

May, 2016

On Mother's Day

On Mother's Day we get up first,
So full of plans we almost burst.

We started breakfast right away
As our surprise for Mother's Day.

We picked some flowers, then hurried back
To make the coffee - rather black.

We wrapped our gifts and wrote a card
And boiled the eggs - a little hard.

And then we sang a serenade,
Which burned the toast, I am afraid.

But Mother said amidst our cheers,
"Oh, what a big surprise, my dears.
"I've not had such a treat in years,"
And she was smiling to her ears!"

-Aileen Fisher

Here we are in May already! I always marvel at how well the children work together by this time of year. I also see it happening in the diverse group of families we have. You come together in September, many of you not knowing anyone. You begin getting acquainted, working on projects or in the classroom together and soon friendships are made! It's magic to us as we watch you grow in confidence as parenting skills increase, new babies are born, you find comfort through rough times, hardships, illness or lost loved ones. Each year you touch our hearts in special ways. Most of us have traveled the path you're on with children, so we understand the joy, excitement, and sometimes frustration, that lies ahead for you. You have been most kind and generous to us this year and even though there is barely six weeks of our preschool year left, please know our doors will always be open to you.

The 5th of May is Cinco De Mayo, but here at FUMPS we will be celebrating all month with pinatas, fiestas, nachos & tortillas. Thursday & Friday, May 5th & 6th, all classrooms will celebrate Mom with a Special Mother's Day Tea. Also on the 5th & 6th we will offer a Parent Financial Planning Meeting at 11:00 till noon. "Teacher Appreciation Week" begins May 23rd - and ends with our "Open House" on Friday, May 27th from 5:30 to 7:30 in the evening... A fun-filled evening of art, fellowship and yummy snacks! Family & friends, grandparents, aunts, uncles & neighbors are all invited to join in the fun. Dress casual cause it could get messy! Mrs. Musarra is again putting together a "Silent Auction" of gift cards, community donations, classroom baskets & note cards created from your children's artwork. These earnings will go towards our Scholarship Program. Don't forget to add your "Appreciation Butterfly" to our growing collection. Preschool will be closed Monday, May 30, to celebrate Memorial Day - Do something fun!

Spring is a time of new birth. We hatched 4 of the 7 eggs that were incubated & some of the hatching even took place during our morning so the children could witness the event! We now are patiently waiting for butterflies & ladybugs to perform their transformation. Egg to baby chick - Caterpillar to chrysalis to butterfly - Larvae to ladybug - magical events in a young child's life. Our gardens are growing beautifully thanks to Tina, Lucky Ladybug Reagan's mom, several teacher's with green thumbs & lots of preschoolers who love to water the plants! Near the end of the month we will be concluding our lessons on health, nutrition & farm by enjoying the spoils of our work when we have a salad bar for snack. Each

preschooler gets to create his/her own vegetarian delight: some consist only of cheese, sunflower seeds & croutons, while others fill their bowls - sometimes twice! - with lots of healthy green stuff!

Happy Mother's Day. Happy May Days,

Lee Ann Salmon

Vacation Bible School is coming . . . Monday – Friday, July 11 – 15

This summer's theme is Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love! Registration is online again this year & information will be forthcoming on how to do that! Ages 3 years & potty trained through 6th grade. Time 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. We need adults & older children to help.

Call the Church office at 683-7831 to be part of the force.

Open House, Friday Night May 27, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

You're invited! Bring family, relatives, friends and neighbors to our Annual Open House. Visit with past, present and future preschool families.

There will be "hands on" activities in each classroom for everyone to try as well as yummy finger foods and punch on the youth patio. There will be NO supervision on the playyard however, so to insure the safety of all children (preschool and older), please stay with yours. Sign-up posters are in each classroom asking families to bring their favorite finger foods, desserts and juices.

See you there!

A Bit of Failure Can Help Children Seek Success . . .

A mother recently asked what she could do to get her 6-year-old son to keep his shoes tied. "I know this must sound silly," she said, "but every time I look at him, his shoelaces are flopping all over the place. It's driving me nuts!"

"Why do you want him to keep his shoelaces tied?" I asked. "Well," she answered, "besides looking bad, he's going to trip over them someday."

"And what's the worse thing that could happen if he tripped?"

She thought for a moment. "He might fall and hurt himself."

"Badly?" I asked.

"Probably not." She answered.

"But perhaps badly enough to think twice the next time he ties his shoes?" I offered.

After a thoughtful pause, she answered, "Maybe."

"Then I suggested you do nothing at all. Let his shoelaces flop. Let him learn the hard way."

The hard way. My dad used that phrase a lot. "There are certain things I can't teach you," he would say. "You're going to have to learn them the way everyone else does - the hard way"

In retrospect, I realize he was, once again, right on the mark.

By and large, today's parent seems to think that letting a child fall flat on his face when the fall could have been intercepted is not only irresponsible, but downright cruel. The prevailing attitude has it that if you, the parent, see the fall coming and do nothing to prevent it, then you are responsible for the results, not the child.

