

# Parent Connection

## First United Methodist Church's School for Little People May 2011

### *A Child's Prayer*

Written by the [School for Little People](#) pre-school classes during their chapel time with Rev. Pellikan.

Dear God,

We praise you for love - we love you so much. We praise you for food, people, toys, and play clothes, the Bible, Mommy, Daddy, brothers, and our families. We praise you for everything! We praise you for our teachers, pets, friends, strong rocks, and prayer. We praise you for houses, grass, the sun, and climbing a tree. We praise you for Jesus, sheep, puppies, horses, cows, new shoes, teacher's aides, and babies. We praise you for painting, books, helping us grow and be good brother and sisters, and a pretty heart. God is good! Amen.



### Director's Notes:

*I can hardly believe our time together this year is about to end. What a gift all of you have given me, allowing me to share, just a little, in the lives of your precious children. I am honored.*

*Few people are as blessed as I, to be able to come to work in a place that is so filled with life. I look forward to each day because I know it will be overflowing with joy, excitement, laughter, and yes, tears sometimes and yes, problems and challenges sometimes too. I rejoice to see the growth and development in every child, sometimes the steps are easy and joyful, sometimes difficult and tearful, but growth of every kind is important, and I feel privileged to be a part of it.*

*Thank you, thank you, from the bottom of my heart for such a wonderful school year!!*

*At the Anniversary Celebration, I was thinking of those SLP families who were participating in their last School for Little People event; those of you who's youngest child will be graduating this year. Thank you for your support of this program over the years, and most especially for entrusting us with the care and tutelage of your children. It has been a joy. You will be missed!*

*I must also say many thanks to Rose Hall who is retiring this year after 15 years at SLP. It has been a privileged to have her on our staff. She is caring teacher and a wonderful friend. We will all miss her next year but we have already added her to our sub list so I expect we will still see her often in our hallways!!*

*I want to thank the members of our School for Little People Parent Board. This hard working group has organized events and fundraisers, worked continually to raise the funds we need to keep our tuition low and our quality high, helped with all business aspects of the school, and served as guides and counselors to myself and our staff this year.*

*Some of our board will be leaving this year; to those people I say a heart felt thanks for a job well done!*

*To those board members returning and to our new board members I say thank you for your hard work this year and I look forward to working with you next year!*

*To all of you have a wonderful summer!!*

*For those of you returning, I am looking forward to next year!!*

# Happy Mother's Day, With Love

by Anna Quindlen, Newsweek Columnist and Author

All my babies are gone now. I say this not in sorrow but in disbelief.

I take great satisfaction in what I have today: three almost-adults, two taller than I am, one closing in fast. Three people who read the same books I do and have learned not to be afraid of disagreeing with me in their opinion of them, who sometimes tell vulgar jokes that make me laugh until I choke and cry, who need razor blades and shower gel and privacy, who want to keep their doors closed more than I like. Who, miraculously, go to the bathroom, zip up their jackets and move food from plate to mouth all by themselves. Like the trick soap I bought for the bathroom with a rubber ducky at its center, the baby is buried deep within each, barely discernible except through the unreliable haze of the past.

Everything in all the books I once poured over is finished for me now. Penelope Leach., T. Berry Brazelton, Dr. Spock, the ones on sibling rivalry, and sleeping through the night, and early-childhood education, all grown obsolete. Along with Goodnight Moon and Where the Wild Things Are, they are battered, spotted, well used. But I suspect that if you flipped the pages dust would rise like memories. What those books taught me, finally, and what the women on the playground taught me, and the well-meaning relations --what they taught me, was that they couldn't really teach me very much at all.

Raising children is presented at first as a true-false test, then becomes multiple choice, until finally, far along, you realize that it is an endless essay. No one knows anything.

One child responds well to positive reinforcement, another can be managed only with a stern voice and a timeout.

One child is toilet trained at 3, his sibling at 2.

When my first child was born, parents were told to put baby to bed on his belly so that he would not choke on his own spit-up. By the time my last arrived, babies were put down on their backs because of research on sudden infant death syndrome.

To a new parent this ever-shifting certainty is terrifying, and then soothing. Eventually you must learn to trust yourself. Eventually the research will follow. I remember 15 years ago poring over one of Dr. Brazelton's wonderful books on child development, in which he describes three different sorts of infants: average, quiet, and active. I was looking for a sub-quiet codicil for an 18-month old who did not walk. Was there something wrong with his fat little legs? Was there something wrong with his tiny little mind? Was he developmentally delayed, physically challenged? Was I insane? Last year he went to China . Next year he goes to college. He can talk just fine. He can walk, too.

