

The Open Door Witness

May 2021

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From the Director



Happy Spring! We made it to the end of the school year!

To meet Burleigh County Childcare licensing requirements each year, we are required to complete 13 clock hours of approved training. In April I attended Part One of

“What’s Holding You Back?” I will complete Part Two in May. The course is designed to “review habits and thoughts that create a plateau in your willingness to grow”. The training spent a lot of time on perspective. Given the challenging year we all have faced, it was a good topic for me to explore. The presenter not only challenged our thoughts on work but also family, faith, fun, and finances.

I lost a brother-in-law and an uncle to COVID so the months of November, December and January were challenging for me and certainly left me unable to examine my perspectives. (continued on page 6)

Message from Pastor Karl



My family and I moved to Bismarck last summer because I was appointed to serve at McCabe United Methodist Church. Moving to a new community is always an adjustment, but it helps when you can identify

some type of connection or have some kind familiarity with someone in that new place. Through the childcare coordinated by the Dakotas Annual Conference in recent years with Open Door, my kids have spent time at both the old south location, as well as the new location at McCabe. Additionally my kids have been on a few field trips around town with Open Door, and so when we moved to town, they were more familiar with some of the sites of Bismarck than I was. The result of all this was that my family got to personally experience the blessing that Open Door is to others. (continued on page 2)

Now having the opportunity to serve on the Open Door board, and to partner with other United Methodist churches in the Bismarck/Mandan area, and across the Dakotas Conference, is a great privilege. I am grateful for this collaborative ministry, and the gift it is to so many people in the wider community. My first appointment was to Southeast Pierre--where parish ministry was intertwined with the happenings of a community center. I learned then, and I see here--that addressing needs in the community, caring for families, and working with partners aren't just how ministries like Open Door or Southeast Pierre function, but these ways of doing ministry are models for how all churches can organize and serve.

Open Door reminds us that we are called by Jesus to welcome the children. Open Door reminds us there are families who don't yet have a church home. Open Door shows us what it looks like to do the beginning work of discipleship. May all of us--wherever we find ourselves, consider the lessons we might learn from Open Door. As one member of the board, thank you to all of you for your faithful and generous support through your prayers, your gifts, and your service.

With hope,
Pastor Karl Kroger

Kathy Movchan Joins Staff

The Open Door is pleased to welcome Kathy as our after school aide.



Greetings, everyone. My name is Kathy Movchan and I am blessed to be a part of the Open Door Community Preschool, and to work with the staff and your children. I so enjoy spending time and working with young

children. Seeing their faces light up when they tell about their families or accomplish a struggle is heartfelt.

I retired from my job in Pharmacy in December 2019. Yeah for me! I really enjoyed that time off, being able to come and go and to do some leisurely traveling.

My three children all live in Bismarck now. I can spend more time with them and the grandchildren. I was blessed with two sons, Travis and Subby (aka Randy Jr.), then one daughter Jewel. These three children blessed me with six grandchildren ranging in ages from 15 to 5.

I was born and raised in Bismarck. After I got married we moved to Montana for 10 years, then we were transferred back to North Dakota. I've been back in Bismarck for the past 17 years.

A few of my favorite things to keep me occupied are yard work and shoveling snow! (although it takes me longer to get it done as I age). I also love to read and do jigsaw puzzles to relax. I really don't have any favorite foods, but I do know I do not like oysters, sardines and shrimp.

Open Door Preschool Banner



The Open Door has installed a colorful banner promoting our location and services. Placed on the north lawn at McCabe UMC and opposite the Capitol grounds, it is well positioned to catch the attention of passers-by. The McCabe Trustees approved periodic display of the 4 x 8 sign during times of preschool and summer day camp registration. Since its placement April 19, it has generated inquiries and requests for tours, and three people registering their children have remarked that they had seen the banner.

Tina Mitchell, our Open Door cook, took information we wanted displayed on the banner, and designed an attractive, playful, and purposeful banner. A special thank you to you, Tina, for sharing your talent.

