

Summer Explosion

Summer Explosion at the Kirk is a summer school, but it has the feel of a Vacation Bible School! A loving, experienced staff is ready to demonstrate the truth of God's Word as they lead their smaller classes through plenty of fun, enriching academics with lots of arts & crafts, music, and recreational play. Two classes are also available for students with learning disabilities. Every Friday, we begin with a special Chapel Service followed by fun-filled field trip experiences!

Academic Skill Review and Enrichment

Date: June 14 – July 9, 2004
Time: Monday – Friday,
8:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Who: Children who have completed
Kindergarten – 6th Grades
Tuition: \$250.00 (10% discount if
registered by May 1st)

The program will focus on review and reinforcement in language art (reading and writing) and math skills. Each week will include arts & crafts, music, and recreation activities. Special Chapel services and weekly field trips each Friday. Class size limited to fifteen students each.



The Writing Academy

Students entering 2nd Grade are invited to attend the creative writing class. Each child will experience the writing process as they write, illustrate and present original poems and stories. Reading, writing, and speaking skills will be enhanced, as the students become authors!

Monday – Friday, July 12-16, 8:30 am – 11:00 am
or
Monday – Friday, July 19-23, 12:30 pm – 3:00 pm
Cost: \$80.00
Classes taught by Cathy Hickel



Next Stop - 1st Grade

Come for a week of fun activities designed to prepare your child for 1st Grade. We will enjoy reading, writing, math, literature, and outdoor play. We'll even sit in desks and eat lunch together!

Monday – Friday, July 12-16, 12:00 noon – 3:00 pm

or

Monday – Friday, July 19-23, 8:30 am – 11:30 am

Cost: \$80.00

Classes taught by Cathy Hickel

JAN Camp '04



Our theme for this *two-night* camp will be *God Loves the Aliens, too!* with our theme verse coming from Mark 16:15, "And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.'" Jesus And Me Camp is designed for rising 3rd and 4th graders and will be held August 2-4 at Camp Trinity. Camp gives children the opportunity to be in a place where they can grow in their personal relationship with God and also be involved in such activities as swimming, canoeing, campfires, and crafts. Grab a flyer in the church office and sign-up for camp!

Sunday School



Summertime means enjoying the great outdoors; fresh air, exercise, great fun with friends.

This summer kids will visit the Holy Land, following Jesus as He heals, teaches, encourages and touches people's lives!

As we follow the trail through the Holy Land; we'll pray together, sing together, munch together, make some cool crafts, play some fun games and explore God's wonderful world of science.

Backyard Bible Clubs



Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian Church invites children (completed kindergarten - third grade) to join us on a summer adventure in the Backyard during the month of June.

An adventure in my Backyard? What could happen in my Backyard? Well, just think of it as a Vacation Bible School in your backyard, complete with Bible stories – the life of Joseph, games, snacks, crafts, and time with your friends. Backyard Bible Clubs are five-day celebrations that last for about 1 1/2 hours a day. Anyone that has a backyard, basement, or large room can host a club. Watch the *Kirk at Work* for a listing of BYCs in your area.

Salt & Light '04: Basic Training

This week-long overnight camp for rising 5th and 6th graders will be held August 8-13, at Lake Williamson Camp Center.

"Being more like Christ." That's the result of growing as a Christian, and God's desire for each of His children. But becoming closer in your relationship with Jesus doesn't happen automatically. That is why we need spiritual Basic Training! At camp we will learn what it means to be a Christian, how to have a quiet time, how to be part of the body, how to handle temptation, and how to share our faith.

But this is also summer camp, so there will be a variety of activities, including a climbing wall, water balloon fights, paddle boats, hiking, volleyball, swimming, crafts, night games, basketball, obstacle courses, putt-putt golf, and very messy games....to name but a few! Grab a flyer in the church office and sign-up for camp!

Vacation Bible School

Pre-schoolers (3 year olds – 5 year olds) are invited to join us the week of June 7-11 for *Construction INC*. Along with Bible study, there will be plenty of games, crafts, singing and snacks.



Here's the plan:

Where: Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian Church
When: June 7-11; 9:30 am – 11:30 am
Who: 3 year olds – 5 year olds

Make your reservations by calling Pastor Barksdale in the church office, and do not forget to make a reservation for the friends in your neighborhood.

Parents, and older siblings, if you would be interested in helping at VBS, please call Barksdale Pullen (ext. 248) or Jean Bronson (ext. 333) in the church office (314.434.0753).

FYI Moms

Parenting Pre-Schoolers With A Purpose
Brunch with Pam Benton
Friday Morning



God is the builder of everything!
Hebrews 3:4



PARENTING IN THE SUMMERTIME

By Linda Green and Linda Hrvnak

Summer is a time we all look forward to as we anticipate a break from the usual schedules, longer days, barbecues, and vacation. We also usually have a list of all the things we want to accomplish over these months, such as projects around the house, taking care of the yard, and doing special things with our kids.