Every part of raising children is humbling, too. Believe me, mistakes were made. They have all been enshrined in the "Remember-When-Mom-Did " Hall of Fame. The outbursts, the temper tantrums, the bad language, mine, not theirs, the times the baby fell off the bed, the times I arrived late for preschool pickup, the nightmare sleepover, the horrible summer camp. The day when the youngest came barreling out of the classroom with a 98 on her geography test, and I responded, "What did you get wrong?" (She insisted I include that.) The time I ordered food at the McDonald's drive-through speaker and then drove away without picking it up from the window. (They all insisted I include that.) I did not allow them to watch the Simpsons for the first two seasons. What was I thinking?

But the biggest mistake I made is the one that most of us make while doing this. I did not live in the moment enough. This is particularly clear now that the moment is gone, captured only in photographs. There is one picture of the three of them, sitting in the grass on a quilt in the shadow of the swing set on a summer day, ages 6, 4 and 1. And I wish I could remember what we ate, and what we talked about, and how they sounded, and how they looked when they slept that night.

I wish I had not been in such a hurry to get on to the next thing: dinner, bath, book, bed. I wish I had treasured the doing a little more and the getting it done a little less.

Even today I'm not sure what worked and what didn't, what was me and what was simply life. When they were very small, I suppose I thought someday they would become who they were because of what I'd done. Now I suspect they simply grew into their true selves because they demanded in a thousand ways that I back off and let them be. The books said to be relaxed and I was often tense, matter-of-fact and I was sometimes over the top.

And look how it all turned out. I wound up with the three people I like best in the world who have done more than anyone to excavate my essential humanity. That's what the books never told me. I was bound and determined to learn from the experts. It just took me a while to figure out who the experts were.

## Happy Mother's Day to all you wonderful Mom's out there from all of us at School for Little People!!

(We hope to see you at SLP's Mother's Night coming up May 5 and 6)



**Remember to place your orders for individual pictures and the classroom composite pictures this week.** The deadline is May 6th. They will be available at the photographer's web site. ([www.pictage.com](http://www.pictage.com))



 **Faye Canafax**

Mrs. Canafax was a teacher at School for Little People for 9 years before becoming its director 10 years ago. She holds a degree in voice and music education with all level state teacher certification. She also holds special state teaching certification for Early Childhood Education. Faye has been working on her masters in administration as time allows.

Faye is married to Bruce Canafax. They will celebrate their 33rd wedding anniversary this May. Bruce teaches guitar at Rider High School. He is also an adjunct faculty member at Midwestern State University. Bruce and Faye have two sons. Joshua, 25, and works in Dallas. Zachary, 22, and lives and works in Kerrville Texas. They are both SLP alums. The Canafax family also includes two dogs, Sampson and Rufus.

Some of Faye's favorite memories are of the wonderful children she has been privileged to teach over the years. She says being even a small part of so many little lives is an awesome responsibility. Therefore she constantly strives to become a better teacher and director. But try though she might, she knows she will never be able to give the children half as much as they have given her.

When not at School for Little People, Faye enjoys sewing, crafts, cooking, gardening, and being with her family. She collects cats (not real ones), loves Italian food, music, theater, and travel.



 **Kim Vaughn**

Kim Vaughn, or as she is affectionately known as "Mrs. Kim" is in her 7<sup>th</sup> year as SLP. Kim started as a volunteer parent at

SLP when her youngest was just 3. The following years she was an aide, substitute and then moved to the office. She is a graduate of Purdue University and holds a bachelor's in Community Health/Health Education.

Kim is married to Girard Vaughn. They will celebrate their 18<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this August. Girard is the Purchasing Manager for Magic Aire, but also referee's basketball and umpires baseball. He loves to run into SLP parents and children at the games.

Kim and Girard have two children, Brandon, 13, and a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at McNeil Jr. High. Kayla, 10, is a 4<sup>th</sup> grader at West Foundation and SLP alumni.

Being in various positions, Kim has many favorite memories. However, she loves to see the children outside of school. "You always get the look like; what are you doing here?" Kim is delighted that there is something new and different everyday. To watch the children learn new concepts or master a skill that was challenging and see the joy on their face is such a pleasure.

Mrs. Kim loves seafood, especially crab legs, and coffee. Her favorite color is yellow. She loves to watch the Boomerang channel because it has the Flintstones, Jetson's, Magilla Gorilla and her other favorite cartoons. She likes SpongeBob and Scooby Doo too.



# Remember!

No Pre-K tuition due in May if you paid in Sept.!! Infant, Toddler, and Extended Care charges will still be due weekly in May.

**All remaining balances must be paid in full by May 18<sup>th</sup>.**

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# Water Days!

Two fun days of water play in the park have been planned for May 10th and 11th. Send your child to school in their swimsuit. Each child **must wear closed toe shoes or swim shoes** so be sure what they have on can get wet! **No flip flops please**, things can get pretty slick and we don't want anyone to fall.

