

The Challenger

Ministerial Staff

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“But we've never done it that way before!”

Those weren't the words uttered in a conversation at a seniors' luncheon or in a deacons meeting. They're words that came out of your pastor's mouth during my conversation with God about a Wednesday Night Children's Program. We had become quite satisfied with Robert and Debbie Smith's leadership in AWANA for the last nine years or so; therefore, when they felt called to step down and pursue other avenues of ministry, they left quite a few question marks in their wake. Who would take their place? Should we continue doing AWANA or move in a different direction? During my prayers and pondering, three facts began rolling around in the back of my mind:

- 1) In all the psychological studies, parents remain the number one influence in the minds of their children, over teachers, peers, and television programs.
- 2) A child's spiritual training is the most important training in all of his or her development.
- 3) Most parents in the church aren't having regular times of spiritual training in the home, either because of schedule or because they simply don't know how or don't have the resources.



While pondering those three realities, I asked myself, “Why do we always separate the children from their parents if it matters the most to a child what the parent thinks as opposed to what a teacher thinks?” Looking at the church drop-out rates among our students once they graduate high school, I'm not sure our tried and true methods of divide and conquer we've been pursuing for decades in our student ministries is the most effective method in our current culture. Maybe it's time for a change, even if *we've never done it that way before.*

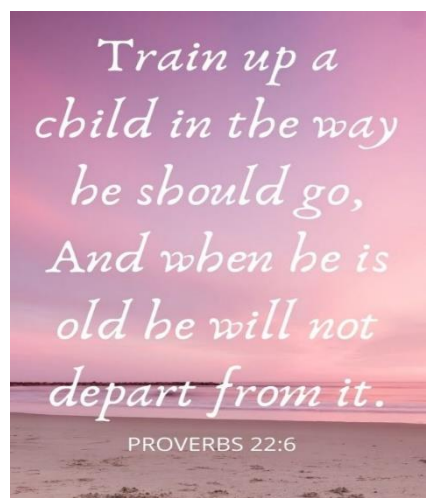
So here's what we're going to try. Starting September 16th, on Wednesday nights from 6-7 PM, in lieu of both an AWANA program and an adult Bible study, we're going to do a family ministry Bible study in the Activity Center. Families will sit together around tables and parents/grandparents will be a part of teaching their children the truths of Scripture. From the microphone, we will lead in memorizing Bible verses through song but the Bible lessons we teach will be interactive, designed for parents to engage in discipleship discussions and activities with their children. Children who came to AWANA without their parents will be at tables facilitated by former AWANA leaders and the adults from our adult Bible study.

Since this is a new concept for us and a concept that we haven't even witnessed before at other churches, it's liable to be a bit messy at the beginning, but Jennifer and I as well as the Church Council really do believe this is a direction God wants us to go, so let's do it!

Hope you can be a part. Even if you don't have kids or grandkids with whom you can attend, you can come and be a part of helping someone else's child learn the Bible. If not that, we always crave prayers – desperately! Pray that our plan be solid, our words be true, families be grounded on our Rock, and lives be changed! Look forward to joining you in this newest adventure!

In His Grip,
Pastor Fred

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411 N. Warren Ave.
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Mexico Mission Trip will be November 12th thru 15th! Now would be a good time to start thinking if you would be interested in going. If you think you would, please see Pastor Ted for more information and pricing.



We recently sent out Giving Reports for your review. Because we have had several people doing data entry over the past couple months, we would like to ask that you let us know if there are any discrepancies. We also realized afterwards that there is just a balance forward listed on the report. Please let us know if you need an individually itemized statement. Thank you!



Senior Luncheon will be on Friday, August 21st at 11:30 am in the Activity Center. BBQ will be provided. Please bring a side dish and dessert to share. Please remember to wear a mask while entering and greeting one another. There is plenty of space for social distancing.

Come to Family Night with the Bible

**Starting Wednesday, Sept. 16th
6-7 pm
In the Activity Center**

Everyone is welcome!



Mark your calendar!!

- 08/21 Senior Luncheon 11:30am
- 08/27 Food Box Distribution 3pm
- 08/28 & 08/29 Youth Yard Sale
- 09/07 Men's Potluck 6pm
- 09/10 Food Box Distribution 3pm
- 9/10 Church Council Meeting 7pm
- 09/13 Deacon Meeting 4pm
- 9/16 Family Night with the Bible 6-7pm
- 09/27 Quarterly Update



YOUTH YARD SALE
Friday and Saturday
8/28 5:00pm-7:00pm
&
8/29 8:00am-11:00am
Please wear a mask.
Donations welcome!

Please bring your donations to the church office during office hours.
Tuesdays 9-Noon
Wednesdays 9-Noon & 1-4
Thursdays 9-Noon
THANK YOU for your support!



Food Box Distribution is the 2nd and the 4th Thursday from 3:00pm - 5:00pm. If you are in need or know of someone who may be helped by receiving a box, please share this information. For more information please see Freddie Campbell.