

Christian Education at First Church

Church School Program

Preschool and Kindergartners: During February, our 4 year old and PK/K classes will begin learning that Jesus loves everyone. Bible stories will include Jesus and the children, the calling of Matthew, the woman of Samaria and Zacchaeus.

Grades 1–6: February includes some exciting activities for Grades 1–6. Filming began for the Walk through Holy Week on January 24, and will continue this month. We'll also be creating more props and sets. And through February 21, children will have an opportunity to decorate a cloth bag for a child at our mission school in India.

Finally, on February 28 we'll begin our Lenten rotation on "Small Stories of Transformation," imagining the big changes that must have come to some people who are mentioned only briefly in the Bible. There's lots of hands-on fun and learning this month—don't let your child miss out! Here's the plan in detail:

Date	Activities
Feb. 7	Grades 1–4 work on mission project and prepare scenes for Walk through Holy Week; Grade 5 film scene for Walk through Holy Week; Grade 6 class for parents and children on "Real Life Faith."
Feb. 14	All grades work together on mission project and creating props and sets for the Walk through Holy Week film.
Feb. 21	All grades work together on mission project and creating props and sets for the Walk through Holy Week film.
Feb. 28	Grade 1 film its scene for the Walk through Holy Week; Grades 2–6 begin workshops for Rotation 5: "Small Stories of Transformation."

Grades 7–8: We'll continue our lessons on the theme of promises, with a variety of other opportunities thrown in as well! On February 14, the class will attend worship to hear and then discuss Ned's sermon, "Where Are Dinosaurs in the Bible?" (celebrating "Evolution Sunday"). On February 21, these youth will help paint sets for the Walk through Holy Week and participate in decorating bags for the children at King's Matriculation School in India.

Church School Mission News

Offering for Haiti Relief

On Sunday, January 17 our church school offering was dedicated to relief for Haiti after the devastating earthquake. The offering received from children that day was \$227 (about twice the normal weekly offering), and was sent to Haiti along with another \$1,000 from our weekly children's offerings account. An adult offering was held as well—that money will be reported separately. Parents, thank you for encouraging your children to give to others in desperate need.

An Exciting Development in our Global Outreach!

On Sunday, January 24 children in church school had the opportunity to learn more about the children who live at Family Village Farm in Vellore, India and attend the King's Matriculation School there, where we sponsor three children (and a family in our church sponsors a fourth). We also announced another exciting opportunity. Jon Hofer, a member of our church who is currently the Chair of the Outreach Committee, will be traveling to India on business, and plans to visit the school and meet "our" four children. He will bring gifts for all the school children which will be created by our church school between January 31 and February 21. We look forward to seeing pictures and hearing stories from his trip upon his return. The world is indeed getting smaller and our mission is becoming more "real" to our children!

Share the Love

Once again this year we are holding an offering of gently used stuffed animals that we call Share the Love. The dedication will be held at KidsOwn Worship on February 7. Cuddly critters that our children are ready to part with will be donated to an organization that washes and distributes them to children in difficult circumstances who need the comfort of a cuddly friend. Items should be in good condition. As in the past, many of these will be washed by volunteers Evelyn and Linda Clark, who founded an organization called "Loveable Huggables." But we will also share some of them in a drive being sponsored by a couple of Miss Porter's students. The organization they are working with can take larger animals, so there is no size restriction this year—as long as they are in good condition, they'll get to someone who needs them! Bring your items to church and place them in the specially marked bins in the Meetinghouse towers. Sponsored by the Christian Education Committee.