

The Open Door Witness

November 2012

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From the Director

The weather outside today is cold and windy with a touch of winter in the air. There is a promise from the weatherman of warm weather tomorrow and the upcoming weekend. Somehow that kind of defines



how I have been feeling lately. The children don't seem to find the weather unpleasant as is evident by their running for the back door when recess time arrives. I probably need to take a cue from

them.

As always we have a unique group of children. All have differing needs and life experiences. It may relate to being affected by a restraining order, parenting by one parent only, adjusting to parents' divorce, making transitions between two homes or even abandonment. Some have already been labeled with a learning disability whether it is in be-

havior, speech, or ability to learn as others do so easily. Fortunately, we have some children who have had less stressful family situations that by default evolve into role models for these children. Concepts of cutting, gluing, beginning writing, pre-reading activities, or a familiarity with Bible stories exists with some children while others have little knowledge of such things. All come with some form of fear or anxiety about this new place. Some have had difficulty in other centers in town and come to Open Door with the parents' hope that this may be that spot where their child will thrive and fit in. It's a tall order to accommodate all the different family dynamics. We do the best we can and somehow it all comes together.

We work each day to make progress to show love, patience, tolerance and understanding of each of their circumstances. Patience is a big one for me. Many times I remind myself that maybe this time the issue will be resolved and we won't have to revisit this situation once again. *(continued on p. 7)*

Staff Transitions

The Open Door has seen several changes in its staff since the last newsletter. Teacher assistant Danlyn VanderWal and cook Theresa Perkins are new to the organization, replacing personnel who moved to other employers in Bismarck. In addition and as a result of Board of Directors action, the new position of after school aide has been created. Pat Ivey fulfills those responsibilities.

We extend our warmest welcome to these three new staff members.

Danlyn VanderWal is Teacher Assistant



Danlyn joined the Open Door staff as our Teacher Assistant for the 2012-13 school year. She earned her bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education in 2012 from South Dakota State University in Sioux Falls.

Danlyn grew up in Pollock, South Dakota. She and her husband lived in Sioux Falls the last four years while going to college. Upon graduation, they moved to Bismarck and love being closer to their families. She has enjoyed getting to know everyone associated with the Open Door and working with the children. In her spare time, Danlyn participates in the sport of archery.

Theresa Perkins is New Cook

Hi! I'm Theresa Perkins, and I work at the Open Door Community Center making snacks and cooking lunch for the children, all 3-5 years of age. After cooking at the University of Mary for 18 years, these children are a challenge; they know what they want and what they



like. But I'm enjoying this job very much.

I have two children, three grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

Pat Ivey Joins Staff

In May 2012, Pat Ivey joined the Open Door staff



as an after-school aide. She will work with the children individually and as a group from 3:30 – 5:30 daily, and assist our teacher assistant to close the center each day. Her presence will also allow time for our director to address administrative responsibilities at the end of the day.

Pat has been married for 55 years and has seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren. She loves working with children, as evidenced by her current work at the Open Door and Pioneer School in Bismarck. Her hobbies include sewing and knitting. Previously, Pat worked for AT&T for thirty years.



In September the Open Door hosted an open house for family and friends.

McCabe UMC Trustee Representative Joins Board

We welcome Marilyn Smith to the Open Door Board of Directors as the McCabe UMC Trustee Representative. She replaces Jerry Suko who previously held that position.



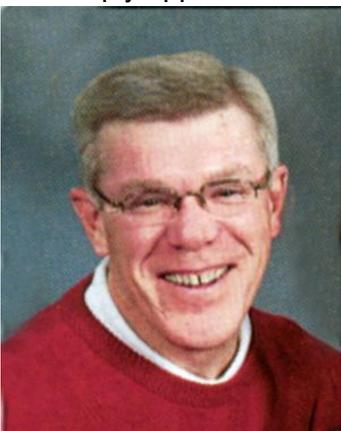
Marilyn has been a member of McCabe for four years. She retired in 2006 and although she had lived in several states, Marilyn returned four years ago to North Dakota where her parents' families were pioneers in the

New Salem area. An architect and Fellow of the Architectural Specifications Institute, she continues to write architectural specifications on a contract basis for others.

In her spare time, Marilyn enjoys reading and tends a vegetable and flower garden.

In Appreciation

We deeply appreciate Jerry Suko's dedicated service to the Open Door. Though he is no longer the Trustee Representative for McCabe UMC, he continues to attend to many of the maintenance and grounds projects of the Open Door, including lawn mowing, regular upkeep and special projects, and tree removal. Thank you, Jerry, for all that you do.