Yet every year those summers fly by, and before we know it we're buying school supplies again. Those lazy days we dreamed about were spent driving our children here and there, trying to keep the kitchen clean with little people getting drinks and snacks all day.

There's no doubt that summer is busy, just like every other time of year. But one thing is different, and that is that you, as the mother, do have the opportunity to structure those months pretty much the way you'd like. (If you are working, there is a little less flexibility.) We believe that summer provides our families with more time to teach and train the children that God has entrusted to our care. We have a responsibility to be intentional about our parenting all year round, but in the summer, we have a little more control in the amount of time we have.

Now that our children are older, we are very glad for the important things we took the time to do, and wish we had done even more! Below are some things we would like to suggest to you as starting points with your children. We hope it will be helpful in directing your summer planning.

1. Set aside a morning, if possible, to spend with the Lord in prayer and reading the Word. Since He knows your children best, seek His direction for planning your summer. Ask Him what areas to focus on, such as particular character traits, and build those into your goals for the summer.
2. Out of this time, develop a plan to move forward with what you want to teach your children. Will it be through family nights, a family Bible study, a reward system of practicing what you are teaching them? Discuss it as a family and then get started.
3. Take out your calendar, and put dates on your calendar right away, making sure you do those things you hope to do. Here are some general suggestions for making special memories with your children.
 - a. Special weekend with Dad, or Mom. We let our kids have a weekend with Dad, and they planned it (within limitations). For example, a favorite event was camping for the weekend together up at Timber-lee Family Camp, or going fishing together. The idea is they see they are important enough that you would give them a whole weekend (or day, if this is more practical).
 - b. Breakfast with Mom or Dad.
 - c. Family Nights.
 - d. Read a book together as a family.
 - e. Outings that the whole family would enjoy; bike hikes, picnics, zoo, the beach, etc.

4. Schedule activities for your children carefully and prayerfully. There are many great things to do in the summer, from baseball and swimming to sailing and art lessons. But have you left time for the things that are even more important? Do your children have time to read a book? Work on Bible study? Go to the beach for the day?
5. Limit TV watching. Probably anything your child does would be more valuable than spending time in front of the boob tube!
6. Create a job chart. Give your children the "opportunity" to help around the house each day. Brainstorm all the jobs that need to be done, and determine how you will divide things up. Children need to feel needed, and while you may be able to do it faster, you are training them to keep their own homes one day. Take the time while they are young and it will be well worth it!
7. Set aside a quiet time each day, if it's in any way possible. In our house, the only rules were you had to be quiet, and no TV or radio. The kids could read, draw, sleep, write, read their Bible, think, daydream, etc. An hour usually is sufficient. (This is a great time for Mom to regroup.) I did this all through the elementary years, and it was wonderful!
8. Try to build in acts of serving, if possible. Cook a meal together for a neighbor. Weed an elderly person's garden together. Visit a lonely person. We wish we had looked for more opportunities to do this!

To sum it all up, you can't invest too much in your kids during these precious years. You think you have forever, and then it's gone. What character traits do you want to see in them when they are older? Teach them now! How responsible do you want them to be? Train them now! How close do you want them to be to the Lord? Teach, train, and model NOW! Whatever you want to see in your children as adults, you must be intentionally investing in them during these few short years. ***It will not happen without a plan, without saying no to some things, without time together, without prayer.***

Finally, have fun with your children! Laugh; enjoy their youth and their preciousness. Each day is a gift and we can't go back and regain what is gone. Your influence is far greater than you can imagine, so lean on the Lord and have the best summer you've ever had!

(The authors are the Directors of Children's Ministry at Arlington First E-Free Church in Illinois.)

Mr. Vogel's Basketball Camp

Once again we are very excited to bring you Mr. Vogel's Basketball Camp for girls and boys. Campers will learn not only the fundamentals of the game, but also what it means to play sports for the glory of God.

Details:

July 12-16

5 th /6 th Grade	9:00 am – 11:30 am
3 rd Grade	1:00 pm – 3:30 pm

July 19-23

2 nd Grade	9:00 am – 11:30 am
4 th Grade	1:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Cost: \$75.00, (includes tee-shirt and daily snacks)

Sign up with Mr. Vogel. (tvogel@kirkdayschool.org)

Sunday Nights

June: Sundays in the Park

What is your idea of the perfect summer evening? How about fellowship and worship with your friends at Queeny Park! On Sundays in June we will have outdoor services consisting of contemporary music and relevant talks in an especially outreach-friendly environment. On the second Sunday (June 13) we will all meet at the Corporate Pavilion for a great big summer bar-b-que! This is a great event to invite your non-Christian friends and neighbors to.

