wife and I have used these same phrases for years.

Here's why. An aviation-savvy friend once told me that a one-degree course change near the end of a flight could land a plane on the runway instead of an adjacent empty field. However, a one-degree course change at the *beginning* of the flight could ensure that the plane doesn't entirely miss the airport (or even the destination city!)

Much of navigating the challenges of parenting also seems to involve relatively small course adjustments. However slight, certain changes can significantly impact the direction kids will travel through life. And, just like the aviator's coordinates, parents' words can make the greatest impact the earlier they are used. Small messages, used over time, can lead to big transformation.

Need more convincing? Take a moment to consider all the changes caused by just two words from Jesus: "Follow me." God has placed you, too, on a mission to make a difference in the young lives he's sent your way. A difference that can point them toward him. Yes, *that* mission.

You will send several messages to your kids today—and it's up to you to point them in the right direction.

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Books available for you to borrow from the Children's Ministry Office:

"How to Really Parent your Child" by Ross Campbell

"Faith Begins at Home" by Mark Holmen

"Kid CEO: How to keep your children from running your life" by Ed Young

"Seven Things Children Need" by John M. Drescher

"How to Talk So Kids Will Listen and Listen So Kids Will Talk" by Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish

Just come by the office and speak with Andrea. She will help you sign the book out. Also, check out our church library for other great parenting books.

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