

The Open Door Witness

November 2019

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Kids take charge of House chamber in Capitol.

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From the Director

When the school year started on August 26 it marked the beginning of the second year in our new location. Each school year is different – some of the children are new to our program, others are returning a year older, and the dynamics and interactions of the children with each other and the staff are somewhat different. Each personality brings something interesting to the preschool atmosphere. It's one of the reasons that I continue to feel excited when each new school year begins.



It's not a journey that I make on my own. There are so many supports that assist us. I am thankful to Jean Rexine, assistant director, who teaches our children who Jesus is through her inspiring daily Christian Education lessons (or Bible Time as the children call it). The children enjoy seeing our cook Tina Mitchell and working with Pat Ivey, our long time support staff member. Volunteer "Grandpa Jim" Karn who has visited us almost every Thursday morning for the past 7-8 years to read to us is truly a comfortable part of the week. **(Go to p. 6)**

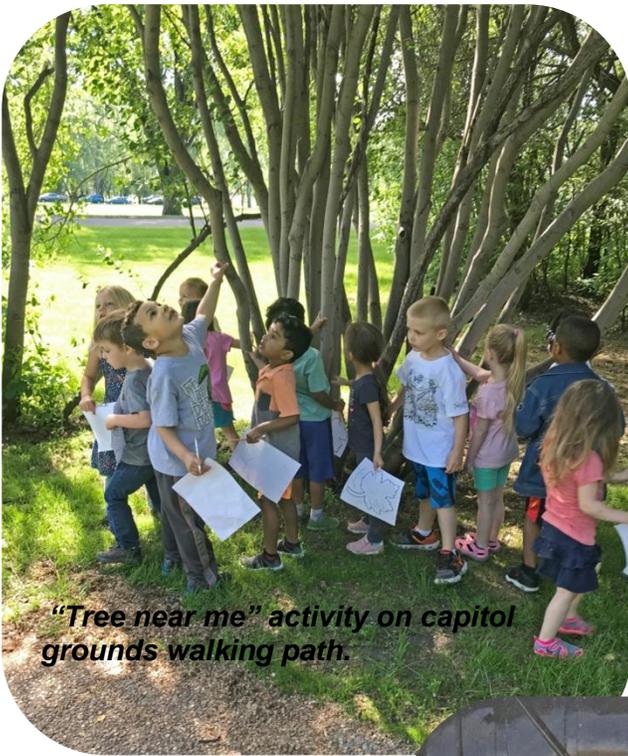
Exploring our Community Through Field Trips

The Open Door strives to enrich and expand the classroom activities of our children with community-based and outdoor experiences. This enables greater hands-on opportunities to apply information acquired in the classroom and to explore resources, occupations, events, and other features of our surroundings, and the children really enjoy visiting new places. Fortunately, through an agreement reached with the McCabe UMC Trustees, we can use the McCabe van to visit various sites around Bismarck and Mandan. Beginning this last summer, our preschoolers have gone on several field trips.

With the North Dakota Capitol and Heritage Center literally right across the street from the Open Door, it was easy to access during our Summer Day Camp. The children visited the Heritage Center on June 24th. Of course, the dinosaurs were the favorite part of that visit. The children enjoyed the Treehouse play area also. On the following day, we took a tour of the Capitol with Andrea Cooper. She allowed the children to sit in the chairs that the leg-

isolators use when they are in session. The children truly enjoyed that.

Earlier in the week we had "A Tree Near Me" science activity along the walking path on the Capitol grounds. Many of the trees have numbered ground plaques that identify each tree specie. We read the name, then observed the leaves, bark, trunk, limbs, and other features of each tree, and compared it with other trees. Each child chose one tree they liked the best and made drawings of it. The end of the week had us doing directed drawings of the Wild Prairie Rose, the state flower of ND. It was interesting to note that some of children had never been to the ND Capitol grounds even though they live in Bismarck-Mandan.



"Tree near me" activity on capitol grounds walking path.

On July 11 we ventured to Camp Hancock in Bismarck to celebrate "Train Fun Day." Camp Hancock is a State Historic Site that features a Northern Pacific steam powered locomotive. We enjoyed making kazoos, singing, and then marching around the train. Local child entertainer "Kittyko" (Kris Kitko) was the hostess. She taught us some new songs and led the march around the train. We snacked on cookies and lemonade. It



Kris Kitko and kids march past the Camp Hancock locomotive.

was a fun summer afternoon.

