

# The Open Door Witness

May 2019

Phone: (701) 222-3004

www.opendoorbismarck.com

Email: opendoor@midconetwork.com

Have a Happy Summer



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## From the Director

We are nearing the completion of another school year - the first one in our new location at McCabe UMC. The days from August 17 - August 27 last year were a whirlwind of activity as we moved from what had been our home on South 12<sup>th</sup> Street to McCabe: moving the contents of the building; setting up the new rooms and putting away all the materials and supplies; getting re-licensed for childcare at our new location; preparing for a new school year; and meeting some new families. I should have taken a child's approach and just been in awe when seeing old friends and making some new ones. I stressed out a bit, but eventually everything worked out. Pastor Mark, Pastor Jenny, and the whole staff at McCabe have been very welcoming.



The significant difference in physical features between our previous and present location presented challenges that affect classroom routine as well as content and how and when it is presented to the children. For example, there are no bathrooms in  
*(Director continued on page 4)*

## Parties and Play are a Learning Experience

Yes, indeed! Parties offer fun and games for our children. But they are also a wonderful way to learn a variety of skills and social behaviors, as well as connecting children with important past and current events – religious and other. For example, on February 1<sup>st</sup> we celebrated with our own version of Super Bowl with the sports - themed party, "Who Will Win the Super Bowl?" The children enjoyed the Passing Football game, Pin the Football through the Goalpost, and "Hot" Football. These games were excellent opportunities to develop fine motor, gross motor, and perceptual motor skills.



Children practiced turn-taking, cooperative play, and group activities as they had fun. They were exposed to a bit of science and art as they made photo booth pictures. As they enjoyed a lunch of English muffin pizza, carrots and banana, milk, and a special football cookie, they also learned etiquette, table manners, and how to express thanks for the meal, as well as their colors and important nutrition information.

The Valentine's Day party provided yet another fun learning opportunity, but with a different theme. The color red was stressed through the food served, although stacking hearts of different colors addressed comparison skills. Fine motor and perceptual motor skills as well as learning to adjust effort to hit a target were reinforced again with stacking candy hearts and blowing "arrows" at a target (photo on page 1). Recognizing one's skills compared with those of others helped develop self-concept as well, and giving and receiving valentines strengthened the joy of caring for and receiving positive attention from others.



Our Easter party included not only a lesson surrounding the events of that special day, but some science as well. For our Dissolving Peeps experiment, we soaked Peeps in four different liquids: vinegar, orange juice, lime juice, and water to learn how fast each would affect the candy. It was a surprise when the Peeps dissolved fastest in water (although it took several days). We practiced problem-solving skills in making Peeps Houses with graham crackers, figuring out how to place the crackers while using sticky frosting as glue to hold them together.

Each child made a "Jesus is Risen" roll which consisted of a marshmallow sealed inside a crescent roll. The children discovered that after the rolls were baked, the marshmallow was gone and the roll was hollow inside. We had a discussion about what happened to the rolls and the marshmallows, likening it to the tomb where Jesus was. We ate our

"Jesus is Risen" rolls for lunch, along with ham, cheesy potatoes, carrots, and cantaloupe. Following that, we enjoyed a hunt for colorful Easter eggs.

Any one game or activity can address several skills at once, of course, and be a lot of fun as well. Our



party games reinforce daily classroom activities as we teach our preschool children necessary developmental skills.

In addition to classroom parties, the SPURS from the University of Mary has hosted four parties a year since 2007 for the children of the OD. Each Halloween, Christmas, Valentine's Day and Easter brings 5-8 university students along with adviser Sister Gerard Wald to share

arts/crafts, stories, games and treat bags. Sister Gerard has informed us that they will be back again next school year.



Thank You, SPURS!

## Class Visitors Promote Good Health

Two professionals, a nutritionist and a dentist, visited our classroom to provide information to our children that is helpful to promote and maintain good health.

Karen Johnke, a Burleigh County nutritionist, shared information with our children that different foods are used by their bodies for different purposes. She talked about which foods are better for keeping us healthy, and which should be eaten sparingly. Ms. Johnke used the red (“stop”), yellow (“proceed with caution”), and green (“go”) from traffic signals to help children understand



the value of various foods.

