

Fall 2013



magazine

Contents

Welcome

Volunteer Spotlight

PDO Update

Family Devotion

Special Friends

Kids Music

Kids Service
Opportunities

Upcoming Events





Dylan Franklin

Welcome

I don't know how you feel, but as I enter the fall my life goes from the lazy days of summer to nonstop busyness. Don't get me wrong—it's "fun busy" and all things that I love like soccer, football tailgating, back to school, music lessons, ballet... the list can go on and on. This does not even account for the things not in my planner or—dare I say—the holiday season on the horizon.

No matter how many plans I have though, it never fails how the Lord teaches me to slow down and to focus on Him. Keeping my gaze on Him gives me a peace and calmness that nothing else can give. This usually starts with being thankful. Although it seemed backwards to me at first, I've learned that it is impossible to feel gloomy when you are being thankful.

Teaching our children to be thankful is sometimes difficult. We can always remind them to say "thank you" but having this come from a truly thankful heart is what our goal should be. Take time to intentionally work thankfulness into your daily conversations.

There are also activities that can help. Stewardship season is a great time to first be thankful and realize that all we have comes from the Lord. Of course, Thanksgiving and Christmas also lend themselves to a thankful heart even though our society would have us focus on material possessions. There are opportunities to serve and give to others everywhere, and I encourage you to look for them.

I hope that you and your family have time to be together this season and rejoice with a thankful heart!

Dylan Franklin,
Director of Children's Ministry

[*Return to Contents*](#)

THANKSGIVING
Day
W O R S H I P S E R V I C E

Thursday, November 28 at 10:00 am

Volunteer Spotlight

Interview with Roberta Eason, Kids Konnection and Sunday School Volunteer



Roberta Eason

In which areas of the church do you volunteer?

Right now I am teaching 2nd grade Sunday school for the first time (for the last three years I taught 2-year-olds in the nursery). I also serve on the children's committee, volunteer in the gym for Kids Konnection on Wednesday nights, and lead A Mother's Heart Bible study group.

What do you enjoy most about serving in each of these capacities?

As a Sunday school teacher, I love meeting parents of the children in the church. Especially because my daughter is in 2nd grade, I enjoy getting to know her friends and the families with whom she will grow up in the church. Through the children's committee I get to serve the kids from behind the scenes by planning their activities, and on Wednesday nights, I get to spend direct time with them, singing and chasing them and just being silly! In the Bible study, I have the chance to see mothers grow in their love for God in their lives as they raise their kids.

What have you gained most by volunteering?

I treasure the relationships I have made through serving at Second. I take great encouragement from Matthew 6:19-21 which says, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth...but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor dust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

[Return to Contents](#)

WANT TO VOLUNTEER WITH KIDS AT SECOND?

Visit 2pc.org/getinvolved/kids
or contact Dylan Franklin at dylan.franklin@2pc.org.



Parents' Day Out at Second

PDO is off to a great start for the 2013-2014 school year, and we're excited to announce some of the wonderful events coming up in the next few months. As Halloween approaches, the children are looking forward to dressing up in their friendly costumes to go trick-or-treating around the church. I know that I, as well as the 2PC staff, enjoy this fun kick-off to the fall season. We are also greatly anticipating the sleigh ride and petting zoo coming in December.

Did you know?

This past August, PDO made some great changes to the Preschool 4 class. For it, we now offer three options: 3 half days, 8:45-12:45; 2 full days, 8:45-2:45; or 1 full day, 8:45-2:45. When talking to parents, many expressed a desire for consistency for their children, to help make the transition into regular school easier, both socially and academically. We are also so excited about the new computer in Preschool 4, which will help enhance the children's learning experience.

Stop By For a Tour

We are here Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 8:45-2:45. No appointment necessary.

You can also visit 2pc.org/pdo to learn more about our Parent's Day Out program.

[Return to Contents](#)

Family Devotion

The Value of Listening

Jesus said, “out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks” (Matthew 12:34). Parents can use this principle to gain some understanding and insight into a child’s heart. Listening becomes key.

It’s surprising how many times we ask kids why they don’t talk to their parents and hear the answer, “Because they don’t listen to me.” Yes, it’s true some children confuse listening with agreeing. On the other hand, we find some parents really don’t listen to their children, whether they agree or not. They’re irritated by the lack of logic, the different viewpoints, or the naïve opinions of their children.

Listening can feel like torture as a child goes on and on about things that don’t make sense to the parent. It’s in these moments, however, that parents can learn about a child’s heart. Children may be wrong, but they’re usually following some kind of internal logic. Listening allows you to figure out what’s going on and to speak truth at appropriate times.

As you listen to your kids talk, try to discern what may be distracting them from understanding the truth. Don’t feel like you have to point it out on the spot. Take time to listen and make mental notes of errors in their thinking. Look for creative ways to help them understand truth more fully.

An accepting, safe, listening ear, often opens the heart in ways that nothing else can. As you listen to your child, you’ll learn about dreams, goals, and commitments. Time spent listening to your children gives you a greater sense of what’s going on inside, offering you ideas and direction about the heart change that’s needed.