Cedric won't do his homework, so every evening his parents sit down with him and see that it gets done. Whenever Angel has a conflict with another child in the neighborhood, her mother runs interference, calling the other child's parents, making sure things are set right for Angel.

To prevent him from falling in with the "wrong crowd," Rodney's parents censor his choice of friends. Engelbert's parents take him to a different after-school activity every day of the week and Saturday morning to make sure he stays "active."

I call it "Parenting by Helicopter." The upshot of all this obsessive hovering is that many of today's children never learn to accept responsibility for their behavior because other people are doing a fine job of accepting that responsibility for them. But responsibility isn't the only thing at stake.

Learning is accomplished through trial and error. If you prevent the error, you prevent the learning. By making mistakes, one learns what works and what doesn't. Eventually after a period of failure, the task is mastered.

Standing back and letting that failure to occur, in a supportive but non-interfering way, gives a child room to develop initiative, resourcefulness and numerous problem-solving skills. It also lets the child come to grips with the frustration inherent to the learning of any skill - social, academic, emotional, etc.

That's how children learn to persevere, and perseverance, as we all know from experience, is the main ingredient in every success story.

It all boils down to this: If we want our children to succeed, we must let them fail. So let's stop tying their shoelaces.

By John Rosemond
Parent & Child

What's Happening in May

1	May Day
2	Shirley Teten Memorial Scholarship Fundraiser Begins
5	Cinco De Mayo
5 & 6	Mother's Day Teas Parents Financial Planning Meeting
8	Happy Mother's Day
11 & 12	Army Unit #426 Visits
17 & 18	Salad Bar for Snack
19 & 20	"Aquarium of the Pacific" Visits
23 - 27	Teacher Appreciation Week NO LUNCH BUNCH ALL WEEK
27	Open House 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
30	Memorial Day/Preschol Closed
31	Bubbles the Clown Visits

Our Shirley Teten Memorial Scholarship Fund Drive has begun . . .

May 2 begins our yearly Scholarship Drive. Over the past 35 years, First United Methodist Preschool has provided scholarships to children who, for financial reasons, might not be able to enjoy a preschool experience.

This scholarship program is unique among preschools and childcare centers, as very few offer such assistance to their families. Again this year, our Shirley Teten Fund Drive will be combined with Leah Z. Haworth's Pre Kindergarten Memorial as we continue to build an ongoing scholarship account.

We invite you to join us in our goal to provide five children the opportunity to attend our preschool two days per week for the entire 2016-17 school year. To do this, we must raise \$7,750.00 in less than two months! Thanks to the families who have contributed throughout this year, we are off to a great start with \$1,440.00 towards our goal!

If you can help, any amount large or small will be greatly appreciated. Please mark your checks "Scholarship." Thank You.

With Much Appreciation to Many Special Folks . . .

A **BIG THANK YOU** to all our Parent volunteers & drivers this year from Mrs. Skiver, Mrs. Vasquez, Miss Erdman & Mrs. Sherman and to **Olive's mom, Sarah, & Rowan's mom, Tabitha**, for helping Picture Day go sooo... smooth!

Happy Owl **Madelyn & mom Trisha's friend Ricki** for the donation of 87 Leap Frog Early Reader & Junior Reader books, Spanish Reader Systems, Decoders & Infant/Toddler Library. If anyone can use any of these items, we have plenty to share!

Caring Caterpillar **Jade & mom Dianna** for the yummy donuts for the teachers - They came in on just the right day!

Cute Kitten **Mariah & mom Tianna** for the supply of coffee cups, bowls, utensils, take-home containers, straws & aluminum trays - we have plans for everything! To **Carol, Miss Erdman's** mother for the delicious brownies

Busy Bee **Natalie & mom Toni** for the crispy apples & letter cookies for snack - it was a great combination! To **Nixon & Grandmother Nancy** for the huge green board & bulletin board on wheels - the church has their eye on that! To **Jude & mom Karen** for the box of Ritz Crackers for our snack - we love them!

To **Lisa Sheehan, Miss Sheehan's mom**, for the two trays of yummy cinnamon rolls & the bagels. Once a mom, always a mom, no matter how old your children get!

To **Mrs. Jack & husband Mike** for our new doorbell & bright red sign so families can actually get in without knocking on doors!

Just A Reminder . . .

All tuition, Lunch Bunch, Early Morning Drop Off, \$60.00 Registration Fees, as well as your first payment for September must be paid in full no later than May 1st

Please keep saving aluminum cans, plastic bottles, ink cartridges, cell phones, Box Tops for Education through the summer months. Campbell's Soup Labels for Education will no longer be operating so bring in whatever you have & we will make one more mailing! Thanks!

If you need "**Stater Bros. Scrip or Gift cards**" during the summer, myself or Mrs. Karen Wilson will be selling them Sunday mornings on the church patio after worship (11:00 a.m.) or, as Karen will work year-round, call ahead (preschool 683-4500) and she will meet you at the preschool on a week day to pick up an order or it can be left in the church office for you. Thanks!

