

Read more...

WANTED: Adult Volunteers

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What Positions and Roles Are Needed Right Now?

In particular, MEN, both younger and older are needed in each of these programs.

Kids Connection:

Leaders, Aids

Awana:

Leaders

Song Leader for Younger Ones

Jr. Church Worship:

Teachers, Aids

If you are not sure you have the time to commit to doing a particular job each week or can be on time each week because of work-related absences or whatever, ***we would be happy to accept whatever level of commitment you can offer on a rotational basis with others*** who may have the same dynamic.

If you have not worked with kids before or in awhile and don't know if this is something you are particularly called to do or good at, then pray about it and ***consider coming to visit our programs. Start in an aid type position and try!***

Men, in particular, are needed—at the very least their presence and/or absence tells children something of the commitment of the leadership (men) in their church towards spiritual things and towards the nurturing of youngsters, the future of the church. Please check out the following PDF file (Men Wanted) to read more about the importance of men in our programs.

*We need aids to volunteer as we want two adults to be with children throughout programs.

*We could always use more volunteers to teach with this program and expand the roll of names for teaching so that each person has to do this fewer times in a quarter.

In Other Behind the Scenes Roles:

*The Coordinator needs a person or two willing to work on **planning**—comprehensive educational goals, overview, and policies and/or specific planning for events:

For Teachers (appreciation, fellowship, encouragement, and training events)

For Children (regularly scheduled events and activities, special opportunities, and new ideas)

*Someone or two to work on **publicity** type needs:

- Website
- Brochure
- Flyers
- Announcements, etc.
- Bulletin Board

*Music teams for various different children activities and functions

***Those who would be willing to regularly pray for all or particular programs of Kids Connection. ***

What Are the Requirements for Volunteering?

A person who wants to teach or aid or volunteer in any of the planning and administrative roles needs to have made a **profession of faith in Jesus Christ**.

Those who would like to work directly with children also need to ***have been regularly attending FPC and either be a member of FPC or have stated their intent to join FPC by attending the next scheduled Explorer's Class.**

*If either of these criteria is not met, the volunteer must have an interview with the Session or the Session's representative(s). If a volunteer is not regularly attending FPC the adult must also—

*be a member in good standing of another congregation.
*must present FPC with a letter of recommendation for his or her pastor.

*must have a child/children participating in the program or activity that he she will be volunteering in.

*All volunteers will complete the Volunteer Application to Work with Children and Youth and submit it to the Children's Ministry Coordinator for review by the appointed Risk Manager for the church. The volunteer is responsible for reading the Operational Guidelines (a glossary of terms will be provided), signing the Applicant's Statement, and operating their ministry according to these guidelines.

Minor volunteers must be at least 13 years old and be a communing member of FPC. If a child younger than 13 years old wishes to serve in a particular ministry, an exception may be made after an interview has been conducted by the Children's Ministry Coordinator with both the child and their parent/guardian. The volunteer must have the approval of the Ministry Coordinator for that particular ministry. The volunteer is responsible for reading the Operational Guidelines (a glossary of terms will be provided), signing the Applicant's Statement, and abiding by these guidelines. The parent/guardian of the minor volunteer is responsible for ensuring that the minor understands this information and must sign the statement along with the minor stating that (1) the information has been reviewed and (2) the minor has the parent/guardian's permission to volunteer.

Besides that, FPC does not require that a person show evidence of past experience working with kids. One seeking to work with children ought to have a sincere love for children and a recognition of their value and worth not just as human beings, deserving dignity due them as God has showered on them, but particularly, as those God has a special interest in seeing taught and cared for within the family of believers.

All true Christian teachers love learning and enjoy being taught themselves, taking advantage of opportunities to grow in their knowledge of God and the Bible, in methods and ability in relating truth to their students, and in times to be encouraged and to be encouragers to other teachers. Kids Connection volunteers will want most of all to mature in their character, which is something that makes this type of teaching both unique to all other kinds of education and far more challenging.

This endeavor requires a **dependence on the Holy Spirit** for working His way in our hearts and lives. “More’s caught than taught” could never be more true than when we try to give our faith away in a teaching setting with children who are watching our every move and responding to our behavior towards them. The good news is that Jesus has sent His Spirit to live within us so that we are not just **not** alone, but guaranteed power when we need it to do that which is impossible for us naturally. And that most difficult challenge to love kids sincerely with a self-sacrificing love is not only possible because He first loved us, but it is very fulfilling and rewarding.

Why Volunteer—What Do Volunteers Gain?

Aiding in a Sunday School, teaching an AWANA Bible story, cleaning up after children snacking, praying for programs may not make headline news anywhere. Indeed the world and even the Christian world may not sit up and note the sacrifices made on behalf of children and ministering to them.