Spring Chickens Hatch

On April 21 Dorothy Glatt (our custodian and “mother hen”) brought in 32 eggs to fill the incubator that had been warming for a week. She wanted us to learn about the process of hatching baby chicks. This was a first time experience for the children and staff alike. It was a surprise to the children that not all the eggs were white - some were brown or light tan. Dorothy explained that she likes to have a variety of chickens and that she has white, brown, and black chickens in her chicken coop.



The children learned that the incubator kept the eggs at 99.5 degrees and the water tray provided humidity inside. The humidity was important to make the shells softer to help the chicks when they break out of the shells. The children were

told it would take 21 days for the eggs to hatch. And it was very difficult for us to be patient for those 21 days!

A week later Dorothy returned to “candle” the eggs and check their progress. She held a flashlight behind each egg so we could see what was inside. We saw the arteries inside the eggs and often a large black spot that was an eye of the chick. One egg was not fertile and had to be removed from the incubator as it would rot. There were two eggs with few visible arteries; they were marked with an X to examine in another week.

On May 12 we began to hear “peep, peep, peep” as the first eggs hatched. The new chicks stayed in the incubator for a while to dry off, then were moved to a nursery where food, water, and warmth were provided.



Photo to left: Dorothy put fertile eggs in the incubator and checked them regularly. Above: Inside incubator are just-hatched chicks, eggs from which chicks emerged, and eggs not yet hatched. Below: the first two chicks in the nursery under the heat lamp, with water and feed.



Our deepest gratitude to Dorothy for sharing her expertise, time, and equipment to make this project one of the most exciting ever. It was an awesome experience!

Volunteer Appreciation

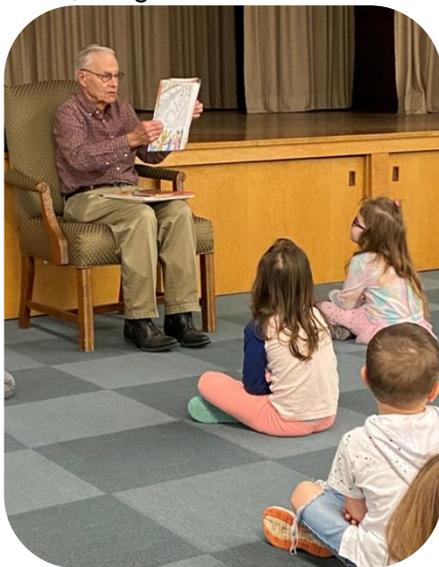
The Open Door Preschool relies a great deal on its volunteers, some of whom regularly visit the classroom and help with specific tasks, as well as others who work behind the scenes assisting with administration and operations. The time given to the Open Door during 2020 and 2021 was curtailed by the pandemic, since health guidelines limited individuals who could be onsite with the staff and children.

Since our reopening on August 17, 2020, the volunteer opportunities have increased. Most of the hours involved volunteers completing their tasks away from the center. Three board meetings were held at McCabe with safety measures enforced.

A special thank you goes out to the following volunteers: OD Board of Directors, University of Mary SPURS, Jim Karn, Pastor Karl and Michelle Kroger, and Linda Suko. Also, we appreciate volunteers Gerald and Jean Newborg who do such an excellent job of editing and layout of the newsletter and Marilyn Johnson for collation and mailing of the newsletter.

For the fourth quarter of 2020, volunteers contributed 125 hours. For the first quarter of 2021, 59 hours were given to the Open Door Preschool.

Jim Karn, a board member representing Legacy UMC, delights our children as a volunteer who



reads three to four books to them each week. He has done this for the last eight years, though he was unable to do so during the pandemic last year. We were so happy when he returned to the Open Door on March 11.



