

# Parent Connection

First United Methodist Church's

School for Little People

February 2012

*Father's Night 2012!! A wonderful time was had by all!!*

*Check our facebook page for more pictures*





🍎 **Teacher Feature Sue Moran** 🍎

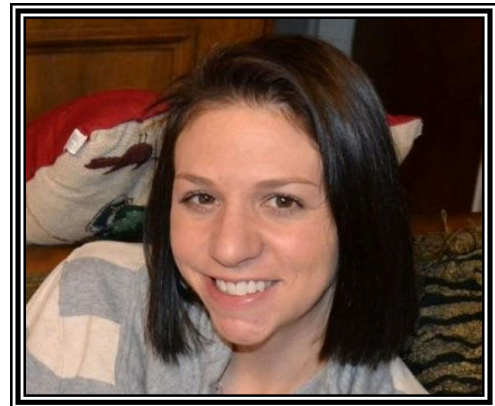
This is Sue's 30th year to teach at School for Little People and we feel blessed to have her. She is teaching a five day two year old class. She attended Highlands New Mexico University. She has earned her Child Development Associates Certification while here at SLP.

She and her husband, Pat, have been married 42 years. Pat is a psychologist. They have 3 children, Carmen, the oldest, is married and working in Plano. A graduate of MSU, she and her husband enjoy traveling and have a 7 yr. old son. Mauri is a mother and graduate of MSU. She and her husband Sam, have 4 boys, Tanner 15, Spencer is 12, and the twins, Jake and Patrick, 10. Ryan, the youngest of Sue's children, and his wife live in North Richland Hills. They are the proud parents of Sue's 6<sup>th</sup> grandson. All three of Sue's children and the 4 grandbabies who live in Wichita Falls are School for Little People graduates!

Sue says one of the greatest joys of her years here at SLP has been having a part, however small, in so many children's lives. Watching children and parents grow through new experiences is a special gift, and now to watch her grandchildren graduate from SLP and move successfully into public school is most rewarding. Sue enjoys the special relationships that have grown between herself and her professional friends at School for Little People. She says she is truly blessed to be part of the SLP family.

Sue's favorite thing to do is spend time with her family. She also enjoys food, especially the unhealthy kind!

Sue loves rainbows and the color blue!!



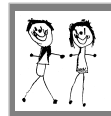
🍎 **Teacher Feature, Bethany Savage** 🍎

This is Mrs. Savage's 2<sup>nd</sup> year at SLP. She is working as an aide in Mrs. Moran's 2 year old class and helping with 4's Extended Care as well.

Mrs. Savage has her teaching certification in Early Childhood through fourth grade. With four years of classroom experience (2 years in 1<sup>st</sup> grade and 2 years in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade), she is really looking forward to working with preschool age children.

She is married to David and they will celebrate their 6<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this year. They have one son, Jake who is 3, and a beautiful little girl, Lexi, 9 months. Their children are the joy of their lives. Jake is in one of our twos classrooms.

One of Bethany's favorite memories is to see the joy on the children's faces when they have those, "I get it!" moments.



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**School for Little People Plate Spectacular!!!**  
***We will be drawing plates in our classrooms all month.***

*Take home kits will be coming home to you at the beginning of the month. Please be sure you return them as quickly as you can. Other families will be waiting.*

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# February Calendar

**Feb. is plate making month be sure your plate orders have been turned in!!!**

- Feb. 1 Newsletters Out  
Yoga for 4's
- Feb. 2 SLP Board Meeting at 4:00pm
- Feb. 3 No Music

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- Feb. 6 Music
- Feb. 7 **Trip to the Post Office to mail Valentines**  
Chapel
- Feb. 8 **Trip to the Post Office to mail Valentines**  
Chapel
- Feb. 9 Music
- Feb. 10 Fire Drill  
**Scholastic Book Orders Due**

