

THE NEWSLETTER

*Memorial Drive United Methodist Church
The Children's Weekday School*

**March
2010**

Hello Family and Friends,

Thank you all for a successful registration!

The vision of online registration has been accomplished and went smoother than expected for our first run. We appreciate your patience as we tested and configured the process.

Our classes are full! It appears our currently enrolled students will get their first choice and this especially makes me happy.

Registration continued into the week as we added new church members and community members to our family and friends. Although we expect another full year, we do have a few openings in our MT classes and pre-k'4's classes.

The remainder of this school year is packed with fun for the children and learning opportunities for parents.

On **March 10**, there is a parent education on Toilet Training. It is a perfect time for parents of very young children to come and hear about when toilet training really begins. Don't wait until you are already in training to hear this information.

Then on **March 25**, Dr. Myron Friedman is talking to us about "Helping Your Children Develop Self-Control".

I know many of you will want to hear this wise psychologist speak on a topic that is so vital to your children's success in school and life.

I look forward to seeing you there!

Blessings,
Jerri Tetrault, MA ECE

Up coming In March

March 10
*Toilet
Training
9:15 a.m.*

March 12
*Summer
Camps Fair*

*5 Summer
Days &
Wee Camp
Registration*

March 15-19
Spring Break

March 23/ 25
*SFLP
individual
photos taken*

March 25
*Dr. Myron
Friedman
9 :15 a.m.*

**March 29 &
April 1**

*Easter
Bonnet
parade*

A Fly on the Wall... by Melina Smuda

Don't you wish you could sometimes be a fly on the wall in your children's classrooms—to see everything that they are doing and saying—to catch all of those small details that can never be truly captured by the artwork that they bring home, or the information relayed to you in that conversation at the door with their teachers, or from the notes on the daily blues sheets or on the wipe boards just outside of the rooms?

I have the great honor and good fortune to be able to see my own child in his Pre-K classroom from time to time. It is not quite a fly on the wall perspective, but it offers me a glimpse of the amazing things that he is working on with his friends and his wonderful teachers every day. Today, I saw the classroom transformed into a Teddy Bear Café, where children had responsibilities, including: measuring ingredients to cook (decked out in the cutest chef's hats you have ever seen), taking down and remembering orders; counting out the money that is owed while using a cash register and a calculator; and of course enjoying the delicious results of their hard work.

Just last week, I saw them learning about syllables by clapping the vowel sounds they heard in their names, and I witnessed them placing what the teachers call "environmental print" (i.e., package labels and other words that are part of our everyday word environment) on their word wall. On any given day, I might walk in and see my son Alex or one of his little buddies dressed in a costume, sitting at the table working on his little Handwriting Without Tears chalkboard or workbook, practicing writing the letters of the alphabet.

Just like your children, Alex has grown so much over the past year. I am awed by the fact that the little boy who refused to even attempt to write a letter in September is now writing his name fairly legibly, spelling words by using the phonics skills he's developed, and informing his older brother very knowingly, "You know, a comma is a pause."

Oh, I would love to be a fly on the wall too: I wonder what amazing things his friends, your children, are telling you or their siblings. I will go even one step further—I wonder what spectacular things are going on in their growing, powerful minds that they have yet to share with the world.

Box Top Results

You collected 3313 coupons!

Our spring collection netted \$331.30!

Many thanks to Loretta Shadden for spearheading our coupon drive. Thanks also to Linda Cofer, Christy Johnson and Dunovan Thomas for counting!



Popsicle Party winners

Infants

Marta & Amanda, 121

MDOI

Joan & Lorena, 222

MDO II

Amy & Sakala, 73

2 1/2

Debbie & Christy, 249

3's

Barbara & Alicia, 159

3 1/2 's

Judy & Bernadette, 183

Pre K

Marian & Hollie, 401



SFLP individual photos will be taken March 23 and 25

Group pictures will be taken April 20 and 22



T o i l e t T r a i n i n g S e m i n a r

Parents of very young children will want to make sure and mark their calendars for this informative training. Jerri Tetrault will walk you through the steps and stages of successful toilet training. It begins earlier than you might think!

Join us Wednesday, March 10

Room D126 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

****Nursery will be available by request, please contact Shannon by March 5
please call Shannon by Friday, March 5th to make your reservation***

Dr. Myron Friedman will be here on Thursday, March 25
to speak to parents on the topic:

Helping Your Children Develop Self-Control

Room D 222 9:15 a.m.

