

Little Bridges News



December 2009

Calendar of Events

Food Drive

11/2 thru 12/4

CLOSED - Thanksgiving

11/26 – 11/27

Sponsor-A-Family

Gifts due 12/8

Christmas Program

12/17 7:00 pm

CLOSED - Christmas

12/24 & 12/25

CLOSED – New Years

12/31 & 1/1

Canyon Creek Church

Sunday Services & Sunday School

8:30 am and 10:00 am

Christmas Concert

12/13 6:00 pm

Christmas Eve Services

Family Service 4:30 pm

Candlelight Services

6:00 & 7:30 pm

Sponsor – A - Family

Please join us as we participate in Sponsor-A-Family again this year. We are partnering with FESCO, a family shelter located in Hayward. Each classroom has taken on a family in hopes to meet their needs this holiday season.

Here's how it works. Each classroom has a different family and their "wishes" are posted on gift tags. Select a gift tag, buy the gift listed OR something you think the person might enjoy, bring the gift back and use the pulled tag as your gift tag. Please do not wrap children's gifts (supply a gift bag or wrap please). Adult gifts should be wrapped. All gifts are due by Tuesday, December 8th, and FESCO will deliver the gifts to the families.

Please consider helping another family this year. Your actions will warm your heart, spread kindness to another family and show your own child the true gift of giving this season.

Christmas Card Fundraiser

Order Christmas Cards designed by your child through Art & Soul by Wednesday, Dec. 2nd. All cards say "Merry Christmas" on the front and have your child's name printed on the back. Cards can be ordered in sets of 10 for \$15.00 per set. Little Bridges receives a profit on the cards (we are saving for a teacher's die cut machine) and the cards are precious! Each unique hand made card will bring a smile of joy to family and friends this season!

Christmas Celebrations

Christmas Concert & Dessert: Sunday, Dec. 13th at 6:00 p.m.

Be inspired! Come enjoy an informal time of music and fellowship. The Canyon Creek Christmas Choir, the Korean Church Choir, some soloists and the Joyful Noise Children's Choir will be performing on Dec. 13th. Potluck cookie reception follows in the Gathering Hall.

Little Bridges Christmas Program: Thurs., Dec. 17th at 7:00 p.m.

The preschool classes will be singing and sharing the story of Jesus' birth on Dec. 17th in the Worship Center. Bring your cameras and prepare your hearts for a very special evening.

Christmas Eve Services: 4:30, 6:00 & 7:30 p.m.

Canyon Creek Church will have a special Christmas Eve Service geared to families with young children at 4:30 PM on Thursday, Dec. 24th. This service will be approximately 40 minutes long and will be appropriate for the whole family.

At 6:00 & 7:30 PM Canyon Creek will hold their traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Services. As in the past, we will convene to the courtyard with lighted candles to sing Silent Night.

Thank You!

We collected over 1000 pounds of food during this year's Contra Costa County food Bank Drive. Thank you for supporting this very worthy cause.

The True Meaning of Christmas

One of my less-than-stellar parenting moments occurred in a Wal-Mart a few weeks before Christmas when my third son was about nine months old. My husband and I strapped Taylor into the baby seat of the shopping cart and plunged separately into the toy aisle. Ten minutes later, we met up again—but neither of us had the cart or Taylor! Each of us thought the other had taken him - he was sitting quietly at the end of the toy aisle waiting for his distracted parents. We retrieved our child, none the worse for being temporarily abandoned. (Please tell me I'm not the only mother who has done something like this!)

Just as we lost track of our flesh-and-blood baby in the toy store aisles at Christmas, so do we all sometimes lose track of the baby Jesus. Our focus shifts from the everlasting gift God gave us to the Elmo TMX or Nintendo Wii we want to get our kids. Slow down—savor the season—celebrate our Messiah. How to do this?

Celebrate Advent

Advent is traditionally the four Sundays before Christmas when we anticipate Jesus' birth. When I was a child, our advent wreath was the centerpiece on our dining room table – three purple candles, one pink and one white. Each candle has a specific meaning: candle one (purple) represents hope, candle two (purple) represents peace, candle three (pink) represents joy, candle four (purple) represents love and the white middle candle stands for Christ. We would light a new candle each Sunday and read a family devotion.

Have a Nightly Christmas Story Time

Libraries and bookstores are full of Christmas books – you can easily find enough to read one book every night of December. Choose books that tell the story of Jesus' birth rather than of Santa, Rudolph, or Frosty. Make this a special time each night. My boys love snuggling up in front of the Christmas tree and reading by candlelight or flashlight with a cup of hot cocoa at hand. On Christmas Eve, read the story of Jesus' birth straight from the Bible in the book of Luke.

Give to Others

Opportunities abound to give to others at Christmas time. One very worthy cause is our annual Sponsor-A-Family-Event. Children especially enjoy choosing gifts for another child their own age. As you shop together, talk about how happy the recipient of the gift will be. Talk about how Jesus is a gift for us and how we can share his love with others.

Have a Birthday Party for Jesus

Whether or not December 25 is the day Christ was actually born, it is the day we celebrate his birth. So why not have a birthday party as part of your celebration? This can be as simple as a birthday cake as part of your Christmas dinner to a children's party with games, food, and gifts of baby items that you will donate.

Buy a Nativity Scene your Child Can Play With

I have a most cherished video of my two oldest when they were in preschool re-enacting the Christmas story using our wooden nativity figures. If you only own a beautiful heirloom nativity set, invest in one your children can play with and watch through their eyes as they tell the story of our Savior's birth.

Choose Your Christmas Music

Kids love music and can learn a lot by listening and singing. Songs like "Rudolph" and "Jingle Bells" are fun, but your children will absorb the meaning of Christmas if you focus on more traditional Christmas carols that tell the story of Jesus such as Away in a Manger, Hark! the Herald Angels Sing, Joy to the World, We Three Kings, The First Noel and Silent Night.

Does focusing on the real meaning behind Christmas mean no more Santa? I don't think so. Kids love Santa and his spirit of love and giving is a fun addition to Christmas. The key is to incorporate Santa without letting him overshadow Jesus' birth.

By making Christ the center of your Christmas celebrations and taking time to teach your children the true meaning of Christmas, you set a firm foundation for their faith in years to come. Give your children the best Christmas gift of all – a life centered around Jesus.