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Martha Bowman

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Preschool and Nursery Ministry

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500 Bass Road | Macon, GA 31210 | 478-477-1901

At Martha Bowman UMC, we affirm that children are a sacred gift from God. We promise to surround your children in a nurturing and safe community that they may grow in their love of God and service to others.

### Security, Safety, and Check-in

Safety of your child is very important to us! We use KIDCHECK for our check-in system. If you do not already have an account, you may create one at: <https://go.kidcheck.com>. Creating an account ahead of time will save you from having to register at the church. The check-in for nursery and preschoolers is located in the Family Connection Corner. Our friendly staff and volunteers are there to assist you! Our doors are locked at all times and controlled by magnet locks and coded push button entry. We will not release children to anyone other than parents or people that the parent has designated to pick up... such as a grandparent or family member. Preschool and nursery age children are never released to older siblings unless they are of driving age and parents have approved the pickup.

### Sunday Mornings

Nursery and preschool activities are provided during the 8:30 am service, the 9:40 am-10:40 am Sunday school hour, and the 11:00 am services. Activities include praise and worship music, interactive Bible story lessons, crafts and fun games! When weather permits, we have outdoor time on the playground.

### Wednesday Nights

Nursery is provided from 5:00 pm-7:30 pm on Wednesday nights for those that are in Bible studies or other church activities. During the school year, we offer a snack supper from 6:00 pm to

6:30 pm. Preschool Bible Time runs from 6:30 pm-7:30 pm for our 3K through Kindergarten children. During this hour, we build a Biblical foundation for our preschoolers as they learn more about God and His word!

### **Mother's Morning Out and Preschool**

During the 2017/2018 school year, we will meet Monday - Thursday from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. Our program is available for ages 6 months-5 years old. Tuition is \$58.00 per month for one day a week, \$116.00 per month for two days per week, \$174.00 per month for three days per week and \$220.00 per month for four days a week. Our registration fee is \$20.00. Our curriculum fees range from \$25.00-\$45.00 per school year. Snacks are provided. Parents send lunches. We have several special activities throughout the year. Our Mother's Morning Out and Preschool is not a licensed daycare nor is it required to be by the state. We are a half-day program that qualifies and operates as exempt from state licensing through Bright from the Start. This is a great opportunity for Mothers and preschoolers!

### **VBS FAM CAMP**

Join us in June for VBS FAM CAMP: Vacation Bible School for the entire family. For all ages, there is a place and activity for everyone. Free food, worship, and activities for the entire family. You don't want to miss the fun!

### **Special Events**

The Preschool and Nursery teams up with the iKids Children's Ministry several times a year for super fun, family friendly events such as Sunday morning activities for families, our annual

Easter egg hunt, a school year kick-off party and events in the community.

### **Pick Up and Drop Off Times**

Nursery and Preschool programming is provided for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers through age 6 for all church services and many church-wide events and activities. The nursery opens at least 15 minutes prior to the beginning of church functions and promptly closes 15 minutes after events are over.

### **Staff**

Our paid nursery workers are least 15 years old and abide by all nursery policies and procedures. Our 15-20-year old workers are always accompanied by an older worker who is 21 year of age or older. All paid nursery staff are background checked and CPR certified.

### **Adult/Child Ratios**

Every effort is made to keep the ratio of one adult to every five children, and one adult to every four infants. Our rooms are staffed by two nursery workers at all times. Caregivers directly supervise children by sight and hearing at all times—even while they are sleeping.

### **Cleanliness**

We believe that the nursery and preschool rooms should be the cleanest rooms in the church, which is for the safety of both the children and workers. All equipment surfaces (i.e., high chairs, swings, tables, and chairs) are cleaned with Clorox wipes at the end of each nursery session. All toys that have been handled and mouthed are cleaned before use by another child. Carpet spills are cleaned up immediately. Workers must clean their hands

each time after changing diapers or wiping noses. We use roll paper on our changing tables that is disposed of after every diaper change. Workers also wear gloves while changing diapers. Our spaces are cleaned daily by a wonderful team of janitors. Our carpets are professionally cleaned many times per year.

### **Nursery Activities**

We are more than a babysitting service—we consider the church nursery a ministry opportunity where young children can be introduced to basic spiritual concepts and have God’s love modeled to them through the nurture and care of the nursery workers. Nursery workers are encouraged to express love to every child, and teach Bible basics such as God loves you, God takes care of you, and God never leaves you. We promote a secure and safe environment in God’s church, and help babies and toddlers develop social and play skills. Resources including Bible storybooks, curriculum and Christian music, are utilized in the nursery.

### **Preschool Activities**

We are dedicated to building a strong foundation in each child through sharing the love of Jesus and biblical truths. Our ministry provides structured opportunities for learning spiritual truths and growth through the use of age appropriate curriculum, Christian music, activities, and structured play.

### **Play Time**

All activities for children are developmentally and age appropriate. Children are encouraged to participate in these activities by the nursery workers. It is our goal for children to have a pleasant visit in the nursery, and to achieve this, the

workers interact with the children as they play and talk with them.

### **Snack Time**

Appropriate snacks are available in the nursery and preschool classes. Due to possible allergies, snacks given cannot contain peanuts or red dye. Snacks are only given while the child is seated at the table.

### **Age Limits**

Only children of the appropriate age for the room are allowed in the nursery and preschool ministry areas. For special events where a wide range of children are present, the children are separated into similar age groups and appropriate activities are provided to keep them occupied.

### **Illness**

If a child is visibly ill, he/she will not be admitted into the nursery. Please do not send your child with a fever, vomiting, or diarrhea. If he/she becomes ill while in the nursery, the parents are paged and/or called immediately.

### **Inconsolable Children**

Workers make every effort to engage unhappy children in play or rock them. We find that sitting on the floor with the children is very effective and calming. If a child is inconsolable (10 minutes of non-stop crying), the parents are notified immediately. More times than not, the child will stop crying once the parent leaves. When parents delay their departure, it can make drop off time more difficult.

## Discipline

Discipline means gentle teaching and modeling, not harsh punishment for misbehavior. To keep all of the children in the preschool and nursery areas safe, no throwing, hitting, biting, or kicking is allowed. If children express this behavior, they will be reminded in a kind voice of the appropriate behavior that is expected and they will be removed from the source of the conflict. If the behavior continues, children may be placed in a time-out chair for no more than one minute for each year of their age. If a child is unmanageable after efforts have been made to correct the situation, then we will contact the child's parent.

## Biting Policy

Biting is a natural developmental stage that many children go through and it is usually a temporary condition. The safety of the children is our primary concern. Toddlers bite other toddlers for many different reasons. The staff members maintain a close and constant supervision of the children at all times. However, sometimes a bite can still happen. In the case of a bite, we will contact parents of both the biter and the bitten. Confidentiality is always maintained. We will temporarily separate the children involved so that we do not have a second bite. If a child continues to bite children, we will ask that they take a two week break from our program to give them a chance to move past the stage.



## Martha Bowman Preschool and Nursery Ministries

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[www.marthabowman.org](http://www.marthabowman.org)

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