Dr. Myron Friedman is the director of psychological services at Edu-Clinic, Inc. At Edu-Clinic he provides diagnosis and treatment for children, adolescents, and adults experiencing learning, workplace, or behavioral problems. Dr. Friedman received his Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin in educational psychology with a specialization in school psychology. He was formerly a school psychologist for special education with the Houston ISD.

***Childcare will be available by reservation only.
Reservations must be made by Friday, March 19.
Please call Shannon to reserve your spot!***



Weekday School News

Report on the Early Childhood Methodist Conference from Joan Uhran

Our 2-day Early Childhood Methodist Conference offered many fun learning experiences for all our teachers from informative keynotes to small group sessions. For our toddler teachers, "Splish, Splash, and Squiggle" was full of interesting ways to work with young children. As instructor Susan Meriwether stated, "Children learn about their world by doing and...sensory activities can influence brain development in the early years". She had many ideas to share about things children could see and feel such as frozen colored ice cubes to paint with, to gradually adding water to instant potatoes in our sensory table.



Children can have tactile and hearing experiences with bubble wrap taped to the floor that they can walk across and listen to the popping sounds. Tasting parties with items that are sweet, sour and salty with different textures can be a fun culinary experience.

Spices such as pumpkin and vanilla can be added to playdough so children can experience different scents. Also small plastic water or juice bottles with bells or beans, for example, can provide auditory fun for toddlers.

The ECMC conference is always a learning experience and a chance to gain ideas from not only the presenters, but other preschool teachers.

Spring Break

Vacation

March 15 ~ 19



Get Ready for the Easter Bonnet Parade!

It's time to prepare for the annual
Weekday School Easter Bonnet parade.
Monday, March 29 and Thursday, April 1



Children will wear their decorated hats and bring single flowers to place in the living cross. Classes will parade at 9:15 before Chapel. Parents and grandparents are welcome to come take pictures.



Parking Lot News

The state has mandated that MDUMC upgrade their parking spaces to comply with ADA standards. This process will take about 3 weeks. Phase one involved repairing the existing lot, and this has been completed. Phase two will begin the week of March 8th. We will keep you posted. As always, please be especially alert as you are driving through the parking lot, little heads are hard to see as they are passing between parked cars.

As you begin your
spring cleaning
remember
The Weekday School
Garage Sale
will be on April 17th.
Stay tuned for details!

It's time to register for Summer Camps!

Five Summer Days:

Designed for children who will be 2 ½ by June 1st through those children entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2010.

Monday-Friday camps, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. \$150 a week.

Wee Camp:

Designed for children who are 18 months to 29 months by June 1. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

2 day camps Monday/ Tuesday or Wednesday/Thursday \$75

4 day camp Monday-Thursday \$150

Summer Camp Themes

June 14-18 Pack up and come on our African Safari



June 28–July 2 Dive with us Under the Sea



July 12-16 We will be Digging for Dinosaurs



July 26-30 Blast off with us for an exciting Space Voyage



Registration begins March 12

Applications are available in the school office

or online at www.mdumcweekdayschool.org

One half payment is required with application; the balance due by June 1, 2010



Rodeo Roundup Romping Good Time

Many thanks to Robin Noser & Amy Miller and their fabulous Rodeo Roundup committee. We had a great turnout and a great time.

Rodeo Roundup Committee:

Jina Leisy, Jamie Samuelsen, Caroline Wentzler, Amy Norgueira, Natalie Mandery, Melynda Boerm, Denise Stanton, Kate Borrson, Peite di Paolo, Lisa Nelson, Renee' Ash, and Emily and Jamie Wolf.



2010 SUMMER CAMPS AND ACTIVITIES FAIR

You won't want to miss this informative event sponsored by the Weekday School. We have gathered vendors from the area to be here to share their summer programming plans and opportunities for your children.

Stop by Friendship Court
Monday, March 12
9:30 to 11 a.m.



Make this your "one stop shopping" for a summer full of fun for your little ones.

**The Weekday School
will be closed on Friday, April 2
in celebration of Good Friday**



As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.

He said to them, "do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here". Mark 16: 5-6

**Plan to attend the MDUMC
Good Friday Drama
7 p.m. in the Sanctuary.**

MDUMC News

▶ MDUMC One Great Day of Service (OGDOS) is scheduled for Saturday, March 6. Breakfast and check in will be at 7:30 a.m. in Friendship Court. Teams will be commissioned at 8:15 a.m. and will disperse throughout the community. This has become a wonderful church tradition where we are able to live out our faith by helping others. If you would be interested in joining this effort please contact Kristy Elmore at 713-468-8356 or email her kristyelmor@mdumc.org

▶ Join us Sunday, March 7 at 7 p.m. for a free concert featuring MDUMC's many instrumental groups. The program will include something for everyone with sacred and secular music.

