

The Open Door Witness

May 2011

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Wise Man - Foolish Man

(See page 2)

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From the Director

It started out as a coat room with child-size cubbies and overhead storage bins and not much more. It served its purpose but wasn't anything special. Removal of the



cubbies and storage bins, a coat of blue paint for the walls, and the addition of furniture transformed it into our Literacy Room. A small couch, computer and desk, fireplace, large pillows, crates of books, alphabet letters and number line on

the wall, names of the children on lined paper, tape recorder and DVD player, and props created an environment that encourages young children to explore and make discoveries about language and literacy.

Every day three children grouped by abilities and interests spend a half hour in the center with a teacher. There she encourages the children to gain conversation skills during daily routines, transitions, activities, and experiences to build listening and speaking skills by using language for different purposes.

Teachers select developmentally and individually appropriate books for the children to involve them in read-aloud experiences and extend the language learning through recorded books on tape or DVDs on the computer. Also provided are materials for developing drawing and writing skills, alphabet knowledge, and phonemic awareness. This may be accomplished by flashcards, fill-in the blanks sentences, flip charts, games, role playing, and free play activities including all types of writing papers, pencils, crayons, markers. We develop an environment that reflects and is responsive to each child's home and culture. During the story times each day we ask open-ended questions and go about extending children's explorations of a story after it is read aloud as children must make meaning of a story to build their language and literacy skills.

Teachers observe what children know about print, books, reading, and writing. This involves knowing how books work, that print carries meaning and corresponds to spoken language, what print looks like, and that print is used to communicate, as well as wanting to read and write. Children's names are displayed throughout the center and practice is a very successful way to encourage their writing skills. (continued on page 7)

Teaching Milestones in Christian-based Education

How does the “Ten Commandments Boogie” or the David and Goliath Game help preschoolers at the Open Door achieve developmental milestones? How does a science experiment reinforce children’s understanding of the Wise Man - Foolish Man story? Each of these activities integrates Christian-based teachings with developmentally appropriate curriculum that is consistent with *North Dakota Early Learning Guidelines, Ages 3-5*.

The voluntary *Guidelines* were developed by a diverse group of educators, day care providers, Head Start staff, special education providers, public and private kindergarten and preschool teachers and administrators, parent representatives, and university personnel. The ND Department and Human Services and the Department of Public Instruction were lead agencies in the development. A copy of the *Guidelines*, including resources for parents, is at <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/childcare/>.

The *Guidelines* include principles that reflect the knowledge base from scientific research, values, and commitment to young children and families. Beliefs regarding young children and how they learn, supportive early childhood environments, developmentally appropriate practices, and expectations of caregivers form the basis of the *Guidelines*.

The *Guidelines* list, for each of eight domain areas, the knowledge and skills (developmental milestones) expected of children, ages 3 – 5. The domains (which are further divided into subdomains) are:

- Health and physical development
- Social and emotional development
- Approaches to learning
- Expressive arts and creative thinking
- Language and literacy
- Mathematics and logical thinking
- Science and problem solving
- Social studies

The Open Door’s use of the *Guidelines* supports the delivery of Christian-based education, which supplies the context. Materials and activities across all eight domains draw from the Bible and other resources that teach Christian values. Following is a recent example of how the children were taught about the need to build our houses and lives on a rock, and that Jesus is the rock that gives strength to us. (See the front page photo.) Some of the milestones learned by the children are included in parentheses.

Teacher LeAnn Lindteigen told the Wise Man – Foolish Man story, relating how the house built on the rock withstood the rain and wind, while the house built on sand was swept away (*understand verbal and nonverbal gestures, actions and expressions and cues; understand and participate in stories; listen for a variety of purposes; participate in a variety of group and individual activities*). Then small groups of children got a rock, some sand, and sugar cubes and built a sugar cube house on the rock or pile of sand (*engage in a variety of small muscle activities*). With a small stream of water and hair dryer, LeAnn showed how wind and rain would wash away/dissolve the house built on sand, but not the one on the rock, and the children discussed and explained what happened (*use concrete objects to represent and solve a problem; make predictions based on observations; know that objects have properties; use five senses to explore materials; use words to identify/describe physical characteristics of objects; develop simple explanations for observations; explore cause and effect relationships; explore and experiment with different materials; make comparisons*). Finally, with learning the Wise Man – Foolish Man song, the children gained skills in expressive arts (*singing, moving, coordinating movements*).