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- Feb. 13 Music  
**Valentine Celebration** for All M-W-F Classes  
Parents please send Valentines with your child's name only, especially for 2's and 3's.
- Feb. 14 **Valentines Celebrations** for All T-TH and 5-day classes  
Parents please send Valentines with your child's name only, especially for 2's and 3's.
- Feb. 15 Yoga for 4's  
Staff meeting 12:30
- Feb. 16 Music
- Feb. 17

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- Feb. 20 Music
- Feb. 21 **Spring Break Reservations Out**  
Chapel  
Safety Drill
- Feb. 22 **Spring Break Reservations Out**  
Chapel  
**Park Work Day**
- Feb. 23 Music
- Feb. 24

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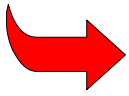
- Feb. 27 No Music

- Feb. 28
- Feb. 29 **Parent Teacher Conferences**  
Mrs. Maxwell's M-W-F class, Mrs. Moran, Mrs. Grace  
Yoga for 4's  
**Last Day to return plate art. All take home plate kits due. Please turn in to your teacher.**
- March 1 **Parent Teacher Conferences**  
Mrs. Maxwell's T-TH class, Mrs. Rumpfelt's T-TH class,  
Ms. Erica  
No Music
- March 2 **Parent Teacher Conferences**  
Mrs. Rumpfelt's M-W-F class, Mrs. Connel, Mrs. Kajs  
**Spring Break Reservations Due**



## February Snacks

<b>Mornings</b>	<b>Afternoons</b>
Feb. 1 Bananas	Yogurt
Feb. 2 Graham Crackers	Pudding
Feb. 3 Pop Corn	Ice Cream Cups
Feb. 6 Cheese sticks and Crackers	Pretzels
Feb. 7 Applesauce	Goldfish
Feb. 8 Pudding	Vanilla Wafers
Feb. 9 Animal Crackers	Cheese Crackers
Feb. 10 Pop Corn	Ice Cream
Feb. 13 M-W-F <b>Valentines</b> Cookies Graham Crackers	Fruit Snacks
Feb. 14 <b>Valentines</b> Cookies	Chex Mix
Feb. 15 Yogurt	Pretzels
Feb. 16 Goldfish	Raisins
Feb. 17 Pop Corn	Ice Cream
Feb. 20 Fruit Snacks	Graham Crackers
Feb. 21 Pretzels	Apple Sauce
Feb. 22 Cheese Crackers	Animal Cookies
Feb. 23 Cereal Mix	Goldfish
Feb. 24 Pop Corn	Ice Cream
Feb. 27 Pudding	Fruit Snacks
Feb. 28 Chex Mix	Pudding
Feb. 29 Goldfish	Bananas
Mar. 1 Yogurt	Cheese sticks & Crackers
Mar. 2 Popcorn	Ice Cream



# **TAX STATEMENTS**

## **YOU SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED YOUR 2011 TAX INFORMATION.**

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Came across this information as we were preparing your 2011 tax information and wanted to pass it along to you...

Ten Things to Know About the Child and Dependent Care Credit

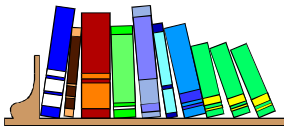
IRS Tax Tip 2011-46, March 7, 2011

If you paid someone to care for your child, spouse, or dependent last year, you may be able to claim the Child and Dependent Care Credit on your federal income tax return. Below are 10 things the IRS wants you to know about claiming a credit for child and dependent care expenses.

1. The care must have been provided for one or more qualifying persons. A qualifying person is your dependent child age 12 or younger when the care was provided. Additionally, your spouse and certain other individuals who are physically or mentally incapable of self-care may also be qualifying persons. You must identify each qualifying person on your tax return.
2. The care must have been provided so you - and your spouse if you are married filing jointly - could work or look for work.
3. You - and your spouse if you file jointly - must have earned income from wages, salaries, tips, other taxable employee compensation or net earnings from self-employment. One spouse may be considered as having earned income if they were a full-time student or were physically or mentally unable to care for themselves.

