

The Open Door Witness

May 2017

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From the Director

The end of the school year is approaching very quickly. In this my 25th year of teaching it is important to stay current by learning and teaching new ideas, subjects, and approaches. In education today the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) approach is being used by many to systematically organize and focus curriculum on those subjects. More recently the STEAM movement has received a lot of attention, the "A" referencing art. The objective of this movement is to place Art and Design at the center of STEM. And, yes, that does include the preschool classroom.

In addition, cognitive (thinking, mental processing) and academic skills need to be addressed. According to professional early childhood standards, children need to be taught the following critical skills: problem solving, creativity, argumentation (using evidence to support a claim), Intellectual curiosity, data-driven decision making, and flexibility.

(Director - continued on page 7)

We Have Wheels!

The November 2016 *Witness* reported on what had become a pressing concern of Open Door staff – the need for transportation for field trips and other activities to enrich and extend the classroom learning experience and the Christian education. The cost of transportation services such as buses and taxis had become prohibitive or were no longer available. This resulted in fewer field trips each year until, for this school year, none were taken by the preschool children.

The Board has addressed the transportation issue, and is pleased to report

that the Open Door (with the able assistance of Jerry Suko) has located and purchased a 2004 Ford 15 passenger bus to transport the children to various activities. Our sincerest appreciation goes to all who have donated to make this long time goal a reality.



Graduation Program

The Open Door's Preschool class of 2016 - 17 will present the end of school year program, "Geared to Grow, Work, Build, Believe," on Thursday, May 25th at McCabe United Methodist Church starting at 10 a.m. Graduation will conclude the program. Education across all grades and ages, including preschool, places an emphasis on learning about science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM). For example, throughout the school year, our children have worked on and enjoyed activities such as working with Legos and pattern block tasks. The STEAM emphasis serves as the theme for our graduation program. We are looking forward to singing our songs, demonstrating actions, and displaying some of our projects completed throughout the year, all with our hard hats, tools, and other construction props.

A lunch consisting of Build-A-Sandwich, Gravel (applesauce and granola), square Jello blocks, cheese hammers (cheese cubes and pretzels sticks), and Dirt Pudding dessert will follow the graduation. All are welcome to attend the program.

Summer Camp and Fall Preschool Registration

The Open Door will offer 3 sessions of Summer Day Camp from June 5 – August 18 (closed July 4): June 5 – June 30; July 3 – July 28; and July 31 – August 18. Hours are 8:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., with 7:30 a.m. openings for an additional fee.

Each week will have a theme with a variety of activities including games, arts and crafts, outside play, guest presenters, water fun, field trips, Bible Time, Vacation Bible School, and other summer fun. Vacation Bible School will be mornings the week of June 26 – 29 and feature a Campout themed curriculum. It will be hosted by adults and students from Century Baptist Church.

Registration for Fall 2017 Preschool will begin on May 22. The fall term will begin Monday, August 28. Several places have already been filled by currently attending children who will return next fall.

Contact Jolene at the Open Door regarding both summer camp and registration (701-222-3004).

Little Library Needs Bibles

Since the Open Door Little Free Library was installed in front of our building on January 6, 2016, it has proven to be very popular. Many books have been accessed from the library and others have been placed there by Open Door staff and volunteers and neighborhood borrowers. However, there is always a need for books and we appreciate donations that we can share with the neighborhood.



The unique aspect of our Little Free Library is that at least one Bible is on the shelves at all times. These range from Children's Bibles to various versions for adults. Currently we have very few remaining to share and are asking for donations of Bibles so we can continue our tradition. The Bibles, as with all other donated books, can be used (in good condition) or new, and for any age. Donations of books can be dropped off at the Open Door Center, 1140 South 12th Street, Bismarck, at any time.

Please call Jolene at 701- 222-3004 if you have questions, or if you wish to donate other materials or supplies. See Wish List on page 4 of this newsletter.

Annual Conference Childcare Available

In a first-time experience for the Open Door Community Center, childcare will be provided at the facility (1140 S. 12th Street) during Annual Conference June 7-10 in Bismarck. The parents pay a minimal fee as part of their conference packet registration to use the service.

The childcare service is for children ages 3 - 12 years old. It will be available at the following times: Wednesday, June 7, 1 - 5:30 pm; Thursday, June 8, 8 am - 6 pm; Friday, June 9, 7:30 am - 5:30 pm and 7 - 9 pm; and Saturday, June 10, 7:30 am to 12 noon. Field trips and special summer fun will be included, and breakfast, lunch, and snacks will be provided.