The listing of developmental milestones allows our teachers to systematically present learning activities to children, collect information on extent to which children have acquired knowledge and skills, and record progress of children individually and for the program. The use of Christian-based content in the lessons allows the Open Door to carry out its mission for children and their families.



Learning about the 10 commandments and the numbers 1-10 is reinforced by this art project. Children shape clay into cookies, then place an appropriate number of “chips” (1-10) on each.

Open Door Preschool Graduation May 26

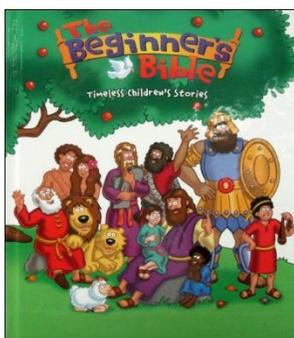
The Open Door's Class of 2011 will have its graduation program at 10 a.m. on May 26 at Fellowship Hall (downstairs) at McCabe UMC. The theme of the program is "Hurray for the Alphabet!" The children will sing some of their favorite songs for parents, families, and others, share Bible stories and verses, and show us a sample of the many things they have learned at the Open Door. Each child will receive a *Beginner's Bible*, a gift from Legacy UMW. Refreshments will be served following the program.

You are cordially invited to attend the graduation on May 26. It is a wonderful fun way to learn about the Open Door Preschool.

If you have questions about the graduation, please contact Jolene at 222-3004.

Beginner's Bible Purchased for Preschoolers

Through a generous monetary donation from Legacy UMW in Bismarck, all May 2011 graduates of the Open Door Preschool will receive their very own *Beginner's Bible*.



The *Beginner's Bible* contains 96 short Bible stories that are appropriate for children ages six and younger. It introduces the children to stories and characters of the Old and New Testaments, contains vibrant art, and is appealing to children. If you wish to learn more about this

book, go to www.beginnersbible.com.

The Open Door staff and Board of Directors sincerely thank the Legacy UMW for their thoughtful and meaningful gift to our children.

U of Mary Campus Ministry Students Assist Open Door

Ten students from the University of Mary's Campus Ministry volunteered time during their spring break to assist Jolene and LeAnn with a variety of projects ranging from the preparation of instructional materials to data entry.

During the morning of March 4, the students gave much needed attention to the library. Some updated and processed library books, while others entered data on resources into the Open Door's new library system. In addition, students worked to prepare for upcoming lessons in literacy by sorting macaroni into alphabet letters, and they finished binding the cloth-paged books that our preschool children created. Finally, a banner was completed.

Our grateful "thank you" to all who shared their time and talents with the Open Door.

If you are interested in helping out on a one-time or ongoing basis, Jolene and LeAnn have an array of activities from which you can choose. Contact them at 222-3004 or opendoor@btinet.net.

SPURS Sponsor Holiday Parties at Open Door

SPURS, a service organization from the University of Mary, sponsors several holiday parties for Open Door children throughout the school year. This school year, Sister Gerard, SPURS advisor, and her student volunteers have celebrated Halloween, Christmas, Valentine's Day, and Easter with our preschoolers and their siblings. The preschoolers enjoyed festivities which included craft projects, coloring activities, sharing stories, playing games, and treat bags.

The Open Door Board and staff, along with the children and their families give a standing (or perhaps jumping up and down) ovation and big "thank you" to the SPURS of the University of Mary.



Photo: SPURS Santa enjoyed a Christmas holiday party with Open Door preschoolers.

Summer Day Camp

Registration for Summer Day Camp is now being accepted. As in 2010, the Day Camp is offering Christian-based services for preschool-aged children only. This includes children who will be going into kindergarten in the fall of 2011.

Each day will be packed full of many activities including gardening, crafts, water fun, field trips, Bible time and Vacation Bible School, music, games, and special summer events. Academics will not be forgotten; staff will work to ensure that skills learned during the school year are maintained.