But God notices...He sees!!

Any sacrifice born out of gratefulness for the salvation that God has purchased for us is a beautiful thing in God’s sight. And, in particular, the Lord has a special interest and love for children and a desire to see them trained in His ways that is stated many times throughout the Bible. So, those who heed the call to be a part of raising tomorrow’s spiritual heroes have their **reward in full** coming from the Source of all good things.

But, the fact is most who teach with a heart for kids don’t have to wait for glory to begin reaping their reward. To know that you are a part of something very big—influencing little lives that will shape the future of God’s Kingdom here on earth is **very exciting!!** We have to have eyes to see beyond any little grimy faces and hands we might come in contact with and see as God sees—the person that each child is and will be and the soul that benefits from the love and learning bestowed on them.

Any who have taught for long will always admit that they learn more than probably their students do, just in the process of preparing and in delivering both the message and learning to rely on God for grace in being the character they need to be for the message to be heard and received. In other words, volunteers **grow as much or more than their pupils as they teach and give of themselves.** And sometimes our kids

have things to teach us. For starters, as Jesus said, their faith—simple trusting is a model we need to follow if we want to please God in our relationship with Him.

Besides all of this, **teaching kids will keep a person young**...or make you really old quickly!! The choice is yours, in a matter of speaking. Working with kids is an opportunity to keep fresh, to be exposed to what today's young person is thinking and doing, and to think and remember what it is to be a kid. There are so many opportunities afforded volunteers at FPC, particularly in AWANA, to do things that most have forgotten was fun to do. Like dressing up. Role playing. Game playing. Laughing like a kid. Singing kid's songs, etc...Yes, teach kids and you have a perfect excuse to laugh, run, sing, and remember how wonderful being young is!! **It can be a lot of fun!!** Who wants to get be old and stuffy before it's absolutely necessary!?!

Why Children's Ministry?

(from Read more... for parents on Kids Connection continued--Children Are Important)

Children are important to the life of our church and particularly, as the leadership of FPC is committed to including children in the plans this church is making to minister to people and to consider the special needs that children have in making ministry to them possible. **This is true because children are important to God.**

Over and over throughout the Bible and certainly starting early in the history of mankind as outlined in the Bible, God makes clear that children are important to Him and their care and education, particularly in spiritual nurturing are extremely vital to the life and health of God's people in general. **God particularly sets the responsibility on parents to teach their children about Him and His ways and even further, says that men (fathers) are to make a priority of instructing and caring for their young.**

One place that speaks very clearly of this is in Deuteronomy 6. God tells us that we are to live before our kids in a consistent way that is constantly allowing children to "see" how important God is and what living for Him is all about. Our church, FPC, seeks to aid parents in this all important task and to reach out to children whose parents may not even know God, themselves. **The idea that children are to be seen, but not heard is unbiblical.** They are to be encouraged to ask questions and given answers for all of life in teaching moments with parents, in particular, and then also with other caring individuals.

Jesus really does love the little children! Jesus, Himself, recorded in Mark 10:13-16 is indignant with his own disciples for trying to stop parents from bringing children to Him to be blessed of Him. This story is directed particularly at adults who might need reminding of how Jesus views little ones and how even children have the capacity to believe. In fact without faith in God like the type that a young and trusting child has in his parents, Jesus says it is impossible to please Him. There may indeed be spiritual truths that those of us who engage with children can learn or at least of which we can be reminded and by the very ones to whom we minister.

Besides the fact that God directly states that children and their upbringing are important to Him and the fact that He charges adults to see that children are taught, we, at FPC, realize that **children are a natural mission field**. Both those children who grow up in the church and in Christian homes and also those who have been unchurched in their upbringing need (as any soul does) to hear the gospel and to embrace it with their hearts. One of our top goals within the Kids Connection programs is to **challenge children to put their faith in Christ** and not just to accept their own knowledge of facts *about* Him as somehow being “enough” to live lives pleasing to God.

Children are also the future of the church and the future of the world. Generally speaking, how well a church is committed to making disciples of children directly affects the ability of that said church to operate well in any other way, as a body of believers. This is because God’s cause and effect plan for operation of this world means that how seriously a church takes obedience in caring for the young directly affects the health and effectiveness of the rest of the ministries of that church. Besides which, even those outside the faith recognize that the future of any group of people is obviously going to be very much related to how well the following generations have been prepared to live and lead.



The bottom line is that teaching children is an adventure. If you feel that God is tugging on your heart, we sure do have a need and plenty of places in which we could plug volunteers in to service. Give us a call. Let’s talk.....

*Submitted by Louise Grider
Acting Children’s Coordinator*

August 2008