▶ Please join Reverend Susan Wiley in Landrum Chapel Sunday evening, March 7 at 7:00 p.m. for a service of intercessory prayer and quiet contemplation. You may enter the chapel from the east parking lot or through Wesley Hall.

Community News

▶ Be sure and pop in to explore and experience the new Kendall Neighborhood Library and Community Center located at 609 North Eldridge.



▶ The *Spring Thing Market* at Chapelwood Methodist Church will host a preview party on Tuesday, March 2nd from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Tickets may be purchased in advance from the church office at 11140 Greenbay. The Market will be open on Wednesday and Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch will be available each day for \$10. Proceeds will benefit missions for women and children.

Houston Happenings

EVENTS

March 1-7

La Bayadere, Houston Ballet, Jones Hall
A new production of one of the great classical works of the 19th century.

Cirque Dreams Illumination, Broadway across America, Hobby Center

March 6

Mutt Strut and Runway Race, George Bush Intercontinental Airport. Competitive and non competitive 5k run, contest featuring dogs and their owners, food, drinks, live music and prizes

March 1-27 Junie B. Jones and a Little Monkey Business, Main Street Theater.

March 2 -21 Houston Livestock Rodeo

March 5-28 Harvey at The Alley Theatre

March 9-21 South Pacific, Theatre Under the Stars, Hobby Center

March 13

Buffalo Bayou Regatta
A 15 mile USCA sanctioned race along Buffalo Bayou

March 21 Tour de Houston, 6th annual bike ride benefitting the Houston Parks and Recreation Department.

Basic Wilderness Life Support at the Houston Arboretum at Nature Center

March 24 Swing, Jive and Pop! Into Dance
Miller Outdoor Theater.

March 25 & 26 Laura Ingalls Wilder: Voice of the Prairie

March 26-28 Bayou City Art Festival at Memorial Park

Through April 18

Barkley L. Hendricks: Birth of the Cool
Contemporary Arts Museum

VENUE CONTACT INFORMATION

Alley Theatre
615 Texas
713-228-8421

Children's Museum
1500 Binz
713-522-1138

Convention Center
1001 Avenida de las Americas
713-853-8000

Health Museum
1515 Hermann Drive
713-521-1515

Hobby Center,
800 Bagby
713-524-800

Jones Hall
615 Louisiana
713-224-7575

The Menil Collection
1515 Sul Ross Street
713-525-9400

Miller Outdoor Theater
100 Concert Drive
713-284-8352

Museum of Fine Arts
1001 Bissonnet
713-639-7300

Museum of Natural Science
1 Hermann Circle Drive
713-639-IMAX

Reliant Arena
South Loop 610 @Kirby exit
713-629-3700

Stages Theatre
3201 Allen Parkway
713-527-0123

Toyota Center
1510 Polk
1-866-4-HOUTIX

Verizon Wireless Theater
520 Texas in Bayou Place
713-230-1600

Woodlands Pavilion
2005 Lake Robbins
281-363-3300

Wortham Center
501 Travis
713-522-5538

***For More Houston Happenings, visit
<http://cbtcws.cityofhouston.gov/events/Events.aspx>**

City Council Public Meetings

Public sessions begin Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m.

Regular City Council meetings begin on Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, March 2, 9, 23, 30

Wednesday, February 3, 10, 24, 31

City Hall, 900 Bagby, 2nd floor, 713-247-1840

March 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 OGDOS
7	8 Phase 2 parking lot Repairs begin 	9	10 Toilet Training	11	12 Camps Fair	13
14	15 Spring Break	16 Spring Break	17  St.Patrick's Day Spring Break	18 Spring Break	19 Spring Break	20
21	22	23 SFLP photos	24	25 SFLP photos Dr. Myron Friedman	26	27
28	29 Easter Bonnet parade	30	31			

COMING UP IN APRIL

April 1 Easter Bnnet Parade
April 2 School close/Good Friday
April 17 Garage Sale

April 20&22 SFLP group pictures
April 26 Registration papers due
April 29 Parent conferences

*"The Newsletter" is a monthly publication of Memorial Drive United Methodist Church's Weekday School
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 Questions? Email info@mdumcweekdayschool.org*

Jerri Tetrault, Executive Director