4. The payments for care cannot be paid to your spouse, to the parent of your qualifying person, to someone you can claim as your dependent on your return, or to your child who will not be age 19 or older by the end of the year even if he or she is not your dependent. You must identify the care provider(s) on your tax return.
5. Your filing status must be single, married filing jointly, head of household or qualifying widow(er) with a dependent child.
6. The qualifying person must have lived with you for more than half of 2011. There are exceptions for the birth or death of a qualifying person, or a child of divorced or separated parents. See Publication 503, Child and Dependent Care Expenses.
7. The credit can be up to 35 percent of your qualifying expenses, depending upon your adjusted gross income.
8. For 2011, you may use up to \$3,000 of expenses paid in a year for one qualifying individual or \$6,000 for two or more qualifying individuals to figure the credit.
9. The qualifying expenses must be reduced by the amount of any dependent care benefits provided by your employer that you deduct or exclude from your income.
10. If you pay someone to come to your home and care for your dependent or spouse, you may be a household employer and may have to withhold and pay social security and Medicare tax and pay federal unemployment tax. See Publication 926, Household Employer's Tax Guide.

For more information on the Child and Dependent Care Credit, see Publication 503, Child and Dependent Care Expenses. You may download these free publications from <http://www.irs.gov> or order them by calling 800-TAX-FORM (800-829-3676).



## Book Club Orders!

If you are ordering from Scholastic book clubs, the orders are due by **Fri. Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>**. Be sure to make checks payable to Scholastic.



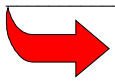
## Happy Valentines Day!

*Look for a beautiful, hand-made valentine to arrive in the mail from your child!!*



## Father's Night

Father's Night was wonderful for all involved! Thanks for coming to share this special time with your child.



## Remember!!!

## Tuition is due by Feb. 1st and late February 10th!

**Early Birds and Extended Care charges are due each Monday. Late charges are applied if payment not received by Wednesday.**



## 2012-2013 Enrollment

School for Little People will be enrolling for the 2012-2013 school year and our Summer 2012 the week of March 26-March 30th.

SLP families and FUMCWF members will have first choice of classes, March 26-28. We will open to the public March 29 and March 30. Paperwork will be available in the office and online beginning March 5th.

If you know of a family not already attending SLP, who would like registration information let the office know, and we will add them to our mailing list!



## *Kid's Say the Funniest Things!!*

*With Father's Night this Month each class spent time sharing things about their Daddies, here are some of our favorites:*

**My daddy likes to watch the news, He doesn't watch cartoons because he is way too old!**

My daddy works. He does stuff for building and if it's too heavy, he breaks it!

**Daddy has brown hair, and he is bald some!**

Daddy's not "5", he's one year old!

**My Daddy's favorite restaurant is at Pop Pops.**

Daddy work's at man's work.

**Daddy likes football. He says all kinds of funny words when he watches football on TV.**

Daddy likes to play "fishes" with Mommy!

**Daddy doesn't do anything to make Mommy laugh. He just makes her scream!**

If Daddy were and animal, he would be a pig cause he eats a lot!

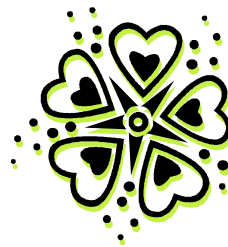
**Daddy works and it is really dirty, and I like to go with him.**

In Mrs. Moran's class, they were discussing what they had done over the weekend and Cohen Baber says, "I went to Chuck Cheese and it was EXCELLENT!"

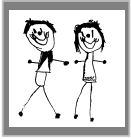
In Ms. Janet's Extended Care 4's class, the boys were building with the snap blocks and playing Star Wars. Ms. Janet asked Copper deMontel what he was doing, and he responded, "I'm making RT Do Toe."

