

the Parent LINK

Centenary Church Children's Ministry

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July/August 2011

Centenary Children's Ministry



POWERSOURCE

ASK GOD:

1. To give each member of your family a spirit of service this summer.
2. To direct you to projects and people in need of assistance.
3. To work through your family members to bless the people you serve.

Dear Centenary Families,

Hopefully your summer is full of carefree days, relaxing summer activities and no stress. No? Well, neither is mine. Most families today have summers that are packed with as many activities, or more, than other months. In my family, we are trying to make intentional times to slow down and enjoy some special summer moments, like morning movies for \$1 at the local theater, spontaneous ice cream outings, and night swims, even when it's bedtime. Our whole summer may not be carefree, but we are finding memorable moments to enjoy together.

In this newsletter, you'll find ideas on ways to serve this summer. At Centenary we have many opportunities to serve as a family. My family served at the Gospel Mission on Easter and it can be a great experience for families with kids 10 and up to serve our community. Interfaith Ministries is also looking for people (and kids!) to come out on Tuesday and Thursday mornings to help sort food for needy families. Call our church office or visit the Missions Team table after service.

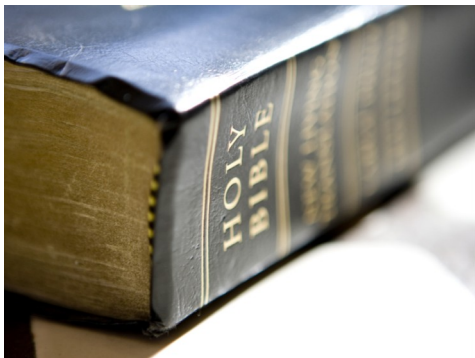
I encourage you to look for opportunities for your family to serve this summer, whether they are planned experiences or spontaneous God-led moments.

In His Service,

Heather Daniel

INSIGHTS

- Out of 1,000 U.S. households, one-third of all families and one-half of middle-class families said volunteering is a big part of their life. (*Gallup Poll*)
- 80% of teenagers reported being active in volunteer work if, as young children, they did some volunteering. (*Independent Sector*)
- Research shows the following benefits of volunteering: responsibility, leadership, critical thinking, problem-solving, self-respect, self-discipline, self-motivation, patience, tolerance, and good citizenship.



“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.”
(1 Peter 4:10)

God created all of us—including children—to love by serving.

TEACHABLE MOMENTS

1. Pitch-In Praise—Let children know that the chores they complete at home are acts of service. Acknowledge their positive attitudes when they help around the house and yard without complaint.

2. Share the Wealth—When it's time to clean out the garage or closet, find people who can use your items. Together, take gently used clothing to shelters. Deliver books and toys to churches, schools, libraries, and hospitals.

3. Secret Service—To let children know that serving is its own reward, tackle some projects that allow you to remain anonymous. Then discuss what it feels like to help someone without being recognized. Remind children that everything we do is for Jesus, who knows our hearts and blesses our efforts. *See the info insert for a great opportunity to do this with our Church Family!



Get Serving This Summer!

The summer months usually mean fewer activities to track. That, combined with warmer weather and vacation time, makes summer an ideal time to serve. Start small, looking to your children's passions for volunteer ideas.

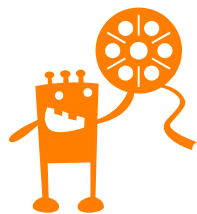
- If your kids are creative, have them make cards for neighbors.
- If your family enjoys nature, pick up trash at a local park or tend a community garden.
- To give back at church, clean pews, classrooms, or nursery toys.
- To keep children's skills sharp on summer break, have them write letters to homebound relatives or nursing-home residents.



Through fun, age-appropriate projects, children can see the immediate impacts of following God's command to serve one another.

After a volunteer experience, debrief your children with these discussion-starter questions:

1. How did this activity make you feel? What was the best part of the experience, and what was the most challenging?
2. How did people react to what you did for them, and how did that make you feel?
3. What other ideas for serving can you think of? What are some more ways you can make a difference in the neighborhood? at school? at church? at home?



MEDIA MADNESS



MOVIES

Movie:
Zookeeper

Genre: Comedy

Rating: PG

Cast: Kevin James, Adam Sandler, Joe Rogan, Cher



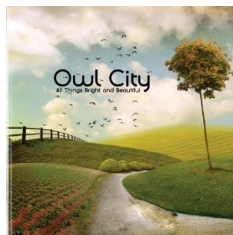
Synopsis: Andrew is a caretaker who's more comfortable with animals than people. When he decides to leave his job, the animals not only reveal they can talk, but they also help Andrew in the romance department.

