

- Children and Youth Ministries Report – Church Hall Meetings February 2015

Children in Worship Services, Children's Church and Children's Sunday School,

The Children's Message continues to be a big hit with the children with an average total of 20 children coming to the front to hear what the pastor has to say. Children's Church averages 15 total children for both the Traditional and Celebration services. At Children's Church, children hear the same scripture as their parents do in "regular" worship. This is an area where we have seen a lot of growth.

For Sunday School, we are now using curriculum from the Orange Company in all our classes. This allows for a more comprehensive Sunday School program. We average about 19 children in Sunday School each week in three different classes: Pre-K, K-2nd grade, and 3rd-5th grade.

Children's Sabbath in October was a great success! Artwork by the children was hung in the Gathering throughout the sermon series. The SPARKS! Choir and a large group of children from Little Lights sang several numbers. A puppet show performed by older children in the Kauffman Chapel was enjoyed by the children.

Mini Youth Group (MYG):

This year we have seen an average of about 18 kids each month for Mini Youth Group (kids in Grades 2-5), with over 30 on the roster. We made a positive change by having a core group of 5 adults who are present each week creating stability for the kids and more meaningful connections. One story that really touched my heart: A family who was living at Safe Harbour has two boys who attend MYG. When they found permanent housing, a call was made to the mother to make sure the boys would have transportation to MYG. She was thankful for the call and said the boys' biggest fear about moving to their new home was that they were not going to be able to go to MYG anymore.

Family Nights and Special Events:

Family Nights continue to be popular, especially movie nights. There were 5 Family Nights in 2014 in addition to the other special events. Special Events include: Easter Egg Hunt at Mt. Asbury, Trunk or Treat, and the Family New Year's Eve. These are all crucial outreach events to the community. The Easter Egg hunt last year drew over 75 kids with a pretty even split between CUMC and the community. Trunk or Treat had about 200 people in attendance again in 2014 most from the community. The New Year's Eve party continues to be a great bridge between Little Lights and the Church.

Youth by the #'s for 2014

- Attend Sunday School – Average 12
- Attend Youth Group- Average 35
- Mission Trips: 2 trips, one to Kentucky and 1 to Tennessee; 8 Youth & 2 Adults to Kentucky; 15 Youth & 4 Adults to Tennessee.
- Fall Retreat: 19 youth and 5 adults
- Winter Retreat: 18 youth and 5 adults
- 34% of our current group has become part of CUMC since Jan 2013
- 26 youth have been first time guests

Youth Room Move

Again in 2014 the youth ministry moved into a different space. About half way through 2014 we began overflowing our then youth rooms (Rooms 1 & 2 in the basement). Our attendance was averaging around 20-25 youth and with 5 adults we were in need of a larger space. We officially moved into the social room in November and have made some minor adjustments to the room. Hopefully in 2015 we will be able to make the room a little more youth friendly with some fresh paint. Since this move we have had more growth in our group! The space is sufficient for some growth but if we continue to grow at our current pace we will need to split the group into two meeting times. Praise God!

Little Lights Learning Center

Classes and Size (These are average sizes as enrollment fluctuates throughout the year):

Infants -	8	Full Day Threes and Fours -	21
One year olds -	19	Part Day Threes and Fours -	8
Young twos -	12	Full Day Fours and Fives -	20
Twos/Threes -	14	Part Day Fours and Fives -	12

In 2014 our biggest project was the efficient merger of two very successful child care/preschool programs - Little Angels and God's Little Ones. As we formed under one name and one organizational structure we were thrilled to see many new opportunities for ministry open. Our part-time children are now participating in a daily chapel time with other children their age where they hear Bible stories and sing praises every day. Our full time children have benefitted as our program becomes more closely aligned with CUMC's ministry objectives. Several families have started participating in both our program and church-related functions forming an even stronger link between our ministry and other church ministries.

In 2014 the children were able to show God's love to our community through several activities. We went caroling to a local nursing home and sent special invitations to the CUMC LAMS residing there. We raised money for St. Jude through our Trike-a-thon and collected and delivered items to Safe Harbor. The Center itself Builds Bridges to the Community by providing high quality child care and early education to a wide variety of families within our community. In 2014 we collaborated with the United Way to allow our families to receive scholarship funds to help support the cost of child care and several families experienced financial relief as a result of this.

Goals for 2015

Children Ministry Goals for 2015

- Recruit more adult volunteers for Sunday School and children's church
- Increased publicity/communications to increase number of children attending Vacation Bible School
- Begin Children's Sunday School at 11:00 and grow Sunday School at the 9:45 hour
- Amend CUMC Safe Sanctuaries Policy, implement new state law requirements for screening and reporting, assuring the physical and emotional safety of our children and youth.

Youth Ministry Goals for 2015

- Get settled into our new room
- Grow our small groups
- Increase the number of mission trips to 3 (Lexington KY June 13-20, Clarksville GA July 11-18, & Virginia Beach VA July 26- Aug 1)
- Attend a camp or two (most likely Camp JoyEl, and/or Teen Quest)
- Grow our adult leadership team (both in numbers and knowledge)
- Integrate upcoming 6th grade class and give Senior High students a leadership role
- Continue to provide opportunities for youth to learn about and experience the love of Jesus

Little Lights Learning Center for 2015

- Grow our part time program
- Expanding our School Age Summer Camp, which was offered for the first time in 2014
- Focus on improving the quality of our teaching, program ministry alignment, and maintaining our Star 4 status, since, while our waiting list would allow for a program expansion in several areas, we are currently limited in available classroom space.

Becca and Erin extend a BIG THANK YOU to all those who volunteered their time and service for the many children and youth activities and programs at CUMC. They know that without your dedication and support, CUMC would not be able to offer these numerous and varied events.

Alison would like to thank all of the volunteer readers for Little Lights, those who have donated funds to support our ministry and children, and our board members for all their hard work and dedication to our ministry. Little Lights Learning Center is thrilled to be considered a part of CUMC and is looking forward to what the future holds!