

Christian Education Winter Newsletter

Happy New Year Parkminster!

Dear Families,

Welcome to 2017! This year promises to be as exciting as the last and we continue with many of the programs we started in the fall. As a Christian Education committee we are very excited about the growth and interest our programs have seen in the last year. Our fall newsletter outlined the programs we are offering and provided a schedule of events until June. This newsletter is designed to be a supplement, an update on how things are going and ways you can get involved. Check it out!

Kumbayah,
Kelly

Highlights of 2016

Twenty sixteen was a big year for us! So we wanted to share some of the highlights with you!



Sunday Morning Syria Unit: As we entered 2016 Parkminster was putting significant time and energy into preparing for our forthcoming sponsored refugee family, who we now know as our friends the Al Mohammad's. It was great to have the children and youth participate in learning about our brothers and sisters around the world. We talked about Islam traditions, about where Syria is in the world, and what it means to be a refugee. Keeping our Sunday Morning Program aligned with the goals, values and mission of Parkminster is so important to us!

High school youth trip to Ottawa for Worshiplude:

This was a new adventure for Parkminster youth. We combined forces with the Emmanuel UC youth group and took a 10 passenger van to Ottawa for the weekend. While it was too mild to skate on the canal, we had a great time at the Aviation Museum, the National Art Gallery, and exploring the Parliament building and the Winterlude festival. We made a connection with new friends at Carlton Memorial UC who graciously hosted us for the weekend.



Parkminster Playgroup Launch! It was so exciting to be involved with getting the Parkminster playgroup initiative off the ground. We were able to take the feedback from Emma Cohen's neighbourhood survey, and together with the Outreach committee develop this wonderful fun and safe place for preschoolers and their care givers.



Young Family Halloween Party: Wow this one blew our socks off! After offering several young family parties that were open to the community, this one really took off! We had over 70 people together for dinner, costumes, Halloween crafts, and trick or treating! It was a great event and so wonderful to see the response both from Parkminster and our local community.

Christmas Pageant: Such a fun way to end the year! It is always great to see our youngsters perform and show of their wonderful personalities in front of our congregation. Our second year running this performance was a huge success.



Ways to Connect with our Children and Youth!

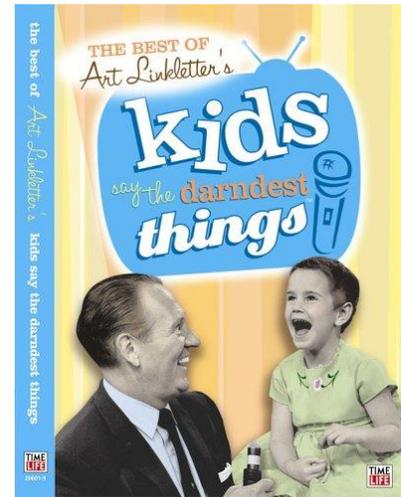
Studies show that there are many health benefits for intergenerational connection. Church is such a wonderful place to build relationships outside of our usual demographic. Spending time with people significantly different in age to yourself is a great way to learn new things, share experiences, realise the enduring lessons in life connect us all, get re-energized, and make a meaningful connection.

There are many events and programs running through the CE committee at church, and there is a way for you to contribute and feel connected no matter your age or experience level. Volunteers are vital to our ministry we appreciate all types of contributions. Here is a list of 10 great ways that you could contribute to our Christian Education programs in 2017.

1. Volunteer for one or more Sundays to lead in our Sunday Morning Activity Program
2. Join the CE committee
3. Help us to create some new bulletin boards
4. Volunteer to run an activity at a Young Family Party
5. Be a driver for PD Day or other youth events
6. You and a friend could run a youth group event for youth 9-13
7. Help make, serve and or clean up from the meal at a Young Family Party
8. Provide child care for all church meetings to encourage young families to be more involved in decision making
9. Come on a Monday morning to help with set up or take down for Playgroup
10. Volunteer on a Sunday morning to be a guardian in the narthex

Special Moment in CE

You know the expression “kids say the darndest things? Well it’s true! If you’ve ever listened in on the Children’s story on Sunday mornings you’d hear that our children often have wonderful nuggets of wisdom to share with us. Sometime our special moments with kids are funny, heartwarming, and even philosophical. I’d like to start a segment documenting these special moments with our kids. Sometimes they happen for all to see and hear at the front of the church, but often the lessons, stories and values kids learn through the CE program come out at home or school too! If you have a Special CE moment please take a minute to type it up and send it in an email to Kelly. We would love to share these special moments with all our wider church community.



Upcoming Events

January 2017

PD Day January 27th

February

Worshiplude - Feb 3-5th

Young Family Valentine's Day Party – Friday Feb 10th 5:30-7pm

TCOW Colombia Lunch Fundraiser - after Church Sunday Feb 12th

Youth Event TBD – Feb 17th

March

TCOW trip to Colombia - March 10-19th

Youth Event TBD – March 31

April

PD Day Program – April 7th

Young Family Party - April 28th

May

Youth Event TBD – May 12

Young Family Party - May 26th 5:30-7pm

June

PD Day Program – June 5th

Church Picnic – June 11th