



2012 ANNUAL REPORT

Another year has passed filled with many joyous, educational and wonderful moments in our youth programs. The successes we shared are due to the hard work of our youth group leaders, nursery attendants, Jr. Choir leaders, Christian Education Board and our talented teachers.

The following is a list of youth activities that were completed in 2012.



Beyond the Bunny – Held on March 18, we had approximately 80 people; 31 of them were kids. We provided a dinner and then taught the bigger events of Holy Week. The kids experienced the Palm Sunday story with all their senses, re-enacted the Last Supper complete with feet washing, baked prayer pretzels, made stained glass crosses by melting crayons on wax paper, colored Easter eggs, made jelly bean goodie-bags, and had an Easter Egg hunt.



Summer Activities (June/July/August). An activity class was offered for the kids during church services. Adult volunteers alternated working with the class. Thank you to all of our volunteers for keeping the kids interested for the summer months (average attendance 6).



VBS The theme was Sonrise National Park. Approximately 55 kids attended. We had 4 youth helpers and 11 adults (teachers, guides, cooks, decorators and helpers). Following the program on the last night, treats were provided for the families of those who attended. We raised \$166 and sent \$150 to Church World Service for bee hives.

RALLY DAY

102 people attended the official beginning of the church school year. Magic Bob and chalk artist Suzie entertained us with magic and creating art. Our church was decorated with "G.U.M. God Use Me."



Our 1st through 5th grade classes participated in Faith Journey, a rotation program. Classes rotate to a different workshop for four weeks to learn one Bible story in different ways. This repetition helps with memory retention and provides opportunities for in-depth exploration. Our teachers prepare only one lesson for two weeks. Our three-year-old and preschool class was taught by Annel Olthof who creates her own rotation curriculum. Our Jr. and Sr. High classes used material selected by the teacher. Thank you to Colleen Clark, Betsy Peterson, Annel Olthof, Carole Dusterwinkle, Kim Chappell, and Taren Keith.



Prior to attending classes, our preschool through 5th grade classes sing songs, hear a lesson, take an offering, sing the doxology and say the Lord's Prayer.

ACOLYTES



We had 4 students participate in the worship service by lighting and extinguishing the altar candles.



We purchased a program called "Caroling, Caroling." Adult actors performed short monologs dramatizing familiar Christmas carols by telling stories that parallel the meanings of the songs. Our monologs were of people who actually or supposedly witnessed the circumstances surround Christ's birth. Thank you to Leah Shaw, Scott Peterson, Kim Chappell, Gina Pruiim and Joyce Busman. Our preschool through 5th grade classes participated by bring the crèche figurines to the stable at the appropriate time.



Our Christmas program for our three-yr.-old through 12th grade classes was called "Broadcasting Christmas." The program "location" was an old-fashioned radio station. The "actors" were our middle and high school students; our sound technicians were our Kindergarten through 5th grade students and our preschool class represented Mary, Joseph, angels and shepherds. Thank you Annel and Lynn Olthof, Colleen Clark, Alyssa Keith and Gina Pruium for helping.



The choir consists of 6-8 regular members. They practice 15 minutes following church school and perform on the last Sunday of the month. They are becoming very professional under the direction of Heidi Tice and Kristi Kriger. Thank you Heidi and Kristi.



Margo DeHaan, Tricia Ceja-Torres and Henney Tice give tender loving care to our babies through 2 year olds. Our attendance varies each week.



We use a point system for awarding attendance, knowing a Bible verse, bringing their Bible, singing in the Jr. Choir, acting as acolytes, and praying in class. These points are used to "purchase" prizes from our glass display case.

Our Christian Education Board members include: Annel Olthof, Betsy Peterson, Whitney Jensen, Joyce Busman, Leah Shaw and Gina Pruim. Mary Keith was the Director of Christian Education.

I have been happy to serve as the Director of Christian Education and thank you for the opportunity to work with the young people of this church. Thank you to everyone for your continued support of our programs. Please continue your prayers for our youth and our programs. I'm looking forward to a year full of possibilities.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Keith, Director of Christian Education