**Sunscreen and insect repellent are required and must be applied before the child arrives at school.** Don't forget to send a **towel!** Those staying for **aftercare will need a change of clothes.**

**Please, please, label everything with your child's name.**

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# Park Days

Two fun days of Park play days have been planned for May 16th and May 17th. **For Park Days** children should come to school in old play clothes. They **must wear closed toe shoes. No flip flops or sandals.**

**Sunscreen and insect repellent are required and must be applied before the child arrives at school.** This will be a messy, wet day.

**They will need a change of clothes if they are staying for extended care.** Please put your child's name on everything! We will have popsicles for everyone in the park sometime during the morning.



# Notice!!!

**Moving on Celebrations  
May 18 and 19 from 11:00-12:00**

*Please make plans now for a little time off to share this special time with your child. Bring a blanket, sack lunch, play in the park, and enjoy. Don't forget your cameras! Your child is growing up before your eyes!!*

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A big **Thank You** to all of you who attended our recent **Anniversary Celebration.** We hope it was an enjoyable evening for you and your family!

*We especially want to thank those of you who bid (and purchased) during the Flowerpot Auction and to the following businesses and friends for their generous donations and sponsorship of this Anniversary Celebration!!*

- A-1 Rental
- Berend Brothers
- Home Depot
- Little Caesars Pizza
- Lowe's
- Sam's Club
- Smith Gardentown Farms
- Sutherlands

Thanks again for your generosity!

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

"Kids Say the Funniest Things" is a regular feature in our SLP Newsletter. The stories come from Teachers and parents, for instance;

In Mrs. Erica's class, Reid was singing Baa Baa Black Sheep and his version went like this:  
Baa Baa Black Sheep  
have you any more?  
Yes sir, Yes Sir  
Big backs four.  
One 4 my master,  
One for my king,  
One for the little boy who likes 'cross the land. Baa  
Baa Black sheep  
have you any more,  
yes, sir, yes, sir, big backs four.

In Mrs. Grace's class, we had excerpts of some thing the children said throughout the day:

Kline to Mrs. Grace, "You do a lot of stuff we like!"  
Leif to Sake, "Your flashlight is really cool and so are your glasses!"

Ella when asked what a baby sheep is called. Ella said, "A sheeplet."

Skylar to friends, "That is a beautiful choice for egg dyeing."

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

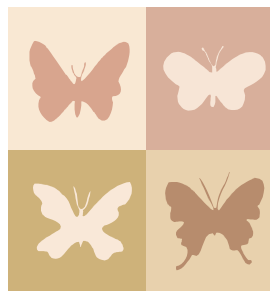
Just leave a note in the green mailbox in the SLP office with a brief retelling of the cute thing your child did or said. We will do the rest!

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***Summer Care*** is full. If you have a change in schedule, notify the office ASAP. Remember, our summer program and summer billing begins on May 23rd.

***Summer T-TH Camp starts June 7<sup>th</sup>. There are a few open spots for 3's and 4's in this portion of our summer program.***

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## **May Snack List**

Cereal with milk, Pop Tarts, and Cereal Bars are always available for our Early Birds before 8:00am. You may also choose to allow your child to bring breakfast from home.

All morning and afternoon snacks are served with water.