Just a few days later on July 15 we had a field trip to the Dakota Zoo. The children enjoyed a ride on the zoo train and seeing all the animals. We were thankful to parents who volunteered to help us chaperone this event.

On August 7 we visited the newest playground in north Bismarck, New Generations Park. A lot of the children had not been to this playground before. We spent several hours there and enjoyed our afternoon snack at the playground.

Finally, on September 16 we made our always exciting annual field trip to Papa's Pumpkin Patch. Favorites include the corn box, swings, train ride, climbing the hay bales, and the obstacle course. Each child left with a small pumpkin and pumpkin cookie for our afternoon snack when we returned to the center. We extend a special thank you to Jerry Suko who drove the van on all of our field trips.



Mary Carter Joins Board



Mary Carter

I was born and raised on a farm near Mohall ND, along with my six sisters. I attended two and a half years of college at UND before becoming a wife to Dennis and a mother to two sons and a daughter. I was a postmaster in

Pettibone, Drake, and

Garrison after which I retired to become caregiver to my husband and his parents. After their deaths, I volunteer at St Alexius Children's Center. I have three grandchildren and live in Mandan.

Tina Mitchell is our New Cook

Hi, my name is Tina Mitchell and I am excited to be part of Open Door Community Preschool!. For the last six years, I served as the Director of Family Ministries at McCabe United Methodist Church. Prior to that, I was a stay-at-home mom and a volunteer with several local children's programs.



Tina Mitchell

My favorite things to do include hiking, disc golf, drawing, playing the ukulele, and spending time with my family. My favorite foods are pizza, apples, fresh vegetables, and chocolate. I also love the Vikings and think this is going to be

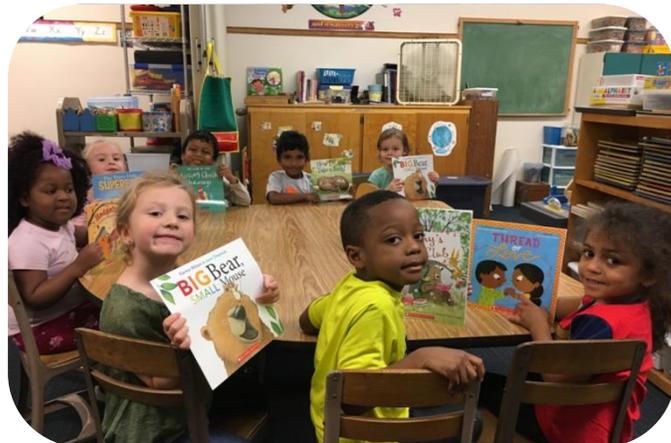
their year!

I have been married to my best friend, Derrick, for 19 years. Together we are blessed with our almost teenage son, Jack; our Old English Sheepdog, Oreo; and our goldfish, Comet.

Scholastic Book Club

Most of us remember the monthly Scholastic Book flyers that were given to us in school. The preschool has been using the Scholastic Book Club Preschool edition for several years. There is a strong correlation between reading and the size of

a child's vocabulary. The director of the OD approached the Board during the August meeting to seek help from Bismarck-Mandan UMC churches so that each of our 22 children would receive a Scholastic Book each month (September-May). Select books are available for \$1-\$2 each. Announcements were put in bulletins and newsletters asking individual church members to donate \$9 (or any amount they choose) so that each child



could receive nine \$1.00 books during the school year. The OD Board started the drive by donating \$200 towards the cause. The promotion was successful. The children each received a book in September and two books in October. They are excited each month to get a new book. The staff is thankful to all who contributed to this worthwhile cause. As Steve Van Dyke, OD chair, reminded us, "Children learn to read until they are in the third grade, and then they read to learn for the rest of their lives."

The following organizations and individuals contributed to support of the Scholastic Book Club: Legacy UMC, Bismarck, ND; McCabe UMC, Bismarck, ND; Jennifer Bandy; Karen Vasey; Marilyn Smith; Lonny Mertz; Paul Sandness; Jolene Hanson; Deb Hovland; Bev Solberg; Dan Sweeney; Nina Rueckert; and Karen Workman.

