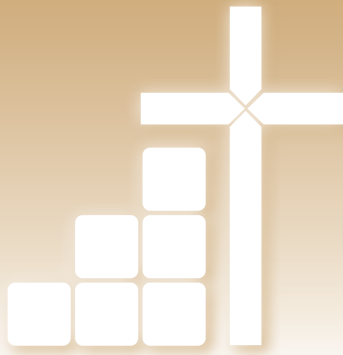


NOVEMBER 2017



the Outlook

A NEWSLETTER OF ORLAND PARK CHURCH

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Don't forget to check out
our church website for more
news and information!

www.orlandchurch.com

Fall Fun at the Preschool

THE KIDS ENJOY SPECIAL EVENTS THIS MONTH



The children at Orland Park Christian Preschool along with their families enjoyed three very special events in October!

Field Trips to Lake Katherine Nature Preserve: On Tuesday and Wednesday, October 10 and 11, our classes each took a trip to Lake Katherine Nature Preserve in Palos Heights. We were treated to a special learning session called "I Spy Fall" with five learning stations. It was great fun to explore the season of Fall by measuring, sorting seeds, corn-picking, a sink and float activity, and a leaf rubbing activity. A lot of parents and even some grandparents volunteered to join us which helped us all to have a good "hands-on" experience as we explored. The naturalists

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NEEDED for a Preschool Craft: Plastic Lids (any color) about 6" round (Typically found on "Whipped Topping" containers). Please deliver to any preschool staff member or family by November 15. THANK YOU!

'Fall Fun at the Preschool' continued from page 1

-Ruth Baas, Preschool Director

then treated us to a “hands-on” experience with some live animals. We got to pet the soft fur of a rabbit and the hard shell of a turtle. It was interesting to watch a turtle look for a dark place to hide in the room where it would be camouflaged. We were also able to take a walk outside through the preserve and notice things like colorful leaves, spider webs, bird and squirrel nests, waterfalls, ducks on the lake, and herb gardens. Smelling the different scents on our fingers after rubbing the leaves of the plants in the herb garden was very interesting! Our pictures here show us having a great time during all of our activities at the nature preserve.

Fall Family Fest: On Thursday evening, October 12, Orland Park Christian Preschool hosted its annual Fall Family Fest in the OPCRC Family Life Center. The three- and four-year-old preschool students were very excited to bring their parents, grandparents, and siblings to school so they could share some of the fun things they have been learning since preschool began in September.

The evening started with an opening prayer and a performance of some favorite songs from our weekly learning themes. As proud family members listened in delight, the children sang about popcorn, falling autumn leaves, and silly acorns.

Next we took turns going to three centers spread around the gym. Everyone had the opportunity to make a colorful fall leaf craft, a harvest corn craft, and hunt for candy treats in a pile of shredded paper. It was fun for the whole family!

The evening closed with refreshments of a variety of delicious cookies/snacks and beverages. These treats were supplied by the parents of the children in our 4-year-old class who are attending our preschool for the second year. A big thank you to the preschool staff (teachers Ruth Baas, Lisa Cavanaugh, Brenda Harms, Cindy Schipma, and Barb Vree), Ella and Julia Schipma, custodian Rick Schultz, and board member Beth Solle and family for giving extra time and energy to set-up, serve, and clean-up at this event. Many comments of appreciation were received from families who enjoyed the activities with their children and the fellowship of meeting the families of their children's classmates.

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Exploring the herb garden at Lake Katherine Nature Center.



Sorting seeds at Lake Katherine Nature Center.



Making a harvest corn craft at our Fall Family Fest.

Gifts of Hope Ministry

-Sheila Cook & Becky Vande Kamp

During the Christmas season many follow the tradition of gift giving. Gifts are given for many reasons. One reason is to give HOPE to those who are in need or in a difficult season of their lives.

Whether you are new to OPCRC or a longtime member, we would like to invite you to participate in the Gifts of Hope ministry. This ministry has been active for many years, providing Christmas gifts to people in several different circumstances.

Starting on November 12, look in the narthex for trees filled with gift tags. The tags will have a few gift ideas listed on it. We ask that you purchase one gift item for around \$30. **The gifts need to be back by December 3.**



The **RED** tags will have the names of Bethshan residents who have little or no family contact.

The **GREEN** tags will have the name of students who attend Friendship Class. Gifts will be distributed during the annual Friendship Christmas party.

The **BLUE** tags will have the names of individuals who have a family member who is an inmate in Cook County Jail. Names are provided by Chicagoland Prison Outreach.

The **ORANGE** tags will represent children being cared for by Lydia Home, local children in need through the Safe Families ministry and local homeless shelters.

The **PURPLE** tags will have the name of individuals connected with Christ Cares, Scott Reese's ministry (or if you can think of a better way to word that) that reaches out to the homeless in the Chicago area.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to give hope to someone in need this Christmas. This is a great way to share the Christ's love with others.

'Fall Fun at the Preschool' continued from page 3

Fire Safety Week: Our learning theme for the third week of October was fire safety. We welcomed the Fire Safety Educator from the Orland Fire District who came to visit us at our preschool and teach us about "Stop! Drop! and Roll!" and "Get Out and Stay Out!" She used a police office puppet, a fire fighter puppet, and a turtle puppet to keep our attention and help us understand the importance of smoke alarms in our homes and staying away from matches and lighters. At the end of her talk, a firefighter crew came to school with a fire truck! We saw one of the firefighters put on his turn-out gear, showing us how each piece keeps him safe. We learned that we do not have to be afraid of fire fighters. They are people who always want to help us and keep us safe. We had a great time going outside to see and climb up into the big fire truck. Our visitors ended by sharing a free fire hat and a coloring book about fire safety for each child.

As always, the staff at Orland Park Christian Preschool greatly appreciates the support and prayers of our whole church family as we teach in the name of our God, the Creator of all the beauty of the seasons and the wonder-filled children we teach.



"He found a smoke detector in the turtle's house!"