New Board Members Introduce Themselves



Mary Lee Steele

I recently began serving on the Open Door Board as a representative of McCabe's Board of Trustees and am looking forward to continuing on the board for the next two years. I am impressed with Open Door's program.

I am a native of Bismarck and a lifelong member of McCabe United Methodist Church. In 2013, I retired from my position of the Director of the Acute Care Unit at West Central Human Service Center. Since then, I have had the opportunity to travel to England, Scotland, Spain, and Amsterdam as well as within the United States. I enjoy my OLLI (Osher Life Long Learning Institute) classes, serving at The Banquet when it is McCabe's turn, occasionally providing snacks for the Say Y.E.S. program, and delivering Meals on Wheels each April. I attend Yoga and Tai Chi classes and am a member of a Book Club.

I am a member of Mandan United Methodist Church, where I serve on the Mission Committee, sing with the choir, and help with Friday Night Lights and Bible School. I feel that Adult Sunday School is an important part in the church where the adults can explore the Bible and experience God's wonderful instructions.



Linda Bohrer

I have been married to Bill for 40 years and have a daughter, Miranda, son-in-law Paul, and two grandchildren, Ezra (9) and Solveig (3 ½).

I am currently employed at The Eye Clinic of North Dakota in the medical records department and my part-time fun job is at the YMCA in the Water Fitness department teaching water aerobics.

Serving on the Open Door Board as the Mandan UMC representative will be a new experience for me and I hope that I will be an asset to the board.

Long-time Board Members Retire

Two long-time Board members, Jerry Suko and Myrna Petermann, have announced their retirement from the Open Door.

Jerry Suko is an all around supporter and advocate, ensuring care of physical facilities and attending to maintenance, locating resources of all kinds from churches and the community, and communicating Open Door needs to McCabe UMC's administrative board.



Jerry regards the Open Door as a very important UMC outreach in the Bismarck-Mandan area that "gives us the opportunity to offer young people an introduction to the gospel as they begin their early years of learning and form habits that they will carry with them throughout their life." Jerry's next mission is to serve as a co-leader of McCabe UMC's Awana Christian Outreach Club which is scheduled to become operational this fall.

Myrna Petermann has dedicated many years of service to the Open Door. She has played various volunteer roles including classroom aide, tutor for children needing extra attention, and cook. Everyone remembers her special elaborately decorated cupcakes and other refreshments (especially for graduation). Myrna said that she has loved working at the center, and that it has served as a life saver for her. Though she will miss all the excitement, she has offered to help out as she is able.



We extend our sincerest thank you and deepest appreciation to Jerry and Myrna for their years of service to the Open Door, and wish them well.

Thank you, University of Mary SPURS, for organizing holiday parties for our children this school

Marge Wagner Joins Staff

The Open Door is pleased to welcome Marge Wagner as our morning classroom aide. She introduces herself in the article below.

My name is Marge (Margaret) Wagner. The students call me Grandma Marge. I have been working part-time at Open Door Preschool since the middle of January. I love spending time with the kids. I've been working with children for about 60 years.



Most of my life I lived in Mobridge, South Dakota. My first husband, who passed away at a young age, and I have three children, five grandchildren, and three adorable great granddaughters.

My current husband, Elmer Wagner, also lost his spouse to cancer. We have been married about 25 years and live in Lincoln. Elmer has six children, 18 grandchildren, and 16 great grandchildren (one more on the way). We are kept very busy with our part-time jobs, large family, and church activities.

Volunteer Hours

Volunteers donate a considerable amount of time, giving of their enthusiasm and varied talents and skills to enrich and support the Open Door mission.

The total number of hours volunteered during the fourth quarter of 2017 was 113 hours; for the first quarter, 116 hours were recorded. Thank you for your continuing assistance.

If you have a special skill or talent or just want to have a delightful and satisfying experience with preschoolers, please contact Jolene.

Quartet Hosts Fundraiser

On March 5, the Mandan Men's Quartet hosted a very successful fundraiser for the Open Door. The United Methodist Men served a lunch while the quartet performed various old time gospel songs. Myrna Petermann, retiring Mandan UMC representative on the Board, was acknowledged for her many years of service to the Open Door.



The quartet included Vern Unrath, Eric Nikiforoff, Randy Meissner, and Steve Van Dyke.

Picture this!