### **Morning**

### **Afternoon**

May 2 Nilla Wafers

Cheese Crackers

May 3 Pudding

Pretzels

May 4 Goldfish

Fruit snacks

May 5 Graham Crackers

Poptarts

May 6 Popcorn

Ice Cream Cups

May 9 Chex Mix

Applesauce

May 10 Cereal Bars

Graham Crackers

May 11 Yogurt

Goldfish

May 12 Muffins

Animal Crackers

May 13 Popcorn

Ice Cream

Sandwiches

May 16 Granola Bars

Muffins

May 17 Cereal bars

Fruit snacks

May 18 Chex mix

Pudding

May 19 Popcorn

Ice Cream

**May 20 SLP closed, Staff Work Day**

**May 23 Summer Program Begins!!!!**

Poptarts

Fruit Snacks

May 24 Muffins

Goldfish

May 25 Crackers and string cheese Yogurt

May 26 Fruit snacks

Cereal bars

May 27 Popcorn

Ice cream

**May 31 SLP closed Memorial Day**

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## May Calendar

- May 2 Newsletters out for 5day and MWF classes  
 May 3 Safety Drill, 10:00am  
 Newsletters out for T-TH classes  
**SLP Board Meeting 4:00pm**
- May 4 Yoga for 4's
- May 5 **Mother's Night!**  
**6:00** Mrs. Rumpfelt T-TH, Mrs. Moran's class and Mrs. Maxwell T-TH  
**7:00** Mrs. Hall's class and Mrs. Allen's class
- May 6 **Mother's Night!**  
**6:00** Mrs. Rumpfelt M-W-F class and Mrs. Maxwell M-W-F class  
**7:00** Mrs. Kajs' class, Mrs. Connel's class, Ms. Erica's class and Mrs. Grace's class
- May 8 **Happy Mother's Day**
- May 9 Shopping Day  
 Musik Garten for Explorer's and Infant II
- May 10 **Water Day** (Mrs. Rumpfelt T-TH class, Mrs. Maxwell's T-TH class, Mrs. Moran's, Mrs. Connel, Mrs. Allen & Mrs. Hall's classes)
- May 11 **Water Day** (Mrs. Rumpfelt's MWFclass, Mrs. Maxwell's MWF class, Mrs. Kajs' MWF class, Ms. Erica's class & Mrs. Grace's class)

**Remember for Water Days** the children should come in their swimsuit with sunscreen applied, wear water shoes or old sneakers that Mom doesn't mind having get wet. **No flip-flops or sandals please.** They will also need a towel. If your child is staying for extended care be sure to include a change of clothes. **Please put your child's name on everything!!** We will have popsicles for everyone in the park sometime during the morning.

May 12

May 13

May 16 **Park Day** (Mrs. Rumpfelt's MWF class, Mrs. Moran's class, Mrs. Maxwell's MWF class, Mrs. Kajs' class, Ms. Erica's class & Mrs. Grace's class )

May 17 **Park Day** (Mrs. Maxwell's TTH class, Mrs. Rumpfelt's TTH class, Mrs. Hall's class, Mrs. Allen & Mrs. Connel's class)

**Remember for Park Days** children should come in old play clothes with sun screen already applied. **This will be a messy, wet day.** They will need a change of clothes if they are staying for extended care.

**Please put your child's name on everything!** We will have popsicles for everyone in the park sometime during the morning.

**May 18 Moving On Celebration** (Mrs. Rumpfelt's MWF class, Mrs. Maxwell's MWF class, Mrs. Kajs' class, Mrs. Moran's class, and Mrs. Grace's class.)

**May 19 Moving On Celebration** ( Mrs. Rumpfelt's T-TH class, Mrs. Maxwell's T-TH class, Ms. Erica's class, Mrs. Connel's class, Mrs. Allen's class & Mrs. Hall's class)

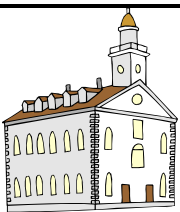
**Remember for the Moving On Celebration** each family brings a picnic lunch for their family to share in the park. Also bring lawn chairs or a blanket for your picnic. The children will receive certificates.

**May 20 Staff Work Day!!** SLP will be closed so the staff can reorganize for summer.

**May 23 Summer Program Begins!!!**

**May 31 Memorial Day!! SLP will be closed.**





## FUMC Church Happenings!

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

### *Join us for Sunday Worship!*

*SLP families are always welcome at First United Methodist Church!!*

*Early Service* at 8:30 in Perkins Chapel

*Sunday School* at 9:15 for ages 3 and up (on the second floor of the Sunday School wing where SLP classes are held.)

*Main Service at 10:30* in the sanctuary

Children are always welcome in our services.

However a nursery and children's church are options for infant through 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. Contact our Sunday School minister, Lydia Pellikan, (also known by SLP children as the Chapel Lady or Ms. Lydia) at [lpellikan@fumcwf.org](mailto:lpellikan@fumcwf.org) or 940-766-4231 for information or to answer any questions you may have.

## **The Children's Music Ministry of FUMC would like to invite you to**

### *"A Technicolor Promise"*

A Children's Musical presented by our FUMC children's choir program.

Dinner and the show are

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

At 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall,  
First United Methodist Church

Tickets (\$7.50 adults, \$3.00 children)

On Sale Now

in the church office!

(For nursery reservations, please call the church at 766-4231)



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

All children 4 years old by Sept. 1, 2010 through entering 6th graders welcome!

Dates: July 18-22

Time: 9:00-12:00

Advance registration available now on the FUMC web site, [www.fumcwf.org/children](http://www.fumcwf.org/children)

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Check the FUMC website  
[www.fumcwf.org/children](http://www.fumcwf.org/children)  
for more summer fun for kids

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Join us Sun. May 1 for:



Coffee Bar hosted by the [Aldersgate Sunday School Class](#) on the Atrium Walkway overlooking the Atrium (any children must be supervised by an adult)

Concert by the [Asbury Ringers](#), directed by Kiyoo Watanabe

Worship Service led by Troy Sims with music led by Bonafide

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