The dates for Summer Day Camp are May 31 – August 19. The cost is \$400 per month. The hours of Summer Day Camp are from 8:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. each day. The Open Door will be closed on Monday, July 4, in observance of the holiday.

A nutritious lunch and twice-daily snacks will be provided.

To register for Summer Day Camp or to obtain further information, please call Jolene or LeAnn at 222-3004 or opendoor@btinet.net.

Fall Preschool 2011-12

Registration is being accepted for the Open Door Fall Preschool for children who are 3, 4, and 5 years old. The program is on a full day basis, 8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., which includes before and after school care. The Preschool begins the last week of August and follows the Bismarck Public School schedule (See <http://www.bismarck.k12.nd.us/district/calendars/>.)

The Open Door provides Christian-based programming, and follows ND's Early Learning Guidelines. Activities are developmentally appropriate and teach literacy and math readiness, science, communication, social, music, arts and creativity, and motor activities. Two licensed early childhood education teachers, along with numerous volunteers, provide services. A nutritious lunch and snacks are provided by a cook who is on staff.

The Open Door building contains 3,260 square feet including classroom space, a 3,500 volume library, commercial kitchen, and offices. It is located on 1.7 acres at 1140 South 12th Street, Bismarck, just one block south of Bismarck Expressway. The Hazel Redmann Playground was updated with new equipment in 2007 and is shaded, with picnic tables. The large inviting lawn and playground are fenced.

Fees for the Preschool Program are among the lowest in Burleigh County. Some scholarships based on need are available.

To register for Summer Day Camp or to obtain further information, please call Jolene or LeAnn at 222-3004 or opendoor@btinet.net.

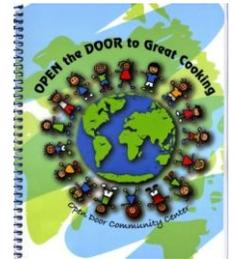
Volunteer Hours

During the fourth quarter of 2010, 514 hours of time were volunteered in activities that support the Open Door. For the first quarter of 2011, 554 hours were contributed. Our sincerest "thank you" to all who so generously share their time and talents to enrich the lives of Open Door children and their families.

Cookbook

Are there weddings, showers, and birthdays on your calendar? The *Open the Door to Great Cooking* cookbook would make a great gift. The cost is \$15. Contact Jolene at 701-222-3004 for information or go to our web-page at

www.mccabeumc.com/opendoor/book.html.



Children made Dr. Seuss hats of Nilla Wafers and Lifesavers. Rules such as "no two Lifesavers of the same color together" and "four candies high" helped children learn numbers, colors, and fine motor skills.

Transitions

The Open Door welcomes Carie Eman to the staff. Miss Carie comes to us through a community partner, Experience Works (previously known as Green Thumb). She is responsible for planning and preparing lunches and snacks for our preschool children, and will also assist as our instructional aide.



“I’ve always loved to bake and give my goodies away and I’ve enjoyed cooking for large family gatherings. Now I’ll have to learn to cook for lots of young people with help from the current cook, Mrs. Linda,” Carie said.

Carie is a native North Dakotan. Born in Bottineau, the oldest of seven children, she has lived in Kramer and Garrison briefly, but grew up in Minot where she attended Bishop Ryan High School and Minot State College. After living out of state for a few years, Carie returned to Bismarck in 1985. She has two sons.

As a grandmother, Carie said she is looking forward to many fun and exciting times with the young people at the Open Door. “With the guidance and help of the ‘Pros’ at Open Door, Miss Jolene and Miss LeAnn, I expect my time here to be enjoyable and rewarding.”

The Board of Directors and staff of the Open Door wish to recognize the contributions of Nyla Switlick during her tenure as a member of the Board for the past seven years. Nyla represented First UMC on the Board and served on the Program Committee. A retired teacher, Nyla is active at the local and district level in the United Methodist Women and the Christian Women’s Club. Nyla is a “can do” advocate who has been responsible for securing considerable monetary and other support for the Open Door. Thank you, Nyla, for your prayers, time, and attention.



Replacing Nyla as a Legacy representative is Julianna Benning.