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SPURS Increase Service to Open Door

SPURS, the University of Mary student service organization, has been a faithful supporter of the Open Door for many years. Its members regularly provide Halloween, Christmas, Valentine's Day, and Easter parties for our children. When SPURS advisor Sister Gerard contacted Director Jolene Puhalla recently, she indicated that a significant growth in their membership will allow the SPURS to provide an additional number of events at the Open Door this school year.

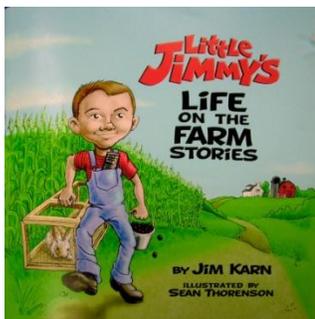
Our sincerest thank you to the SPURS for their time, talent and service.

Open Door Gets New Signage



Several times a year someone who is walking or driving past the Open Door takes the time to stop in and ask, "What do you do here? I have driven (or walked) past this place many times and wondered what is going on in here." We always give them a description of what we do and explain our connection with the United Methodist Church. These inquiries prompted the Board of Directors to order signage to identify our Christian Preschool, including our telephone number. As seen in the photo, the information has been added to the front of our building facing east on South 12th Street in Bismarck. We expect that this will better inform the community of our presence and mission.

“Little Jimmy” Book Published



Jim Karn (Grandpa Jim), a member of Legacy UMC in Bismarck, has been a regular volunteer at the Open Door. Every Thursday, he is here at 11 a.m. to read to the children. Jim has compiled a prototype of his

first book for publication, as he describes in the following article. He is presently working to set up a website that features his publications.

My name is Jim Karn. Some call me Grandpa Jim. I began writing stories for children several years ago. My desire was to share some of the mistakes and misdeeds of my childhood with my grandchildren, hoping that they might learn from those mistakes.

I grew up on a farm so I also wanted my grandchildren to learn about rural life and the hard work that farmers and ranchers do to produce the food we see in the grocery stores.

My grandchildren seemed to like my stories so one day when I was visiting with Pastor Culver at Legacy Methodist Church, where I am a member, he suggested that I read my stories to the children at Open Door Community Center. I was very apprehensive of this idea at first because I feared that my stories would not be well received. But for about 2 ½ years I have been sharing my stories with the Open Door children and I have truly enjoyed my reading time every week. I get a whole week's worth of smiles and hugs each time I read.

I have been working to get three of my stories published in a book. Sean Thorenson has been preparing illustrations for the stories, and Paula Crain has been editing my efforts. After considerable time and mental struggles our book, titled “Little Jimmy’s Life on the Farm Stories,” is finally a reality. The three stories included in the book are “Jimmy and the Chocolate Bar,” “Little Jimmy and the Cow Escape,” and “Little Jimmy’s Rabbits.”

Practical lessons from the “Chocolate Bar” story emphasize that taking anything that isn’t yours is stealing, and there is no way to sugarcoat something that is wrong. The “Cow Escape” story demonstrates the need for children to obey their parents and elders, and when they promise to do something they need to follow up their good words with good actions. The “Little Jimmy’s Rabbits” story teaches children about responsibility and spending money wisely. Jimmy learned this lesson because his rabbits depend on him for their food and



water, and when he worked to earn his spending money he spent it more carefully.

I know children will love Sean’s illustrations and I hope they will like my stories too.

Our Condolences

We extend our deepest sympathy to Open Door Director Jolene Puhalla. Her father, Vernon Stading, passed away on August 29, 2012, in Minneapolis. His funeral was at Vincent United Methodist Church in Minot on September 4.

The Board of Directors is grateful to those volunteers who graciously carried out the daily activities of the Open Door which included working with new staff during the first days of this school year. Special thanks to Marvia Boettcher, Marilyn Schlobohm, Linda Suko, Myrna Petermann, and Kristina Schmid. Our teacher assistant, DanLynn VanderWal, for whom this was her first teacher job after graduating from college, carried out her responsibilities with skill. You are all a wonderful blessing. Thank you.

Volunteer Hours

Our volunteers are critical in helping the Open Door carry out its mission. Volunteers' activities are vast and numerous. They include (but are not limited to) classroom support, storytelling, music lessons, holiday party activities, media center maintenance, board of directors responsibilities, newsletter production and distribution, general facility and grounds maintenance, tree removal, lawn mowing and trimming, gardening, and transportation of children.

During the second quarter of 2012, 293 hours of time were volunteered in activities that support the Open Door. For the third quarter, 357 hours were contributed. Hats off to these Very Important People who so generously share their time and talents to enrich the lives of Open Door children and their families.

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. Thank you very much for remembering us so generously.

Materials. The following persons, church and community organizations have donated materials to the Open Door.

June Skuza provided craft sticks for art projects. Marvia Boettcher gave us 5 Dr. Jean musical CDs. Donald Mund contributed pumpkins, gourds, and fall decorations for our classroom.

