

KIDS COVE WINTER NEWSLETTER

We wish you a truly joyful Christmas Season

Kids Cove Parents Celebrate God's Gift

On Sunday, Nov. 18, approximately 45 parents participated in the grade 1-6 Kids Cove service, joining in the time of praise & worship, and the large group teaching portion of the morning. It was a morning of sharing the most important message ever with the children. The lesson taught the story of God's love for us, and that his provision of Salvation is a gift available for us all. As parents, we pray and hope that our children will embrace the faith that we are modeling for them. One of the many reasons that God's gift of the church is so precious, is that it provides children with a whole community of people who believe the same things their parents believe. This helps to affirm them in their faith and spiritual development. One of the parents who attended the Kids Cove service commented that "it was so good to be able to hear the teaching of this lesson along with my son, and now we can go home and I can have a well-informed, 'insider's' conversation with him about his morning."

Opportunity to observe our programs are available on any Sunday, and we simply request that parents who would like to sit in, would speak with one of the leaders, and identify yourself as a visiting parent. We love any chance to partner with parents in this ministry to your children.

Kids Cove Christmas Schedule

The season of celebrating Christ's birth is here. Please take note of these special event dates:

Sat, Dec. 8	Family Christmas Party (see posters for details)
Sun, Dec. 9	Small Group Celebration for Kids Cove grade 1-6
Sun, Dec. 16	Junior Kids sing in the adult service
Sun, Dec. 23	No Kids Cove, or Junior Kids, or Nursery
Sun, Dec. 30	No Kids Cove or Junior Kids. Nursery will be open

Sun, Dec. 23, 9:30 & 11:15 and Mon, Dec 24, 4:30 & 6:00 pm will be the Christmas Eve services. These are opportunities for families to attend church together. The Sunday services will be simulcast into the Kids Cove room, for those families with children who need some space to move around.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY



Saturday, Dec. 8

4:00 - 7:00 pm

This party is a wonderful opportunity for Eastview families to invite their friends and neighbours into a fun, non-threatening church event. Use the invitations available in your mailbox or at the KidsCove Info desk, to invite a family to our birthday party for Jesus.



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

THE KIDS COVE FAMILY HOMEPAGE

Each week, the Kids Cove grade 1-6 children are provided with the Family Homepage. Several parents have expressed an appreciation for the Homepage, as it is a tool that has been designed to help you engage your children in conversation about their Sunday morning experience. It includes the Bible story they heard, the key learning for the week, and some discussion questions to help get you started. We have noticed that many of these papers are left behind on a Sunday morning. So in the interest of being good stewards of the trees on our planet, we will make these papers available to those who do plan to use them. The Homepage will be available outside the doors of Kids Cove and Room 105, beginning December 2nd.

If you have any comments about the Homepage, or if you have a story to share about the conversations you may have had around the Homepage story and questions, we would love to hear from you.

SAFETY IN KIDS COVE

Safety is one of the core values for Kids Cove. We want every child who attends our program to know that they are protected and safe, both physically and emotionally. When a child feels confident and safe in his/her environment, he/she is far more likely to engage in the teaching and community building that is being provided.

One of the ways we provide physical safety, is through implementing a safe places policy. This includes mandatory Child Abuse Registry checks for every adult worker, as well as any necessary facility alterations, to provide the most safe place possible. Since our nursery doors open into our grade 1-6 environment, we have a situation where different sets of parents are needing access to the same room, when picking up their children at the end of the morning's service. To address this issue, we have dividers set up, creating a hallway for the nursery parents.

We would ask that the parents of the grade 1-6 children please respect this barrier, and walk around through the children's ministry hallway, to the "official" Kids Cove entrance, when dropping off or picking up your children. Thank-you for cooperating with us.

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 piece of toast, or even a cup of milk can be dangerous for some children. Thank-you for cooperating in this matter.

God's Peace to You as You Celebrate His Gift this Christmas

IDEAS FOR ADVENT

Practical Ways to Celebrate the Advent Season

WHAT IS ADVENT?

The word Advent means "the coming" and marks the beginning of the Christmas season. Advent starts the fourth Sunday before Christmas: this year it will be December 2nd. An advent wreath includes five candles to light, one for each Sunday before Christmas and one for Christmas Day. On the first Sunday, light the first candle. With the lighting of the candle each week you can use the "Ideas for Advent" listed below to help you celebrate Christ as a family. On the second week, light two candles - the one from the previous week and a new candle. continue this through each of the four Sundays, and light the last candle on Christmas day. The candles symbolize the growing brightness of Jesus coming. He is the Light of the world. Following is a list of each candle and what they mean, a scripture passage, some questions to ask each other, and a prayer.