July: Vespers

Is there a Scripture song you always wanted to sing? A favorite hymn? Have you wanted to join in congregational prayer? Join us this summer beginning July 11 for *Sunday Evening Vespers* from 7:00 p.m. – 7:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Bring the whole family for this traditional, yet informal, worship service. (Nursery will be provided from birth up to 3 years.)



www.kirkkids.org

Parent Information

1. Grade level for *Summer Events* represent grade *completed*, unless otherwise noted. Detailed flyers for specific events are available in the church office.
2. Some activities have group size limits, so please sign-up your child early to reserve a spot. Other events do not require a sign-up, but your reservation will be helpful for planning purposes.
3. Parents are strongly encouraged to participate as chaperones, helpers or teachers.
4. Please be respectful of our volunteers' time, and remember that parents are responsible for dropping off and picking up their children *on time*.
5. Most of the events this summer are free. However, some programs do charge a fee for supplies and curriculum. Our desire is for your child to participate in **any** program they choose. If finances are needed, scholarship funds for all activities are available, simply contact Pastor Barksdale.
6. All activities begin and end at the Kirk, unless otherwise noted.

For more information contact:

Rev. Barksdale Pullen
Minister of Children's Nurture
(314) 434-0753, ext. 248
bpullen@kirkofthehills.org

Kirk Family Camp

Grab your calendar, turn on your electronic organizer, scribble a note and stick it to your refrigerator ... whatever it takes, make sure you block out Saturday, July 31, and Sunday, August 1, for the Kirk Family Camp. The retreat will take place at the Lake Williamson Christian Retreat & Conference Center. The center is located in Carlinville, Illinois, just seventy-five minutes from St. Louis. It is sure to be a great time with plenty of activities to please everyone. There will also be special times to gather as a church family as Dr. Benton leads us in a study of the Kirk's Passion Statement ("What's Our Family All About?"). You won't want to miss this time, so make plans now to attend. Watch the weekly bulletin and the Clarion for more details and registration information to follow.



Children's Ministry
Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian Church
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www.kirkkids.org



Calling All Hands

Do you remember how startled Jesus' closest friends were the night He wrapped a towel around His waist and washed their feet – a job that none of them wanted to take on? Do you remember what He said to explain His actions to them – and to us?

"You call me Teacher and Lord, and it is right that you do so because that is what I am. I, your Lord and Teacher, have just washed your feet. You, then, should wash one another's feet. I have set an example for you, so that you will do just what I have done for you" (see John 13:13-15).

The children of the Kirk have a need for adults to guide and teach them about faith in God - Adults who care, adults who seek to know and follow God in today's world.

We have many opportunities for you to "test the water," to be part of a team that works together providing support and encouragement for each other as we "pass on the faith to the next generation."

Recognizing that God is the giver of many different gifts; we are asking you to prayerfully consider God's call to you. If you feel called to this ministry, please give Pastor Barksdale a call at the church office (314-434-0753, ext. 248).



Children's Ministry Kirk of the Hills

Summer

Summer Survival!!

Summertime finds many a mom and dad checking airline schedules for the next flight to anywhere besides home. Escaping the blaring TV, the empty pantry, the messy rooms and those screaming siblings is their persistent dream.

Summer vacation often becomes a test of endurance rather than a special time for parents to enjoy their children. So often parents find they are hot, tired, and out of ideas as they count the days until the kids go back to school. It should not be this way!

But before we plunge headlong into a purposeful summer and hyperventilate with excitement over molding our children into wonderful expressions of humanity, let's recognize that we need to be role models. How can we expect our children to be more interested in reading than watching TV and napping if our own schedules revolve around these things.

This year the Kirk of the Hills has adopted a Passion Statement which should help us to give a purpose to our free time this summer. It reads, "To see the gospel increasingly characterize our relationships as a church family, and compel us to communicate and demonstrate the love of Christ to those in our community who do not yet know Him." How will this happen?

In this flyer you will find a host of activities in which you and your children can be involved, helping to carry out the Passion Statement, and truly make this summer something more than survival.

Here are a few resources to help you get started:

A Mother's Manual for Summer Survival, Kathy Peel and Joy Mahaffey -Hundreds of ideas for a memorable summer, (Focus on the Family)

Praying the Bible for Your Children, by David & Heather Knopp, (Waterbrook Press)

Favorite Places to go with the Kids in St. Louis, by Ann Seebeck, (ISBN 0-9622044-04)

World Proofing Your Kids, Lael Arrington, (Crossway)

Leading Little Ones to Christ, by Marian Schoolland, (Berdmans Publishing)

Shepherding a Child's Heart, Dr. Tedd Tripp, (Shepherd Press)

How to Really Love Your Child, by Dr. Ross Campbell, (Chariot Victor Publishing)

Heirs of the Covenant, by Susan Hart, (Crossway Publishing)

Faith Training, Dr. Joe White, (Focus on the Family)

Family Night Tool Chest - Heritage Builders. Jim Weidmann and Kurt Bruner - Designed to assist families in passing along their Christian heritage to their children, (Chariot Victor Publishing)

Let's Hide the Word, Gloria Gaither and Shirley Dobson, (Word Publishing)

Honey for a Child's Heart, Gladys Hunt - Book ideas for your family that promote Christian values, (Zondervan)

Big Truths for Little Kids, Susan Hunt, (Crossway)

Any of the above titles, and others, are available for viewing in Pastor Barksdale's office.