**Does your child say adorable things? Share them with us and we will share with everyone who reads this newsletter.**

**Just leave a note in the green mailbox in the SLP office with a brief retelling of the cute thing your child did or said. We will do the rest!**



## Happy Valentines Day!!!



## Director's Notes:

**How much fun did we have at Father's Night?!! I am already looking forward to Mother's Night, May 3 and 4.**

### Thought you might be interested...

In her article, "Using Early Childhood Brain Research," in the Beginnings Workshop Book, Curriculum: Brain Research, Math, Science, Nina Sazer O'Donnell included a chart listing ten tips for parents and caregivers based on a research review prepared for Rob Reiner's "I Am Your Child Campaign."

Here is a shortened version of those ten tips...

1. Be warm, loving, and responsive.
2. Respond to the child's cues and clues.
3. Talk, sing, and read to children.
4. Establish rituals and routines.
5. Encourage safe exploration and play.
6. Make television watching very selective.
7. Use discipline as an opportunity to teach.
8. Recognize that each child is unique.
9. Choose quality child care and stay involved.
10. Caregivers, both parents and professionals need to take care of themselves.

### Also thought you might be interested in this...

## Online Training for Parents of Infants & Toddlers

Have you ever wondered what makes an infant coo or a toddler tick? Child Care Licensing invites you to a new series of web-based training courses designed with you in mind!

These online training courses are quick, free, and an easy way to learn about your infant or toddler. They cover topics such as:

The benefits of developing healthy eating habits at a young age.

How to reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

The importance of good communication with your child care provider

Tips on how to understand and deal with difficult behavior in your toddler

And, much more!

Classes are 1-2 hours in length, available online, and FREE! Please visit the link below to see the training topics and learn more about infants and toddlers today!

These courses were created and developed by the Texas Agrilife Extension Service (part of the Texas A & M System) in cooperation with Child Care Licensing. They were made possible by funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

<http://infanttoddler.tamu.edu>



## Children and Writing

- *Let your child dress herself. Her fingers and hands will get stronger. She will be able to hold a pencil soon!*
- *Be a "secretary" for your child. Write down a story as he tells it.*
- *Keep a calendar to mark special days & appointments. Include your child in deciding what to write.*
- *Always have crayons or markers available for drawing or scribbling. Babies can start with crayons— watch to make sure crayons don't get eaten!*
- *Never criticize your child's drawing or writing efforts.*
- *Involve your child in daily writing activities. Grocery lists, thank-you notes, and to-do lists are great opportunities for learning.*
- *Write notes to your child often. You might even want to make a family "mailbox".*
- *Have lots and lots of conversations with your child.*



From your friends at Reading Is Fundamental

P.O. Box 684794, Austin, TX 78768 (512) 472-1791



## FUMC Church Happenings!

**SLP children and families are always welcome at any FUMC event!**

Come join us for worship  
8:30 and 10:30 am each Sun.  
Sunday School 9:15 am

Or watch our live telecast at 10:30 a.m. on FOX 18 or  
Time Warner 9 or Home Heartland 17.



### Graded Choir Music and MORE

**New members are always welcome!!!**

*You do not have to be a church member for your child to take advantage of this excellent program in fact we have just added 2 new members from SLP this past week.*

**MORE is a fun half hour of crafts and bible studies for your child.**

For those of you participating in the choir program at FUMC or if you would like to have your child participate, **rehearsals are on Wed. afternoons.**

3:45 - 4:45 Cherub Choir (**4-5 year olds**) [Undercroft 14U]  
Trinity Choir (grades 1-3) [Choir Room]

While these choirs are rehearsing MORE will be held for grades 4-6 4:45 - 5:30 Wesley Choir (grades 4-6) [Choir Room]

While Wesley Choir is rehearsing MORE will be held for age 4-grade 3.



Save the date for the Renew & Remix Dance Party Extravaganza for All Ages on **Friday, February 10, 2012 at 7:00pm! Reservations Required!**

The night will begin with a *short* service re-affirming wedding vows. That will be followed by a dance party "reception" featuring dancing to music of the 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s, and 00s! There will even be wedding cake and hors d'oeuvres.