Volunteer Hours

The number of hours volunteered during the second quarter of 2019 was 163; for the third quarter 126 hours were recorded. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for continuing to assist this mission. If you have a special skill or talent or just want to have a delightful and satisfying experience with preschoolers, please contact Jolene (701-222-3004).

Sensory Center Stimulates Early Learning

Stimulation of our senses – vision, hearing, touch, smell, and taste – is critical for all of us to learn. Multiple opportunities to explore and experience an object or concept or environment through our senses typically result in more knowledge of it as well as increased likelihood the information will be remembered. One method we use at the Open Door to present such information systematically is through the use of sensory bins.



A sensory center contains theme-based plastic bins filled with materials and objects carefully selected to stimulate one or more of the senses. A sensory bin can be filled with a wide variety of intentionally selected materials such as: shredded paper, water beads, kinetic sand, birdseed, colored rice, beans, Easter grass, aquarium rocks, colored pasta and more. Bins provide a fun way for children to develop various skills. For example, naming objects builds literacy skills including vocabulary, letter identification, beginning sounds/initial sounds, sight words, and concepts of print. Sorting and counting the objects in the bin allow for pre-math skills to be practiced.

The children have explored the Fall and Halloween using sensory bins. Other themes we are working on include: alphabet letters, shapes, colors, num-

bers, Thanksgiving, Christmas, family, winter, spring, summer, construction, farm, underwater life, animals, pizza, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, and birthdays. We need objects that can be used for any of these themes. Please contact Jolene (701-222-3004) if you would like to contribute to this opportunity in any way. Donations would be appreciated.

Open House

The annual start of the school year Open House was held on September 24th. The Board of Directors once again hosted over 80 guests with a meal of sloppy joes, baked beans, chips, fruit, pickles, punch and cupcakes.



New to this year's celebration was a fall carnival. Families enjoyed making chocolate acorn treats (mini vanilla wafer, Hershey kiss, mini chocolate chip), an apple walk, pop bottle bowling, raking leaves, guessing which was their child's "Me" drawing, and Hut Hut Hoop (hiking toilet paper rolls through a hula hoop).

The Open House Parent assignment was for them to fill out a small card with a note of encouragement di-

rected at their child that teachers can give the child on a day when some extra confidence is needed.

Parents were invited to meet and visit with other families, our staff and volunteers who work with their children, and Board members who make decisions for the Open Door. The evening included a lot of food, fun, and visiting.

Little Free Library

The Little Free Library, hand decorated by Open Door preschoolers when it was built and installed at the former 12th Street location, has been moved to our current location at McCabe UMC. The Library was installed on June 12th near the entrance of the west parking lot on 5th Street, just south of Boulevard Avenue. Jim Unkenholz, the original builder and installer of the library was once again available to relocate the library to its new spot. The Little Library was frequently visited and used by our 12th Street neighbors. We are pleased that it is well used and visited at its new location also.



We are thankful to McCabe UMC Trustees for allowing the new location and to Jim Unkenholz for relocating the Little Library to continue its literacy purpose to the neighborhood. Stop by to “take a book and/or leave a book.”

Happy Meals

The children were excited to have McDonald's Happy Meals for their lunch on October 16th. They were treated to this lunch by OD Board Member Marilyn Johnson of Legacy UMC. This is the fourth time over the last few years that Marilyn has treated the OD preschool class to this special lunch. The Happy Meal consisted of chicken nuggets, fries, yogurt and milk.

Marilyn actively assists the OD by processing all new library books, represents Legacy UMC on our Board of Directors, and assists with the distribution of the OD Witness newsletter. She is a blessing to the children and staff.

International Picnic Day

International Picnic Day was celebrated on June 18th as our Summer Day Camp children enjoyed their noon lunch on the lawn at McCabe. The sack lunch consisted of summer sausage, cheese, baby carrots, banana, milk and a brownie. The children enjoyed being outside on blankets to eat their lunch. The weather was wonderful and clean up was very easy.



Gifts to the Open Door

The Open Door has been blessed by many thoughtful people who support our mission with their prayers, presence, gifts, and services. Thank you very much for remembering us so generously.

