

Grace Presbyterian Church Children's Ministry Team Meeting

16Nov06: 6:30-8:30pm

Attendees: Pat Underhill, Randi Bechtold, Jeff Greene, Carla Collins, Dave Wiebking, Chris Deboer

Next Meeting: 18January07

- Opened in Prayer
- Issues
 - Space/class size
 - We have a large number of young children who will soon need to be cared for. This is a good problem, but one that needs to be addressed actively.
 - Parenting resources
 - Some have expressed interest in classes on parenting for pre-schoolers.
 - Snacks impeding lunch appetites
 - How do we introduce our theology into the things that we do with our kids?
 - Be "intentional" with how we do/say things
 - Communication
 - Two-sided
 - How do we make people understand and recognize the things that apply to them. Its easy to tune out the information that is put forth by the various groups of the church.
 - Need to lead by example as a Children's Ministry team
 - Need to be focus on NOT being defensive when issues arise. Use it as an opportunity to understand the problem and help to develop solutions.
 - Lack of cohesiveness of the Sunday school and children's church leaders.
 - Lack of a bond, sense of mission/ common goal
- Solutions
 - Reminding people that we are all part of a bigger thing and that we are connected
 - Reminders on "snack administration" and proper portion size. Snack are only snacks. Not meals or to be used for comforting.
 - Communication
 - A section of Tim's newsletter for Children
 - Insert in the bulletin once a month
 - Website
 - Church-wide parent meeting to keep parents up to date with the children's ministry activities, issues, etc.
 - After church luncheon?
 - Collaborate with YPAT team
 - Facilitate the handoff for Sunday school and children's church volunteers by getting together and sharing information. Discuss how to relate as a team and work as a team
 - Break into smaller groups for discussion
 - **Action:** Construct an outline for facilitating these discussions: CMT
 - 2 times annually for a larger group discussion (CMT and class leaders): [Aug/Jan](#)
 - Need to determine which weekend for Jan07: [20th](#), [27th](#), [03Feb?](#)
 - 2 time annually for smaller group discussions (Class leaders): [Oct/Mar](#)

- 1 time annually for Parent meeting: [April](#)
- Chris Deboer to take over 4yr old children's church
 - This will bring us back to full staffing for children's church
 - Need to communicate this change immediately.
- Children's Church
 - Follow school calendar
 - Classes will have a October cutoff date, not aged based for 4yrs old and younger.
 - Need to communicate this at the January meeting
 - Exceptions can be made with CMT approval. Class leaders should be informed to bring these situations directly to a CMT member for quick resolution.
 - The class leaders are not expected to deal with this situation (but can if they want to)
- Closed in Prayer
- Agenda items for next meeting
 - Church wide parent meeting : Hash out details during 18January CMT mtg.