
PARENT CONNECTION

FALL ISSUE

2008

Children's Offering Envelopes

Why do we give offering envelopes to children?

The offering boxes children receive each year from the church school are a family opportunity to teach children about helping others and Christian Stewardship through weekly giving using their offering boxes. We encourage families to talk about giving to the church and to the world through the church.

We hope you will decide together as a family the portion of children's weekly money that will be given to the work of the church.

Each week in Chapel or in Church School Class children are invited to give to God through their offering. We bless the money that is given and talk about how it helps others and the church.

A formula for giving my husband and I use with our family is a plan for what we will spend, what we will save and what we will give (tith) to help others. Our children earned the money they received from chores, allowance and gifts. This way it was truly their money to give to God's work.

Many blessings as you serve God as a family.

Click on BIG for adults and you will find some parenting tips about faith development. Click on BIG for kids and you and your children will find some fun activities.

LIVE B.I.G. AT HOME

Parents are invited to visit the church school class to learn about the new curriculum and the wonderful at home bookmark that is coming home with the children. Debbie Gravell will share how it all works.

Schedule for Oct. 12

1st Grade – 10:15 am. K/1st Grade – 12:00

Schedule for Oct. 19

Preschool 3 & 4 – 10:15 a.m. PS 3 & 4 – 12:00

Schedule for Oct. 26

Kindergarten – 10:15

MISSION PROJECTS

UNICEF

Trick or treat for UNICEF has been an important tradition for American children for more than 50 years.

The funds collected help UNICEF provide clean water and sanitation, healthcare, nutrition, education and emergency relief to the world's most vulnerable children. Our church has had a tradition of mission partnership with UNICEF at Halloween. Please decide as a family if you want to participate in this mission opportunity. Please return money to the church



Take time for family prayers this year.

LIVE B.I.G.

Hear, See and Live your Belief in God.

Our New Preschool 3 – 1st Grade Curriculum being used in Church School.

Check out the website:

www.ilivebig.com

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school class or Christian Ed. office by the first week of November.

It is most helpful if you count the money together as a family and then write a check (made out to the 1st Congregational Church with a memo UNICEF) or send it in bills rather than return the box of change. This expedites the counting for our financial people who count the money.

Children will receive their boxes on Sunday, October 26th. If you will be away that Sunday, please see Debbie Gravell the Sunday before for a box.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD:

A Project of Samaritan's Purse

Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoeboxes and the Good News of God's love. This program of Samaritan's Purse provides an opportunity for people of all ages to be involved in a simple, hands-on mission project while focusing on the true meaning of Christmas—Jesus Christ.

Operation Christmas Child is one way you can make a difference in a young person's life. Since 1993, this Samaritan's Purse project has shared the Good News of God's love with hurting children through the simplest of gifts—shoeboxes! Filled with school supplies, toys, and personal items, that are packed by caring people, these boxes help introduce children to Jesus Christ. Local believers follow up with evangelistic programs, and many precious boys and girls later receive Jesus as their Savior.

Again this year our Caring Crafts Group has made small teddy bears to go in each of our boxes. Please leave room in your box for a bear. Remember to either buy a plastic clear shoe box or wrap a regular cardboard shoe box separate from the lid and put an elastic around it. This way we can put the bears into the boxes.

Families will receive a brochure about this exciting project through the church school soon. Shoeboxes are due back on Sunday, November 16. I am currently seeking families who would like to deliver the shoeboxes to Gateway Bible Church in Oakville on that afternoon. Delivering the boxes is a wonderful way to allow your family to do a hands-on project of mission and see what other families and churches are doing as well. We can be a small part of bringing joy and hope to millions of children around the world again this Christmas. Please contact Debbie Gravell at 272-5323 ext. 16 if you are willing to bring the boxes to Oakville.

STEPPING STONES

5TH AND 6TH GRADE YOUTH GROUP

PARENT CONNECTION

This year the group will be led by a team of parent volunteers. Karen Basset, Deb Brown, Kerrie Dunne, Steve Mulholland and Andy Shoop.

This group meets once a month on a Friday evening for fellowship and a mission project. Watch your mailboxes in early October for an initial invitation to the first meeting and a health form to fill out and return.

If you have any questions or wish to volunteer, please contact Debbie Gravell 272-5323 ext. 16