**Kids:** Bring your parents & grandparents!

**Parents:** Bring your parents & kids!

**Grandparents:** Bring your kids and grand-kids!

For more information, please visit the website, [www.fumcwf.org/special\\_events](http://www.fumcwf.org/special_events).



Chili - Stew - Dessert  
**FESTIVAL**  
February 26, 2012  
11:30am

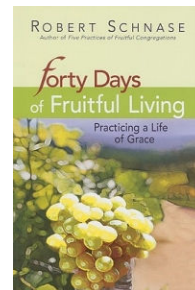
**We may not be in the Garden of Eden, but we are planning a Garden of Eatin' Chili / Stew / Dessert Cook-Off!**

Plan now to enter your recipes and to be present to vote for this wonderful event that supports our four primary mission focus:

- [PowerPaks 4 Kids](#) – 40%
- [Texas Ramp Project](#) – 25%
- [Imagine No Malaria](#) – 25%
- [Faith Mission](#) – 10%

Even if you do not enter a recipe, we hope you'll bring your appetite and money to share (any cash donation or check accepted)!

- You'll vote for your favorite chilis, stews, and desserts by placing money in a box by your favs.
- You can vote for as many as you want and give as much as you want when you vote!
- **Cost to eat:**  
\$10 / Adult  
\$5 / Child  
\$25 MAX / Family



Life and the life of faith are a journey for which we need nourishment – physical, emotional, and spiritual. Join Rev. Troy Sims on **Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2012 at 12:00noon or 6:30pm** in Perkins Chapel to begin considering finding this food.

Then, on **February 29, 2012 at 12:00-1:00pm**, we'll continue these thoughts as we begin a **weekly Lenten study** (skipping March 14 for Spring Break) using Robert Schnase's book, [Forty Days of Fruitful Living: Practicing a Life of Grace](#). The study will go through April 4, 2012.

## *Perkins Lectures are coming up...*

Make plans now to attend  
March, 4th and 5<sup>th</sup>



Our **2012 Perkins Lecturer will be Dr. Luke Timothy Johnson**, the Robert W. Woodruff Professor of New Testament and Christian Origins at Emory University's [Candler School of Theology](#) in Atlanta, Georgia. Professor Johnson earned a Ph.D. in New Testament

Studies from Yale University, as well as an M.A. in Religious Studies from Indiana University, an M.Div. in Theology from Saint Meinrad School of Theology, and a B.A. in Philosophy from Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans. Professor Johnson's research concerns the literary, moral, and religious dimensions of the New Testament, including the Jewish and Greco-Roman contexts of early Christianity (particularly moral discourse), Luke-Acts, the Pastoral Letters, and the Letter of James.

A former Benedictine monk, Professor Johnson has taught at Yale Divinity School and Indiana University, where he received the President's Award for Distinguished Teaching, was elected a member of the Faculty Colloquium in Teaching, and won the Brown Derby Teaching Award and the Student Choice Award for teaching. At Emory University, he has twice received the On Eagle's Wings Excellence in Teaching Award. In 2007 he received the Candler School of Theology Outstanding Service Award.

Professor Johnson is the author of more than 25 books, [The Real Jesus: The Misguided Quest for the Historical Jesus and the Truth of the Traditional Gospels](#);

He has also published several hundred scholarly articles and reviews. Here is the tentative schedule for the 2012 Perkins Lectures, *Practical Christianity: Lessons from the Letter of James*:

- Sunday, March 4, 2012 at 10:30am  
"Friendship with the World and Friendship with God: The Need to Choose"

- Sunday, March 4, 2012 at 7:00pm  
"The Power of Speech for Good and Evil"
- Monday, March 5, 2012 at 11:30am  
"Faith and the Faithful Use of Possessions"
- Monday, March 5, 2012 at 7:00pm  
"Christian Community: Competition or Cooperation?"

More information will be provided when it becomes available!