

Charge Conference Report
Weekday Children's Program
2008

Registration went very well for the 2008-009 school year, filling all classes with waiting lists. When school began in September, some attrition had occurred in our threes class but we still had wait lists in all other classes. Since enrollment is directly related to our fiscal well-being, we are in good financial shape this year. We even have a child paying full tuition for four months to hold a space until he can attend in January.

We have experienced a sharp increase in scholarship applications this year, due to the downturn in the economic situation. More mothers and grandmothers are going back to work, and more families are using us as part of their child care as well as for educational purposes. Smart Start and Blue Ridge Community College are still helping three qualified applicants in our program with half of their tuition payments. We see more stresses on families and strive to provide a loving carefree place for children to learn about God and Jesus. Staff is also under a lot of pressure, since several commute from out side Brevard. We can never pay these folks what they are worth!

Ten percent of our 48 children currently enrolled are affiliated with members of FUMC . The remainder is either affiliated with other churches or unchurched. We continue to fill our role in ministering to the community inside as well as outside the church.

Fund raising is down this year, but our tried and true Dutch bulb sale (\$382) and school photos (over \$400 so far) are still adding to our scholarship fund. Our Adopt-a-Tot program also brings funds for specific children from members of our congregation.

Our staff is taking advantage of various Continuing Education opportunities, including the WNCC Weekday Workshops in Matthews, NC held each November. The Weekday Children's Program closes for those two days to give staff the opportunity to attend. This years Keynote speakers are Dr. James C. Howell, Sr. pastor of Myers Park UMC and Margaret McCleskey, wife of Bishop Lawrence McCleskey.

Rubber mulch was installed on the preschool (larger) side of the playground over the summer through a grant of \$2985 from the FUM Foundation and \$500 from our Children's 100 fund. This mulch has a much longer life than the pine bark that has been replaced yearly in the past. The Foundation also funded a four-seater stroller for our one year old class.

Each of our classrooms is once again filling shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. This is our thirteenth year of participation in the program. Individual families also contribute shoe boxes as a way to teach their children about Outreach and contribute them to our dedication on November 16.

We will have our annual Christmas Program December 19th at 11:15 AM in the sanctuary.