Food Facts

In 2010 (January through December), the Open Door served to our children 3,645 noon meals 7,957 snacks (twice a day).

Cook Linda Suko was an unpaid volunteer.

The Open Door accesses the Great Plains Food Bank, a program of the Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota and America’s Second Harvest national food bank network.



Individuals and church organizations contributed funding to pay for much of the fresh produce.



Children learn using a wide variety of materials ranging from paper and pencil to educational toys and computers.



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, help us to maintain our day to day operation and physical facility, and make it possible for families to send their children to the Open Door. Thank you very much for remembering us so generously. The following identifies contributors between November 1, 2010 and April 1, 2011.

Scholarship Fund. During this school year, the need for scholarships based on financial need has increased. The following contributors have made gifts designated for the Scholarship Fund.

Kenneth & Hope Berge, Fergus Falls, Mn.

In memory of Jackson Dean Simmers

Marvia Boettcher, Bismarck, ND

Jim Karn, Bismarck, ND

Martin and Frances Ketterling, Bismarck, ND

Ronald and Arva Dell Kinzler, Bismarck, ND

Lida Mallory, Bismarck, ND

Keith and Nancy Nelson, Bismarck, ND

Gerald and Jean Newborg, Bismarck, ND

Roof Replacement Fund. Two Bismarck contributors, C.E. and Florence Mitchel, and Hal and Lois Neff, earmarked their gifts for the Roof Replacement Fund.

Materials. The following persons and church families have donated materials to the Open Door.

Joe Farrell, Bismarck, ND – miscellaneous office supplies

Marilyn Johnson, Bismarck, ND – paper products
towels, pans

Chuck and Florence Mitchel, Bismarck, ND –
miscellaneous supplies

Jan Pfliger, Bismarck, ND – miscellaneous craft supplies

Anita Casey Reed, Bismarck, ND - toys

Diane Schmidt, Bismarck, ND – sausage and jelly

Michele Unrath, Bismarck, ND – 3 movies

Karen Vasey, Bismarck, ND – Noah's Ark display,
stuffed animals, beads

Bismarck Calvary UMC, Bismarck, ND - paint containers

Bismarck Legacy Hope Circle, Bismarck, ND – paper
products, brownie mixes, copy paper, stamps, jello

Bismarck Legacy UMC provided a Thanksgiving basket

for each of the families and a Christmas gift for each of the children as well as items needed by the Open Door.

Bismarck Legacy UMW, Bismarck, ND - Bibles for graduation gifts

Jay and Al Ehrmentraut, Bismarck, ND - gently used clothes dryer

Monetary gifts. The following persons and church groups contributed monetary gifts for unspecified purposes to the Open Door in memory or in honor of a loved one, or as a donation for general use.

Marvia Boettcher, Bismarck, ND

Kenneth Doepke, Mandan, ND

Doug & Deb Emerson, Bismarck, ND

In memory of William Westmeyer and Jacqueline Ettl

Patricia Geistler, Bismarck, ND

Vicki and Roger Griffin, Mandan, ND, in honor of our 7 grandchildren, Jadelynn, Lexie, Lily, Max, Sara, Joseph, Victoria

Maryann Hanson, Mandan, ND

Bob Keim, Bismarck, ND

Barb & Daniel Kingsley, Hill City, MN, in memory of the most wonderful mother in the world, Anita Neumann

Jerry & Jean Newborg, Bismarck, ND, in memory of Elyse Nicholson; Eddie Moch; Al Bartkowski

Tom and Paula Redmann Bismarck, ND, in celebration of Jerry and Linda Suko

Larry and Peggy Shireley, Bismarck, ND

Jerry and Linda Suko, Bismarck, ND, as a memorial for Steve Lee, brother-in-law of the Neffs

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

Richard and Pat Unkenholz, Prescott, AZ, as a memorial for Susan Job Malm

Ashley UMW, Ashley, ND

Bowman United Methodist Church, Bowman, ND

Dakota Conference UMW, Mitchell, SD, honoring the presentation by Jolene Puhalla

Dakota United Methodist Foundation, Mitchell, SD, from the Maurice H. and Lenore E. Gordon Endowment

