

Report to Church Council  
Jan 16, 2012

From: Laurie Zelman  
RE: Christian Education

We as a church need to faithfully examine a problem in the Sunday School.

As has been indicated by my past reports and made clear in the Roadmap to Renewal Report, attendance at Sunday School has fallen drastically among grade school aged children. The youth continue to attend, so the problem at this moment in time is more with the young ones.

We continue to have terrific a volunteer staff and offer a quality program. The children who come seem to both enjoy and learn from the classes.

So far these steps have been taken to address the issue

1. The Roadmap to Renewal ferreted out requests for purchased curriculum:

We have been designing lesson plans based on Pastor Ed's sermon schedule (this allows the whole church to study the same scripture)

We are addressing the requests in this way:

We are currently trying out Faithweaver lessons in grades Pre-K through 6. The response from teachers so far has been positive.

2. The Education team will be meeting with Anne Caldwell next week to learn in depth about the roadmap findings
3. Little Blessings, Big Questions A group has been formed to help connect families with young kids to the church and each other. The group met twice for pot-luck dinner and discussion.
4. Grace Pugh Hubbard and I joined forces with the Christian Connection leadership on The Christmas play. We recruited 12 kids to join with church kids, and rehearsed during CC hours. The service on Dec 4 had wonderful attendance.
5. Invitations to participate in the Christmas Eve service were extended to CC and one family joined us, their daughter sang and narrated with CUMC kids.
6. Plans are underway for a similar project for Palm Sunday.

Clear communication with the outside community is necessary to let people know who we are and what we do. This is the responsibility of all church members

It is important for us to be clear-eyed, practical, prayerful and positive as we go forward.