Thank you, Marilyn Johnson, for the very generous gift of a digital camera.

Our Wish List

Delivering preschool education requires many consumable supplies. Below are some items that we would be grateful to receive. If you have questions, please contact Jolene at 222-3004. Thank you.

Bibles (of all kinds) for the Little Free Library
Children books
Watercolors trays
Children's 24- or 25-piece puzzles
Fingerpaint and fingerpaint paper
Copier paper
White marker board (approx. 40" x 52")
Color pencils
Spiral notebooks
6-foot ladder
Kitchen size garbage bags
33-gallon garbage bags

Readers Enrich Our Days

Listening to stories is an important part of learning language, listening skills, and content, as well as being a source of entertainment. In addition to regular story reading during the school day, volunteers regularly assist the Open Door staff by reading teacher-selected books.



Maurice and Sandy Thorson, Mandan UMC members, became volunteer readers in November. They usually come each Tuesday morning and read books for about half an hour. And they occasionally bring treats, such as for Christmas and Valentine's Day, to the delight of the children.

Grandpa Jim Karn continues to read to the children during his visits on Thursday mornings. They are always excited when they can convince him to stay for lunch with them.



Jerry Suko and Marti Knutson introduced the children to creating music with hand bells and chimes.

Gifts to the Open Door

The Open Door has been blessed by the many thoughtful people who support our mission with their prayers, presence, gifts, and services. These enrich our program and services, and help us to maintain our day-to-day operation and physical facility. Thank you very much for remembering us so generously. The following identifies those who contributed between November 14, 2016 and April 30, 2017.

Equipment and Materials. The following persons donated to the Open Door.

- Jim Karn, Bismarck, ND - two books: *Five-Minute Bedtime Bible Stories* and *Forget Me Not*
- Legacy UMC, Bismarck, ND - balloons, Transformers, books, holiday decorations, craft items
- Legacy UMC Spring Tea, Bismarck, ND - paper products
- Devils Lake UMC, Devils Lake, ND - cookie sheets, cake pans, dishcloths, kitchen spoons, spatula set, and books
- Marilyn Johnson, Mandan, ND - digital camera
- Gen Pfliger Family, Bismarck, ND - craft items, Christmas and Easter items, doll blankets, pillows, books, fleece items
- UMW Sakakawea District Focus Meeting - stickers, paper towels, stamps, copier paper, money, crayons, watercolors, toilet paper, color pencils, markers, construction paper, glue
- Bev Solberg, Bismarck, ND - fruit cups
- Lucas and Angie Wescott family, Bismarck, ND - Pet Shop toys, wooden puzzles, glue sticks, scissors, watercolors, tape dispenser, crayons and markers
- Carmen and Carol Wold, Bismarck, ND - canned garden items

Monetary gifts. The following persons and church groups contributed monetary gifts in memory or in honor of family and friends, for designated or general use.

- Roger and Betty Becker, Bismarck, ND
- Howard and Melvena Bier, Bismarck, ND
- Marvia Boettcher, Newberg, OR
- Marlene Brown, Bismarck, ND, in memory of Diane Delmer Dyk's mother
- Betty Dockrey, Bismarck, ND
- Mavis J. Fuher, Bismarck, ND, in memory of Eugene Fuher

George Gagnon and Michelle Collay-Saco, ME, in memory of Renee Gagnon

Roger and Vicki Griffin, Mandan, ND, in honor of our grandchildren Sara, Max, Lily, Victoria, Joseph, Alexis, and Jadelynn

Lewis and Sherry Heaton, McKenzie, ND, in honor of Sterling UMC family: Pastor Marlin and Carol Sapp, Sharon Lang, Luella Rath, and Sherry Wilson

DeNora Hoff, Bismarck, ND, in memory of her sister

Marilyn Johnson, Mandan, ND, in memory of Edna Boardman, a friend of McCabe, of UMW, and of librarians

Marilyn Johnson, Mandan, ND, in memory of Ray Markel, who was a long time friend of Loretta Knight

Memorial monies for Raymond Markel were received from Loretta Knight; Gail and James Sperry, Bismarck, ND; Jacquelyn Rae Schulte, Center, ND; Evelyn Remmich, Bismarck, ND; Darlene Farrell, Bismarck, ND; Deb Grinaker, Bismarck, ND; and Barbara L. Kraft, Carson