Happy, Happy May Birthdays

<u>Happy Owls</u>		<u>Cute Kittens</u>	
Marley	5/1	Elijah	5/24
Mrs. Hadley	5/12	Miss Erdman	5/25
Mrs. Laib	5/21		
<u>Sunny Sunflowers</u>		<u>Busy Bees</u>	
Lexi	5/5	Leo	5/15
Miletta	5/10	Mrs. Salmon	5/12
Victor	5/12	Mrs. Wilson	5/18

Hats off to . . . Mrs. Alice Musarra who keeps our playground in shape (with Mrs. Vaughan's & Miss Sheehan's help) and the multitude of outside activities she has designed for your children just constantly spew out of her brain! She is an amazingly creative & tireless woman! She came into this world all blue & quiet in Sherman, Texas on March 13, 1963. Her dad was in the Army so she has driven through every state in the U.S., and lived in practically every state, including Alaska. She has been to Okinawa with her dad to attend a Veteran's Celebration. Her mom and older sister were born in Oklahoma, her brother in Alaska, dad in Canada and she met her husband, John, in Albuquerque, New Mexico where her dad retired! Growing up she moved every 1½ years and attended 3 different high schools. All this moving around had no ill effect on Alice as she received two college scholarships for Dramatic Arts: one to the University of New Mexico & the other to the University of Arizona!

Alice has 4 children: Chris, Michael, Rose & Matthew - The two youngest are FUMPS graduates - 3 dogs, 6 guinea pigs, 3 fish, lots of birds, 2 rabbits and a cat and they all get along! She volunteers in her kids classrooms, the special needs classrooms, is an active PTA member as well as a number of school

activities & special events such as “Silent Auctions” & “Carnival” each year. She is our “Pinterest Queen” & has more ideas for your preschoolers than we have days in the school year! Alice loves tie-dye and colors, beading, reading, and serving at church. She teaches our Sunday School & our Vacation Bible School Science and often does our Children’s Moments during Worship, but Monday – Friday, you will find her on our play yard setting up all kinds of fun & challenging activities for our preschoolers.

Alice believes preschool serves to get children ready for school by teaching them the social skills and readiness skills needed for the classroom. Environments for young children should be bright, sunlit, organized, and stocked with age-appropriate games, books, posters, music, etc. We are most fortunate to have Mrs. Musarra as part of FUMPS staff !

A Garden For Every Child

A garden is a unique and engaging setting for teaching subjects across the curriculum. By channeling children’s energies and sparking their imagination, gardening offers effective and powerful educational experiences. An area of cultivated nature, a garden includes living aspects of the local ecosystem, such as plants and animals, interacting with soil and other environmental conditions while also being a safe and fun place for children to play, explore and learn.

Gardens are a fun and valuable way to incorporate outdoor learning and play into any childhood classroom or home, as well as, reconnect children to nature. Child experts across the country are urging parents and teachers to increase the amount of time young children spend playing, especially playing in natural settings like gardens. Not just about fun, play is an important part of a child’s developmental process. It boosts creativity and fuels an inquisitive attitude - both important skills that motivate children to think, learn, explore, and problem solve throughout their lives. Play in nature provides additional benefits. Natural settings offer dynamic spaces with engaging components (e.g., blooming flowers, fluttering butterflies, singing birds) to inspire and enrich play.

Research has shown that garden programs are excellent teaching tools for introducing science and environmental topics. Gardens can also be used to incorporate lessons from other core subjects like math, English, social studies and art.

GOD BLESS ME

God bless my eyes
They help me see
I like to watch
the bumblebees.

God bless my hands
that clap, clap, clap!
And bless the toes
I tap, tap, tap!

God bless my ears.
I love to hear
The trumpets blowing
loud and clear.

God bless the fingers
on each hand.
I’ll build a castle
in the sand.

God bless my lips.
God bless my nose.
I kiss my mommy and
smell the rose.

God bless my arms
I’ll reach up high.
I’ll hug you tight,
and wave good-bye.

God bless my mouth.
It opens wide
so lots of berries
fit inside.

God bless my feet.
They help me run.
I hop and skip
out in the sun

God bless my teeth.
God bless my tongue.

God bless my voice –
I sing and pray,

I chew my tasty food –
it's fun!

and thank my God
for each new day.

Helen Haidle

Fundraiser Update

Provident Bank's Community Partnership Program	\$ 768.99
"Kids Are First"	\$1,846.98
Ralph's Community Partners Program	\$ 178.94
Electronic Scrip (Amazon, Online Orders, etc)	\$ 24.30
Box Tops For Education	\$ 256.50
Stater Bros. Scrip	\$1,080.00
Fall School Pictures	\$ 375.00
Ink Cartridge, Cell Phone Recycling	\$ 53.00
Bottle/Can Recycling	\$ 63.70
See's Christmas/Easter Candy	\$1,174.28
T-Shirts	\$ 187.36
Roster Ads	\$ 50.00
Hand Print Plaques	<u>\$ 485.00</u>
Total	\$6,544.05