Our Take: This film will attract kids who grew up watching *Madagascar*, but parents should note that it contains some rude and suggestive humor, as well as some foul language.

MUSIC

Artist: Owl City

Album: *All Things Bright and Beautiful*



Artist Info: Two years ago, Adam Young scored a hit with his electronic/synthpop song "Fireflies." Now this one-man band is turning to acoustic guitar and piano accompaniments for his thoughtful lyrics.

Summary: Many of Young's songs reflect his Christian faith, although he isn't labeled a "Christian artist." He says, "My faith is very important to me and is a very big part of who I am as an individual."

Our Take: Owl City is a good, inspirational alternative for kids who want to listen to popular new music that steers clear of offensive topics and lyrics.

CULTURE & TRENDS

- The dangerous "pharming" trend isn't just for teens anymore. Younger children are stealing their parents' prescription meds—especially pain pills—to get a buzz. (*National Institute on Drug Abuse*)
- Parents who frequently feel angry at or bothered by their children increase the risk of their kids becoming bullies. (*Pediatric Academic Societies*)

QUICK STATS



- 1 in 5 parents regrets the name they chose for their child (*today.com*)
- 42% of parents say high-tech distractions such as computers and cell phones are interfering with their children's active play time. Yet 53% of parents admit spending leisure time with their kids in front of a screen. (*YMCA's Family Health Snapshot*)

GAMES

Title	Content	Rating & Platform
<i>Wii Play: Motion</i>	Twelve party games allow players to twist and turn, using the new Wii Remote Plus controller.	E10+; Wii
<i>Portal 2</i>	In this popular puzzle-filled game, players use a "portal gun" to pass between openings in walls and kill nonhumans (without blood).	E10+; Xbox 360, PlayStation 3
<i>AnimalJam.com</i>	This virtual world is an online component to <i>National Geographic Kids</i> magazine. Kids learn about animals, play games, and chat with others.	Best for ages 10+ or strong readers; free, but offers perks to paid members

This page is designed to help educate parents and isn't meant to endorse any movie, music, or product. Our prayer is that you'll make informed decisions about what your children watch, listen to, and wear.





MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES!

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL! We are busy recruiting teachers for preschool and elementary aged children on Sunday mornings this summer. We ask for a commitment of 2-4 consecutive Sundays to provide consistency in teaching and relationships for the kids. **Parent helpers also needed.**

Summer Sunday School is June 5– August 28.

**Please pray about serving in our
Children's Ministry.**

**Contact Heather at 527-5441 or
hethdaniel@yahoo.com
for more information.**

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God is Wild about YOU!



Thanks for an amazing week!



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This summer we will do as we typically do and split up the children in 2 age groups:

- Preschoolers and entering kindergartners remaining together downstairs.
- Entering 1st-6th grades together upstairs in Rm. 20.

This usually accommodates our fluxuating attendance through the summer months. Our hope, as always, is that our families will be able to continue with regular attendance. We will re-evaluate 1-2 weeks in and see if we need to separate the elementary children further.



Our summer curriculum is 'Parable Quest' - 13 transforming stories Jesus told. Our kids will experience an adventure in a rain forest, following Jesus.

We have a couple teachers willing to serve 2-4 Sundays in our classrooms, and we're still finding a couple more to finish off the summer. In order to help these teachers teach a smooth lesson, we need parents to sign up for just 1 Sunday to be a parent helper in the classroom.

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ATTENTION PARENTS!

This summer our Sunday School offering will buy new underwear for children at the Modesto Gospel Mission. Every year the Mission hosts a Back-To-School Party and they give kids in need new backpacks, school supplies and even a free haircut. At Centenary, we'd like to make sure each child has a new package of underwear to go along with their new things. Please help us by buying a package (or several!) of new children's underwear and send it to Sunday School in an envelope by July 31st. Thank you for your help in making a difference in a child's life!



August



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31 Family Worship! Sunday School 9:00 & 10:30am	1	2	3	4	5	6 Saturday Night Family Service 6:30pm
7 Sunday School 9:00 & 10:30am	8	9	10	11	12	13 Saturday Night Family Service 6:30pm
14 Sunday School 9:00 & 10:30am	15	16	17	18	19	20 Saturday Night Family Service 6:30pm
21 Sunday School 9:00 & 10:30am	22	23	24	25	26	27 Saturday Night Family Service 6:30pm
28 Family Worship! Sunday School 9:00 & 10:30am	29	30	31			

Wednesday Night Bible Study runs through the month of July, then is on break until **September**. Watch for more info regarding the starting date. Also, watch for more info on our **Bible Buddies Program**, presenting new Bibles to 2nd graders at the beginning of each school year!