Equipment, Materials, and Supplies given from June 15 to October 21, 2019

Marilyn Johnson, Mandan, ND – Fruit cups
Trisha and Scott Kinnischtzke, Bismarck, ND -
Construction paper, watercolors, disinfecting
wipes
Legacy UMC UMW, Bismarck, ND – color pencils,
24-pc. puzzles, glitter markers, roll of stickers
Lida Mallory, Bismarck, ND – Count and Match
cards, Complete the Word cards, Colors and
Shapes cards, Alphabet Connect cards, Wood-
en Balance Game
Jerry and Linda Suko, Bismarck, ND – 2 classroom
tables in memory of Jerry's dad, Martin Suko
Karen Vasey and Jimmy and Ben Herrington, Bis-
marck, ND – Mess-free markers and paper,
mini coloring pages, Skylanders stickers, wipe-
off Show Much Fun, 4 children crafts, game ac-
tivity, projects books
Jim Unkenholz, Bismarck, ND – Pumpkins
Carmen and Carol Wold, Bismarck, ND – Small
pumpkins and gourds

Monetary Gifts given from May 22, 2019 to October 21, 2019

Cleveland UMC, Cleveland, ND
Jamestown St. Paul UMC, Jamestown, ND
Marilyn Johnson, Mandan, ND – in memory of
Loretta Knight
Deanne Knutson, Lois Peightal, James and Jane
Morgan, Karen and Lyall Workman, Dorothy
and Donald Litchfield, and Darlene Farrell – In
memory of Deanne's father and Lois' husband,
Duane E. Peightal
Legacy UMC UMW, Bismarck, ND (Salad Lunch-
eon proceeds)
Napoleon UMC, Streeter, ND
Sterling UMC, Driscoll, ND
Streeter UMC, Streeter, ND
Jerry and Linda Suko, Bismarck, ND – designated
for zoo trip admissions
Dick and Pat Unkenholz, Prescott, AZ
Sam and Judy Wangler, Bismarck, ND – in memory
of Anita Neumann

Wish List

Below is a list of some items that we would be grateful to receive. If you have questions about specific items, please contact Jolene at 701-222-3004. Thank you.

Toy tractors and other farm toys
Spiral notebooks
Thermal laminating pouches 8.9 in x 11.4 in
Liquid hand soap
Dry erase markers
Construction paper (10 basic colors)
Play-Doh
Copier paper (white and various colors)
Plastic totes with lids (various sizes)
Masking and Scotch tape
Postage stamps

(From the Director, continued from p. 1)

Volunteer Linda Suko who assists the children during lunch time each day has filled many positions as needed throughout the years of OD.

The Board of Directors (listed on page 8) are a group of mission minded people who have supported our program throughout the duration of the Open Door. Steve Van Dyke, current Board Chair, has done a great job during the transition to McCabe. Phil Sjursten has faithfully helped with many activities of the center while keeping well written minutes of our meetings. Marilyn Johnson has been very actively involved for many years getting others involved in initiating and completing projects as well as processing all the library books. Jerry Suko has taken on many complex issues for the benefit of our program as well as always being the bus driver for our field trips. Randy Meissner, Mary Lee Steele, Ken Hogue, Jim Unkenholz and Pastor Jenny Hallenbeck Orr are always strong advocates for the center. Derrick Hohbein, the treasurer, handles the financial end of operation efficiently. We welcome new board member Mary Carter and look forward to her contributions. The staff of McCabe has been welcoming to our move into their space helping us all to adjust to the new location.

I am really into inspirational sayings, having many hanging in my office, classroom and at home. I would like to share this one from HIS radio.

Being a Christian is like being a pumpkin!

God picks you from the patch and brings you in (John 15:16); Then washes all the dirt off of you

(2 Corinthians 5:17); He opens you up and scoops out all the yucky stuff, He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. (Romans 6:6); Then He carves you a new smiling face (Psalm 71:23); And He puts His light inside you to shine for all the world to see (Matthew 5:16).

Feeling thankful for many reasons! Happy Thanksgiving!

Jolene Stading Puhalla
Director of Open Door Preschool



Upper left clockwise:
playing in the corn box at the Pumpkin Patch; New Generations playground; class of 2019-20.

The Board and staff of the Open Door wish you a happy, healthy, and most joyous Christmas season. We are truly thankful for your generous support.



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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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2019 Board of Directors and Staff

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Phil Sjursen, Secretary
Jerry Suko
Mary Lee Steele

Legacy UMC
Pastor Brandon Vetter
Marilyn Johnson

Calvary UMC
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