Dickinson UMW, Dickinson, ND

Fargo First UMW, Fargo, ND

Hebron First UMC, Hebron, ND

Jamestown First UMW, Jamestown, ND, in honor of

Mary and Kenred Peterson, Michelle Brennan and Tami Severson

Lisbon UMW, Lisbon, ND

Mandan UMW, Mandan, ND

Martin UM Sunday School, Martin, ND

McCabe UMW, Bismarck, ND

McClusky UMW, McClusky, ND

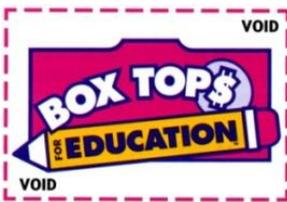
Minot Faith UMW, Minot, ND

Thank You

Minot Vincent UMC, Minot, ND
Osnabrook UMW, Osnabrook, ND
Rolla UMW, Rolla, ND
Wahpeton Evergreen UMW, Wahpeton, ND
Washburn UMW, Washburn, ND
Wyndmere UMW, Wyndmere, ND

Bank Box Tops and Save Soup Labels

The Open Door participates in the Box Tops for Education and the Campbell's Soup Labels Programs. Items



are collected for us by individuals or as a group project. The Open Door redeems the Box Tops for Education for cash that we then use to buy instructional materials and supplies. Campbell's soup

labels are redeemed for early childhood equipment and materials. Currently, we are saving for a computer and are within 4000 soup labels of our goal.



The following contributed to both of these programs.

JoEllen Aichele, Steele, ND
Cleveland UMC, Cleveland, ND
Edgeley Wesley UMC, Edgeley, ND
Jamestown St. Paul's UMC, Jamestown, ND
Marilyn Johnson, Bismarck, ND
Bob and Betty Jo Todd, Dickinson, ND

The following collected Box Tops for the Open Door:

McCabe UMC, Bismarck, ND
Genevieve Palinger, Bismarck, ND
Justin Puhalla, Bismarck, ND

Bismarck Legacy UMC of Bismarck submitted Campbell's Soup Labels to the Open Door.

Thank you to all for contributing their time and effort to clip these items.

Director's Message (continued from page 1)

Monthly themed projects with names are created into a booklet. Place mats with children's names are used at lunch time. Friday is Language Page Day with different topics and questions recorded by the teacher as all the children respond, adding their drawings to enhance the page. Booklets are compiled at the end of the school year.

Print is available everywhere for young children to see. We provide materials, opportunities, reasons, and a place to write. The Literacy Room has tools and supplies of all kinds, such as chalk, crayons, markers, individual white boards, pencils, erasers, paper of all kinds, letter magnets, puzzles, and child-made books. Puppets and voice-activated animals from children's books, such as Winnie and Pooh, Arthur and DW, are displayed throughout the room.

Teachers complete Progress Reports, with results given to the parents in January.

We are pleased that all the children have made great improvements in their learning. I am very excited that my dream for a Literacy Room has become a reality at the Open Door. Each day brings gains in early childhood language and literacy milestones as evidenced in much talking, speaking, writing, listening, reading, and in basic information. It is personally very rewarding to see the children get excited about recognizing their names, mastering the letters of the alphabet, or scribbling that has become letter formation.

It is enjoyable during the two daily story times to see the children so involved in listening to the stories and answering after the Roll of the Questions Dice. What, where, when, why, who, and how questions need to be answered once the dice have been rolled.

Thank you to all who support the work of the Open Door in providing funding, books and other learning supplies, prayers and encouragement to keep moving to the next level.

The Literacy Room has been an important step this school year. Please stop in and see what is going on whenever you have a chance. The children love visitors and are very excited to show what we doing. For these reasons it has been good school year.

Thankful for the many blessings,
Jolene Stading Puhalla
Director



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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.

Comments or questions concerning this newsletter should be directed to Jolene at 701-222-3004 or opendoor@btinet.net.

To receive notice when newsletters are available online, contact Jolene. The newsletter will get to you faster, it will be in color, and you can increase font size, if needed. And it will save us printing and postage, and your letter carrier will appreciate the lighter load.

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