On March 29<sup>th</sup> we had a visit from dentist Dr. Andrew Schmid. He is an uncle of one the preschoolers. Dr. Schmid educated and entertained the children by discussing good and not so good snacks.



The children enjoyed being a tooth (wearing a white pillowcase) and having

others “brush” the not so good snacks from them. They asked a lot of questions and enjoyed sharing with the dentist about the color and kind of toothbrushes they had at home. Using his giant toothbrush, Dr. Schmid showed us the correct way to use a toothbrush to remove food debris from teeth after eating. We each got a tube of toothpaste.

## Graduation

The end of the year program and graduation will be May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at McCabe’s Fellowship Hall. Nine of our 22 children will be moving on to kindergarten this fall.

The theme is “We Like to Play Outside”. The children will perform songs, poems, and finger plays about hula hoops, jump ropes, swimming, balloons, kites, bubbles, and other outside fun.

A lunch of Hero sandwiches, fresh veggies and fruit, chips and lemonade will be shared on red and white checkered tablecloths. Our treat will be fudgesicles. We are expecting around 80 people to attend the morning festivities.

## Earth Day

We had a wonderful surprise on the celebration of Earth Day in May. McCabe was the site of many U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service presentations for several Bismarck schools, and our preschoolers were able to participate in one of them. Toni from the Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery told us about the Hatchery and showed live fish being raised there. We got to touch them too!



## Summer Day Camp

Summer programming will begin Monday, June 3rd and end on Friday August 16<sup>th</sup>. The camp will be closed on July 4 and 5. We expect to take several field trips during the summer. There will be lots of outside activities at the playground and across the street on the state capitol grounds.

Some openings still exist to complete our 22 children limit. Contact Jolene at 701- 222-3004 for information.

### Volunteer Hours

The total number of hours volunteered during the 4th quarter of 2018 was 209; for the 1st quarter of 2019, 120. Many thanks to our dedicated volunteers for their assistance of our mission.

If you want to have a delightful and satisfying experience with preschool children, contact Jolene at 701-222-3004.

## Gifts to the Open Door

### Equipment, Materials, and Supplies

Kathy Aller, Bismarck, ND - various paper supplies  
Dickinson UMC, Dickinson, ND - January "One

Thing" donation of paper

Anna Ehresman, Ashley, ND - 24 child-size hand-made quilts

Marilyn Johnson, Mandan, ND - electric pencil sharpener

Milnor UMC, Milnor, ND - February "One Thing" donation of paint and paint supplies

Gen Pfliger family, Bismarck, ND - Christmas decorations/ornaments, calculators, office supplies, stuffed animals, craft supplies, markers, note pads, stickers, scissors, wall hangings, material, bags of candy and chips, books

Bev Solberg, Bismarck, ND - fruit cups, candy canes, plastic paint containers

Washburn UMC, Washburn, ND - construction paper, glitter glue, puzzles, paper products, pencil sharpeners, crayons, band-aids, pencils, erasers

### Monetary gifts received from November 1, 2018, to May 1, 2019

Valerie Abrahamson, Bismarck, ND

Mary Ann Anderson, Mandan, ND

Roger and Vicki Griffin, Mandan, ND in memory of Marion Muthiah and in honor of our grandchildren: Emmet, Sara, Max, Lily, Alexis, Victoria, and Joseph

Mary Ann Hanson, Mandan, ND

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

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

Robert and Sheila Shaughnessy, Bismarck, ND in memory of Dallas Hughart, a dear friend (2)

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

Dick and Pat Unkenholz, Prescott, AZ

Sam and Judy Wangler, Bismarck, ND in memory of Anita Neumann

Ashley UMC, Ashley, ND

Bowman UMC, Bowman, ND

Chaseley UMC, Chaseley, ND

Cleveland UMC, Cleveland, ND (2)