One Family’s Approach to Scripture Memory: A message from Jill Stockburger

“When incorporating memory verses during family worship, we try to keep it fun. We might make a song where each child sings a different part of the verse, or we repeat the verse in different voices. Often, Michael and I are memorizing the verses right along with our children, and it is amazing how their sponge-like minds pick them up so much faster than ours.

In the application, we might ask how they see the verse in the story, or create the link by asking specific questions. Their open hearts often show us something completely new.

In closing, we continue worship throughout our day by writing memory verses on the bathroom mirror in dry-erase markers, praying that we begin to see ourselves through the grace-filled truth of the Word.”

SPECIAL Friends



A Ministry of Second Presbyterian Church

Evening worship service on May 12 was wonderful as it included ministry by our Special Friends community. They passed out bulletins, helped lead worship, and received recognition and prayer for them and their families.



Upcoming Events

4th Annual Slumber Party on November 15

Open to the first 20 children who register. Email ginnarauls@hotmail.com for more information.

JOY Prom

Coming this spring! Stay tuned for more information.



"We love Special Friends because it gives our whole family the opportunity to participate and serve. This is such a great ministry!"

Leigh Anne Elliott

Special Friends Shadowing Program

Our shadowing program began in January and is going strong! A shadow is provided during Sunday School for children who want to remain in mainstream classes. Every Sunday morning, a child is partnered with a volunteer who is specifically trained for his/her needs. The shadow sits with the child through Sunday School and assists with activities or any situations that may arise. Since the start in January, four children from JK to 2nd grade have received shadows for each week. If you are interested in becoming a shadow or having your child partnered with a shadow, contact Ginna Rauls at ginnarauls@hotmail.com.

[Return to Contents](#)

Kids Music

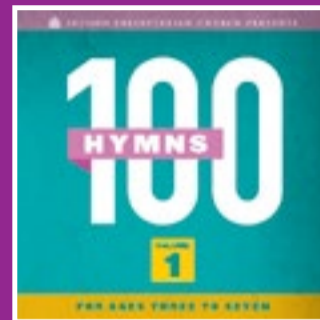


We are off and running (and singing and jumping and clapping....) in Kids Music! Wednesday night choir is for kids ages 3 1/2 through first grade and Sunday afternoon choir/dinner is for kids grades 2-6. It's never too late to join. You can register online at www.2pckids.org or email me at terri.theil@2pc.org. We have some exciting things coming up so please check out the dates on the right!

Terri Theil,

Director of Children's Music
and Second Conservatory

100 Hymns



The Music Department has put together a list of hymns and accompanying CDs that we hope will serve as an encouraging

resource for families to use during their daily devotional. You can email me for your free, four-CD hymn set or stop by the music office. The list of hymns can be found at 2pc.org/get-involved/kids/choir/.

Upcoming Dates

October 20 - Kids grades 2-6 sing for morning worship, both services

October 25 - Grades 2-6 fall lock-in, 5:30-9:45pm

November 20 - Last Wednesday night choir for the semester

November 24 - Grades 2-6 sing with youth/adult choirs, both services

December 1 - Hanging Of The Green Service. Jr. cherub, Sr. cherub, first grade choir and grades 2-6 will sing (6:00 pm.)

*Choirs Resume: January 5 (Grades 2-6),
January 8 (age 3 1/2 - Grade 1)*

[Return to Contents](#)



Service

On the heels of fall, the holiday season brings a flurry of service opportunities perfect for families.

Operation Christmas Child *(all ages)*

Donations in Sunday School lobby (D Building): November 3 & 10

Operation Christmas Child is a ministry of Samaritan's Purse that sends shoeboxes full of requested items to children all over the world. These boxes serve as reminders that there is a God who loves them and who sent His best gift, Jesus Christ, to be their Savior.

Neighborhood Christian Center's Toy Collection *(all ages)*

Donations in Sunday School lobby: December 1 & 8

Neighborhood Christian Center provides a shopping store for families that can't afford to buy their children Christmas gifts. The items for the toy store are provided through donors like us.

Salvation Army - Bell Ringing *(all ages)*

December 7, 14, 21

This is a very easy way to support the Salvation Army during the Christmas season. Shifts are an hour long, and a great way to serve as a family!

Soup Kitchen - First Presbyterian Church *(ages 8 and up)*

December 15

The Soup Kitchen uses volunteers to serve meals to the homeless on Sunday afternoons. You serve food, visit with people, and clean up after feeding approximately 140 men, women, and children.

Other Ways to Serve

Visit 2pc.org/volunteer for up-to-date listing of ways you can serve through Second Presbyterian Church.

[Return to Contents](#)

Important Dates

October 30	MidWeek Family Training
November 8	Off the Wall Olympics - Grades 3-5
November 20	Last MidWeek/ Kids Konnection for semester
November 24	Family Advent Table
December 1	Hanging of the Green with Live Nativity Family Advent Table
December 8	Christmas cards for missionaries
December 11	PDO Music Program
December 18	PJ Story Time
January 8	MidWeek resumes
January 15, 22, 29	Principles of D6 Series
January 24-26	Christian Life Conference

[Return to Contents](#)



at Second

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Special thanks to Catherine Burns for many of the photographs in this issue of KIDS magazine.