The **SPURS**, a student service organization at the University of Mary, has had a working relationship with the Open Door since 2008. They have hosted Halloween, Christmas, Valentines, and Easter celebrations for the children, bringing games, crafts, treats, and their time and attention. Even though they could not be in our classroom during last year due to the pandemic, they supplied the games, crafts, and treats for staff to share with us all. Here two SPURS, classroom assistant Jean, and some of our preschoolers have fun making valentines.

Summer Day Camp

Our summer program will begin June 7 and end August 20. The fees and hours are the same as for preschool months. We have several openings for children ages 3-8 years old.

Children who start in the summer instead of the fall are able to meet some children who will be in the preschool class this fall, become familiar with the routine of preschool in a more relaxed summer schedule, and enjoy more outside time and fun summer activities. We are planning some special events and hope to have some field trips. For more information please contact Jolene or Jean at 222-3004.



Graduation

The end of the preschool program and graduation celebration will be Thursday, May 27 at 10:00 a.m. at McCabe UMC. The theme of the program is "Hooray for You! Hooray for Me! Hooray for Us! – A Celebration of 'One-ness!'" We will celebrate the children moving on to kindergarten and those moving up to Pre-K, as well as everyone making it through the school year during the pandemic. Each child's part in the program will display his or her individuality through sharing a hobby, talent, and/or skill in sports, music or other special interest. Immediately after the program we will host graduation.

The event will be in person while following COVID restrictions. A limited number of guests will be allowed. The wearing of masks will be required. Lunch of sloppy joes, veggies, watermelon, and specially decorated (by the children) cookies will be served to the guests and families. Families will need to sit at a table designated for them.

The unfortunate circumstance of the 2019-20 school year ending on March 17 due to the pandemic gave no opportunity to observe our accomplishments and say our goodbyes. This year we are excitedly looking forward to a joyous celebration of this school year.

The center will be closed May 28 through June 4 to prepare for summer programming.

Earth Day

Earth Day started in the United States in 1970, and today people all over the world observe this special day. The Open Door children celebrated Earth Day on April 22. This year our focus was on recycling. Our language activity was "Save our planet." We created "I (heart shape) Earth." We made a display of what we love about our Earth. Some examples are "I love water to swim in;" "I like air 'cuz it cools you off;" "I love helping animals;" "I love water because you get to drink it;" and "I love mountains because they're pretty." Then at story time we read "Earth, Where Would We Be Without It?"

We talked about the things we recycle at school and where they are deposited. Many of the children reported that their families recycle at home. We examined the triangular arrows that indicate if an item is recyclable and located them on items we recycle



at school during the week. The children sorted the items by plastic, paper, cardboard, and glass.

Then we made a trip outside to the recycling container and deposited our bins of items into the big container. During our final story time, "Where Does the Garbage Go?" was read and enjoyed by the children.

Phil Sjursen Leaves Board

After over 10 years of service to the Open Door, Phil Sjursen retired from the Board of Directors in January. Phil was a McCabe UMC representative, and did an awesome job as the board secretary for many of those years. He also worked on our Finance Committee. Always a willing volunteer, Phil was involved with mowing the lawn at the 12th Street location and often worked at special events to serve food or manage activities that were planned for our families.



Thank you, Phil, for your dedicated service to the Open Door. You have been a blessing to all our children and their families, our staff, and McCabe UMC.

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. The following have been contributed December 1, 2020 to May 1, 2021.

We give special thanks to the following for their generous donations:

Don Walz for purchasing Christmas presents for all 22 of our children
Legacy UMC for providing funds to purchase a new office copier
Mandan UMC Men's Group for providing funds for graduation/ moving up gifts of *Jesus Storybook Bibles* for our 22 children

Equipment, Materials, and Supplies

Lucy Goldade, Bismarck, ND – four boxes of children's books
Kathy Keller, Bismarck, ND – teacher supplies, curriculum material, crafts
Marilyn Johnson, Mandan, ND – supply of boxes of Kleenex
Sharon Litton, Bismarck, ND – two battery-operated pencil sharpeners and supply of batteries
Tina Mitchell, Bismarck, ND – three-count activity dice
Tuttle UMC, Tuttle, ND – 17 packages of assorted cookie and muffin mixes.