1st Sunday / HOPE: Scripture - Isaiah 60:2-3

- As a family, talk about things you hope for.
- What hope do you think God has for the world?
- How do we show hope?

Prayer: Lord, we come together and light this candle to thank you for your Son Jesus, who is the light of the world. We were once in darkness and now see the light of Jesus. We give you the glory and praise for setting us free and because You live, we have hope. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen

2nd Sunday / PEACE: Scripture - Mark 1:4

- What situations need peace in our lives and in the world?
- What could we pray for, for peace or whom?
- How can we show peace?

Prayer: Lord, we come together and light this candle to thank you for your Son Jesus, who is the Prince of Peace. We have found peace in the relationship we have with you through Jesus. We thank you and praise you for your comfort and peace. In Jesus' name, Amen.

3rd Sunday / JOY: Scripture - Isaiah 35:10

- What gives you joy?
- Is there a joy we can share with another?
- What do you think gives God joy?

Prayer: Lord, we come together and light this candle to thank you for your Son Jesus, who brings us so much joy! We had once walked in shadowy places but have now found life in Jesus. We give you thanks and praises because Jesus lives and reigns! In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

4th Sunday / LOVE: Scripture - Isaiah 9:6-7

- Christmas is a celebration of God's gift of love to us: What gift of love might you give?
- Write down names of people and things you love on slips of paper and put them in a bowl. Each day as you gather for a meal or prayer time have each person pull out a slip of paper and read out loud the name or thing that is on the piece of paper. Take this time to say thank you to god for those people and things as a family.

Prayer: Lord, we come together and light this candle to thank you for Jesus, who is the way. We were once like lost sheep who had lost their way and have found the way to you through Jesus. We thank You and praise You for finding us and bringing us home. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Christmas Day / JESUS! Light of the World: Scripture - Read the Christmas story. Luke 2:1-20

Prayer: We praise you Lord, because today your word became flesh in Jesus, and walked among us as a man. Help us to be more like Jesus, living our lives trusting you. Bless our time together as a family and thank you for watching over us and taking care of us. Happy Birthday Jesus!

Advent and Christmas Celebration Ideas for Families with Young Children

Life-Size Advent Calendar

Starting December 1, turn a room into an advent calendar. Tape 25 numbered stars in order around the room, with the last star placed about the nativity scene. Each day sing or listen to a Christmas carol and move a paper wise man one star closer to the manger. Preschoolers love to move the wise man and count the days until Christmas. And while they do that, they are learning Christmas carols too.

Search and Rescue

To help toddlers prepare for Christmas, purchase a nine-piece non-breakable nativity set. Starting eight days before Christmas, hide a different figure every day. The children search the house for the hidden figures much like the wise men searched for Jesus. Each day the excitement builds as first the animals appear, then the wise men and finally Mary and Joseph. On Christmas morning the children search for baby Jesus and complete the scene.

Praying for People

Make a chain out of 25 construction-paper links. On each link write the name of a family member, friend or someone else needing prayer. Beginning December 1, break off a link and pray for that person. The last name on the chain is Jesus and on Christmas Day celebrate Him.

Have a Birthday Party for Jesus

Prepare a special cake for the occasion, sing Happy Birthday and some Christmas carols and talk about ways to give gifts to Jesus.

Gifts for the Christ Child

There are many variations of this custom, all of which are intended to promote love, tenderness, charity and generosity in the family and teach the family to strive to imitate the loving qualities of Jesus our Savior. The general idea is of performing secret 'good deeds' for another family member, and marking each with an anonymous physical sign. Draw names within your family on the first Sunday of Advent. The names drawn are 'secret pals' for the rest of Advent. All through the Advent season, you might find your bed made, cookies slipped into your pockets, small gifts on your pillow (for those lucky enough to have an older sibling or parent as your secret friend) your laundry done and folded, and many other small helpful tasks done for you. When a good deed is performed for your secret friend, you put a small piece of yarn into the manger already placed in the Christmas creche. Each secret act makes a softer bed for Baby Jesus. On Christmas Day, secret friends are revealed by a small gift under the tree from them. Surprise, and joy all around!

Decorate your Windows

Paint your front window with poster paint. Free form designs look very festive when light shines through. You select the appropriate window(s) and how much window to paint.