Barbara and Daniel Kingsley, Hill City, MN, in memory of Anita Neumann

David and Jane Knecht, Fargo, ND

LeAnn Lindteigen, Medina, ND, designated for scholarship fund

Robert and Sheila O'Shaughnessy, Bismarck, ND, in memory of Diane Dyk's mother

Nyla Switlick, Bismarck, ND, in memory of Robert Mart and Howard Piehl; and in memory of Ellen Driscoll

Daniel and Bonnie Taylor, Bismarck, ND, in memory of Anita Neumann

Dick and Pat Unkenholz, Prescott, AZ, in memory of Howard Piehl; and for general use

UMW of Ashley UMC, Ashley, ND

UMW of Dickinson UMC, Dickinson, ND

UMW of McCabe UMC, Bismarck, ND

McCabe UMC, Bismarck, ND (from Christmas Eve offering)

UMW of First UMC, Fargo, ND

UMW of First UMC, Jamestown, ND

Women of the UMC, Langdon, ND

UMW of Lisbon UMC, Lisbon, ND

UWM of Mandan UMC, Mandan, ND

Mandan UMC, Mandan, ND

Mandan UMC, Mandan, ND (Souper Sunday Men's Quartet)

Chaseley UMC, McClusky, ND

UMW of Faith UMC, Minot, ND

UMW of Vincent UMC, Minot, ND

Dakotas UM Foundation, Mitchell, SD (endowment district support)

Mohall UMC, Mohall, ND

Oakes UMC, Oakes, ND

UMW of Rolla UMC, Rolla, ND

Rolla UMC, Rolla, ND

UMW of Sterling UMC, Sterling, ND

Streeter UMC, Streeter, ND

UMW of Washburn UMC, Washburn, ND

Washburn UMC, Washburn, ND

Campbell's Labels for Education. The Labels for Education program has ended as of May, and we redeemed our last 32,653 labels to obtain a mini iPad for the staff to use. Legacy UMC, Bismarck, ND, and St. Paul's Methodist Church, Jamestown, ND, contributed labels to those already accumulated to meet the required number for this last order.

Thank you so very much to all the many churches and individuals who over the decades supported this program by clipping hundreds of thousands of labels. The Open Door received many useful items through this program, greatly supplementing our resources for education.

A special thank you goes to Linda Suko who attended to all aspects of the Campbell's Labels Program.



Planting jelly beans and

Harvesting lollipops



(Director – continued from page 1)

It is sometimes challenging to plan and present lessons in the "harder" subjects to very young children while encouraging cognitive skills as they emerge. One approach is to mesh multiple topics and skills within one lesson, always bringing the subjects to the preschool level. For example, a preschool science lesson might be growing crystals of different colors using our names or handprints as patterns. An engineering lesson might be creating geometric LEGO blueprints (as we did as part of our display for the end of year program), or building bridges of different materials, talking through how the child is deciding what to do and analyzing why a structure collapsed. Math could be building shapes out of marshmallows and pretzels or sorting leaves by color, size and type of plant.

I have found that teaching needed concepts to be more challenging since the children have such easy access to a small screen and only a swipe of the finger is needed to interact with the game or video on their iPad or parents' iPhone. I think children need adults around who are fully engaged with them - listening, talking, sharing experiences and spending quality time - to create a closer bond and teach them to learn how to be considerate and caring person.

A very important aspect of our daily life here at preschool is learning social skills. It has always been important to me that children (whether mine, my grandchildren, or my students) be well-adjusted, respectful, and display basic morals. Struggles we encountered this and every year included whining, tattling, being disrespectful, not telling the truth, sticky fingers, and forgetting our manners. Times have changed greatly with new habits, attitudes, and behavior expectations causing differences from the ones we were used to when we were children. Children with the newest technology seem distracted from the need to go out and play and socialize in the ways we did. They don't seem to spend much time having fun.

My goals concerning social skills include: spending quality time with the children, trying to be a strong moral role model, teaching how to care for others, and practicing gratitude. Several posters in my office convey this. One states, "Your children will become what you are; so be what you want them to be." Another says, "I promise you every day your child will learn something. Some days they will bring it home in their hands. Some days they will

bring it home in their heads. And some days they will bring it home in their hearts."

Wishing you a happy spring and summer!
Jolene Stading Puhalla

This is Me! Day – Kids and Parents





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Bismarck, ND 58504

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Open Door Community Center Mission
Through the Open Door Community Center, children and families receive Christian-based education and support services, enriching them to become responsible members of their families and community.

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