

Gulf Cove United Methodist Church Education Team
February 23, 2014

Opened the meeting at 12:15 p.m. in room 201 with the lighting of the Christ candle and prayer.

Those in attendance Jo Ann Hopkins, Irvin Hopkins, Lu Ann Zink, Elaine Inman, Holly Woods, Joan Priest, Dana Hanson, Scott Folsom, John Furtado, Grace Gray, Ken Priest, Janice Botelho, Linda Thatcher, Rev. Bill Fisackerly.

Jo Ann thanked all for attending and for giving time for the education of the children of our church. The team was informed that Susan Myers is no longer helping with the lesson planning and a request that we all keep her lifted in prayer was asked by Jo Ann.

Painting of the hallway will start on March 15th at 9 am should anyone want to assist. Linda Thatcher said she would be at the church to help. Anyone deciding they can help will be welcomed with open arms.

Scott and Holly's office is coming along and should be completed within the next week or two.

March will be bring a friend to church month, this will also be for the Jesus Rocks and Echo groups. Our goal is to bring more children in so they can meet Jesus.

We discussed the current lesson plans and crafts:

- It was suggested that the lengthy scripture readings are difficult with the classes and that the Old Testament is not an easy subject to teach.
 - Since we are following the scripture that Rev Bill is preaching to the adults, perhaps the teachers can help the children read to shorten the children's reading time.
 - Pre K teachers have and will continue to para phrase the scripture because of the attention span of the younger children.

Child Protection Policy (LuAnn Zink)

John Furtado and Irv Hopkins offered to assist LuAnn should she need help.

All adults that work with the children are background checked through the Methodist council at the cost of \$10 to the church. Re checks are to be performed every 7 years.

Teachers that have already attended the Protection class will be given a packet and asked to sign documentation that they understand the policy and have received the information, so that we can keep their training on file. Unless significant changes have been made to the policy, in which case all will need to attend a training class in March. E Mail will be sent to all regarding this as soon as Lu Ann checks the current policy against the one from last year. Jo Ann thanked Lu Ann for handling this task.

VBS (Holly Woods)

Presented the idea of holding VBS One night a week for 5 consecutive weeks. This will help keep the volunteers from feeling exhausted by the end of the week and allow those that are no able to help one week to help when they can. After discussion it was decided to try this new

idea on Wednesday evenings, in the hopes that the children will get use to coming and continue to come for Jesus Rocks after VBS is over.

Theme for this year will be Weird Animals, 5/28/14 – 6/25/14 or 6/4/14 to 7/2/14 – Holly will advise. She also will need cardboard for decorations and background scenery.

Easter Egg Hunt -Holly Woods

Holly has already ordered the eggs. After discussion the event will be held on April 19th 10:00 to Noon. Information regarding children ministries and events, adult classes and other church ministries will be put in each basket for each child. They will be given the baskets so they can hunt eggs. There will be [photo op at the cross, a bag toss game and possibly a few other games for the children. Refreshments will be cupcakes, cookies and drinks available for free. Again our focus is to help the children and parents meet, know and serve Jesus. Rev. Bill and Dana will work on an article for the newspaper since this event will be different then a traditional egg hunt.

Holly also clarified that she is going to school to learn to be an ultra sound tech, but has all intentions of staying employed by the church because she loves working with the children. However, she will be jobless after 3/25 and asked we keep her in prayer for a job that will work with her schedule.

Camp (Scott Folsom)

Asking that we all prayerfully consider working a camp. Or going to an adult camp. Scott stated that this only brings you closer to Jesus.

The Youth mission trip will be to Key West again this year the week of 6/22/14.

Rev. Bill reminded us that Small groups fall under education and that we need to think outside the box. Groups could meet at Panara Bread, bowling alley, coffee shops. Do we know of anyone willing to chair a group or get one started?

Jo Ann asked that everyone consider looking for someone that could help with Sunday School which would free her up to handle other education ministries such as: Assistant living, Electronic devise help and usage program, Battle of the bands, and Scams / protection seminar. Rev. Bill ask that everyone talk to at least two people about teaching Sunday School this month. It was agreed that face to face works best when asking for volunteers.

Suggestions that we make a video commercial that would play between services on the blessings that come from working with the children. Things mentioned were “ Do you miss your grandchildren?”

Red: Reaching more people (old and young) to participate in classes.

Yellow: Obtaining more teachers (we are blessed with wonderful teachers/aides now)

Green: Children are responding to the new church, new VBS idea.