Monetary gifts were given for unspecified purposes in memory or in honor of a loved one, or as a donation for general use.

C. B. Aichele, Bismarck, ND
Mavis Fuher, Gold Canyon, Arizona – in memory of Eugene Fuher
Lewis and Sherry Heaton, McKenzie ND – in honor of Sterling UMC members Pastor Marlin and Carol Sapp, Sharon Lang, and Sherry Wilson
James Karn, Bismarck, ND
Lonnie and Dianna Kindseth, Bismarck, ND
Daniel and Barbara Kingsley, Hill City, MN – in memory of Anita D. Neumann
Pastor Karl and Michelle Kroger, Bismarck, ND
Robert and Sheila O'Shaughnessy, Bismarck, ND – a memorial to honor my friend and Faith Circle Sister, Alice Ewine
Daniel and Bonnie Taylor, Bismarck, ND – in memory of Anita Neumann
Dick and Pat Unkenholz, Prescott, AZ
Randy Vik, Aberdeen, SD
Don Walz, Bismarck, ND
Larry and Pat Wood, Bismarck, ND
Aberdeen First UMW, Aberdeen, SD
Cleveland UMC, Cleveland, ND
Dakotas United Methodist Church Foundation, Mitchell, SD (2 gifts)
UMW-McCabe UMC UMW, Bismarck, ND

Langdon UMW, Langdon, ND
Legacy UMC, Bismarck, ND
Lignite Energy Council, Bismarck, ND
Mandan UMC Men's Group, Bismarck, ND
Open Door Community Center Endowment - Dakotas Foundation, Mitchell, SD
Rolla UMC, Rolla, ND
Rolla UMW, Rolla, ND
Streeter UMC, Streeter, ND

Wish List

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

Construction paper (10 basic colors)
Watercolors in plastic trays
New or used toys (especially construction, farm, transportation, animals, dinosaurs, plants, water)
Etch-A-Sketch (they have been very popular in our introduction to retro toys)
Gallon glue jugs
Tempera paint (10 basic colors)
22 cloth or plastic pencil pouches
Copier paper
Spiral notebooks
Liquid hand soap
Postage stamps

(From the Director, continued from page 1)

It was pretty much auto-pilot. At the training in April I once again recognized that one's inner voice most definitely directs perspective. Yes, I had suffered great losses but not as great as my sister and aunt. I did what I could to be there for them. My children and grandchildren and others close to me were healthy and thriving through this pandemic and my sister and aunt were moving closer to acceptance and healing hearts. It is hard to not have the usual Sunday suppers with the family with safety restrictions in place. I still saw my family in whatever form that was at the time. Vacations would happen again. Special events would happen again.

The school year was different this year - social distancing, children not allowed to socialize in the school setting as normally they would have, being spread out at tables making visiting less possible, no field trips, no visitors, and limiting supplies and equipment available to children are just some of the

changes made. The other perspective is that we did indeed have school. We did see our friends. We did have happy moments of learning and sharing. We made it to graduation and Summer Day Camp.

Whenever I once again feel overwhelmed with the reality of the day I remind myself that it has been a long 14 months, but with vaccines (I have both of my shots) we are closer to the end (or new normal)

than when this pandemic started. I am thankful to McCabe trustees, staff, and Pastor Karl for working with us and allowing us to reopen and move forward. That is my blessed perspective.

Please keep you and yours safe and be kind.
Jolene Stading Puhalla, Director



Photos clockwise, beginning top left: Enjoying a paper snow ball fight; pitching golden coins into a hat on St. Patrick's Day; throwing a football through the hula hoop goal on pajama day; observing how fast Swedish fish candy dissolves in water, milk, and pop (it dissolved fastest in milk); and writing upside down on paper attached to bottom of tables.



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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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and Staff**

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