Dakotas Conference UMW

Dakotas UM Foundation, Mitchell, SD

Devils Lake UMW, Devils Lake, ND

Dickinson UMW, Dickinson, ND

Ebenezer UMW, Cleveland, ND

Faith UMC, Minot, ND

Langdon UMW, Langdon, ND

McCabe UMC, Bismarck, ND

McCabe UMW, Bismarck, ND

Mandan UMW, Mandan, ND (2)

Mohall UMC, Mohall, ND

Oakes UMC, Oakes, ND

Rolla UMC, Rolla, ND

Rolla UMW, Rolla, ND

Washburn UMW, Washburn, ND

In addition, the following provided donations for the purchase of graduation gifts of Bibles for the preschool class:

Sakakawea District UMW

Legacy UMW, Bismarck, ND

Kenneth and Carol Hogue, Bismarck, ND

### (Director - Continued from page 1)

the classroom area so a staff person needs to escort a child. This leaves only one teacher with the rest of the class and often interrupts flow of a lesson or activity, or halts it altogether.

The playground is now a block away at Will-Moore Elementary School instead of just out the back door. Helping short little legs trudge over

unshoveled sidewalks this very snowy winter tested our physical endurance and determination, while requests for a bathroom break once outside the building were perplexing. The timeframe for using the playground was dictated by times Will-Moore students were not using it. A playground time later in the morning would have been better for the preschool children, but we are thankful that an agreement could be made with the school. Though an arrangement for our usual 4:00 pm playground recess was not possible, the gym at McCabe has been a very useful alternative.

We had a lot of large windows on South 12<sup>th</sup> Street, but here we don't see the sky until stepping outside. Relatedly, there is no space to plant a garden this spring. Each year prior, Jim Unkenholz helped the children plant four raised garden plots, care for the vegetables, and gather the harvest. I took a class on container and small space gardening but not soon enough to develop a plan that could be accepted and implemented.

In addition to changing locations, the Open Door no longer has its van transportation which has meant only one field trip this school year. The Board of Directors is still working to find a way to make field trips a possibility for the summer and next school year.

As with most moves, items are misplaced. Since I was the person who put everything away here at the McCabe classroom, I can blame no one else when my memory fails me.

That said, however, I am so very grateful for the many people who supported the Open Door during this trying transition period. I am thankful to pastors, staff, and McCabe's congregation for sharing their space so we could continue to have our program. I am thankful to the members of our Board who are dedicated to providing a purposeful and Christian preschool program. I am thankful to my Assistant Director, Jean Rexine, for making this transition with me and often times being the calming voice I needed. I am thankful to all the church families and individuals who continued their spiritual, emotional, and financial support of the Open Door. I am truly thankful. We are truly blessed.

Jolene Puhalla, Director of Open Door Preschool

## Quilts

Anna Ehresman of Ashley, ND loves to sew and make quilts. And like many who enjoy creating colorful and cuddly items, she has acquired quite a "stash" of fabric over the years. While pondering the possibilities for these pieces, she considered what to make and who would be the lucky recipients.



After some thought, Ms. Ahresman contacted our director, Jolene and several weeks later, delivered 24 handmade child size quilts, one for each of our preschoolers. Each quilt is unique, and nap time is now a very colorful activity.

We very much appreciate Ms. Ahresman's thoughtful gifts to the Open Door children. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

## Wish list

The Open Door is always in need of materials and supplies for classroom, recreation, and office purposes. We appreciate that so many of you have contributed to our preschool. Below are items currently in greatest need. As an alternative, gift cards to Sam's Club, Target and WalMart provide flexibility in purchasing last minute supplies. If you have other ideas, please contact Jolene at 701-222-3004 to discuss them.

Play-Doh; postage stamps; one storage unit with shelves for Math Center; 1.25 oz bottles of school glue; 24-piece puzzles or wooden puzzles; Scotch and masking tape; alphabet, math, science learning center activities; small plastic animals: farm, dinosaurs, zoo, sea life; CDs and DVDs for children and families; stickers of all kinds; Baby food jars; clear plastic containers with lids in 15 quart sizes and 1.9 gallon sizes.



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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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