Monetary gifts. The following persons, church groups, and community organizations contributed monetary gifts to the Open Door in memory or in honor of a loved one, or as a donation between March 31 and October 31, 2012.

Martin and Frances Ketterling, Bismarck, ND for the Scholarship Fund

Robert and Margorie Logan, Des Moines, IA
Carol Sue and Dan Morgan, Prescott, AZ in memory of Verna Finck

Gerald and Jean Newborg, Bismarck, ND in memory of Vernon Stading

Rick and Orla Smith, Bismarck, ND in memorial of Vernon Stading

Jerry and Linda Suko, Bismarck, ND in memory of Vernon Stading

Dick and Pat Unkenholz, Prescott, AZ in memory of Verna Finck and Vye Elmer

Karen and Lyall Workman, Bismarck, ND in memory of Vernon Stading

Peggy Zerface, Lisbon, ND

Ashley UMC, Ashley, ND

Bowman UMC, Bowman, ND

Cleveland UMC, Cleveland, ND

Dakotas Conference UMW, Mitchell, SD

Kulm UMC, Kulm, ND

Linton UMC, Linton, ND

Lisbon UMC, Lisbon, ND

Mandan UMC, Mandan, ND

McCabe UMC, Bismarck, ND

McCabe UMW, Bismarck, ND

Sterling UMC, Sterling, ND



Preschooler enjoys her nap under a cozy quilt from Jud UMC.

The Jud United Methodist Church, Jud, ND contributed several quilts and blankets to the Open Door.

Thank You!

Summer School Adventures



Studying Sea Creatures at Oceans Paradise



Water Fun



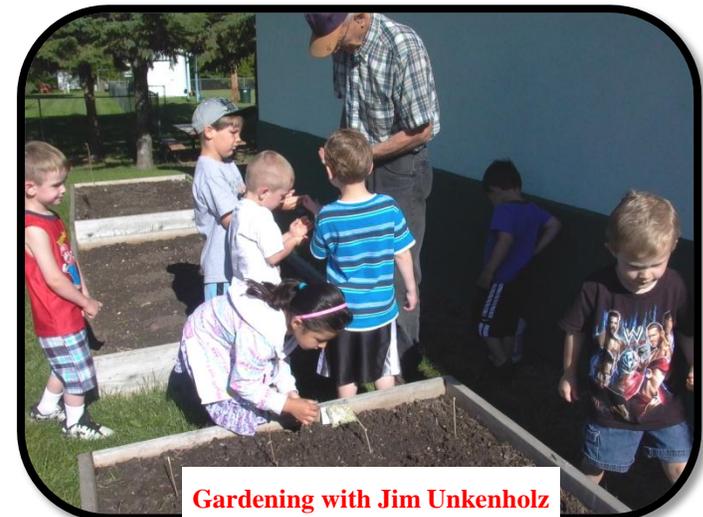
Sampling Fruit at Garske's Produce



Long Jump at Mini Olympics



Vacation Bible School



Gardening with Jim Unkenholz



- Buttons
- Baby food jars
- Spiral bound notebooks
- Abacus for math center
- Stamps
- Watercolors paint
- Small “prizes” used for games
- Tissue paper

From the Director (*continued from p. 1*) Maybe it will take five, ten, or many more times for the concept to be part of their thought process. We aren't necessarily talking about educational milestones. Often times it's the social skills that give us the most challenges.

I wasn't able to be here at the start of the new school year. My father, Vernon Stading, passed away on August 29th and his funeral was at Vincent United Methodist Church in Minot, ND on September 4th. It has been a catch up game since my return. I felt like a wounded child at times when I returned to work and not able to give all of myself to this new preschool class. This made it clearer to me to relate to all the children and their feelings. Since some time has passed since my return I feel like routines are in place and a sense of normalcy has returned. The young children are very forgiving this way.

I need to thank Marvia Boettcher, Marilyn Schlobohm, Linda Suko, Myrna Petermann, and Kristina Schmid for guiding and protecting my little ones while I needed to be gone. I owe them a tremendous amount of gratitude for setting the tone for a positive school year.

Now when I think about the weather today it doesn't look as cold, cloudy, and uncomfortable outside. We have a promise of warmer and comforting weather in a day or two. God has given us many blessings and we need to thank Him for all we have been given. He has promised He will always be with us and that gives me great comfort.

Receiving God's blessing,

Jolene Stading Puhalla, Director

Redemption Program Change

The Open Door's participation in the Box Tops for Education and the Campbell's Soup Labels Programs has yielded thousands of dollars for equipment, instructional materials, and supplies. Unfortunately, preschools are no longer eligible, so the Open Door will no longer be participating.

To the many individuals and groups who have faithfully contributed over the many years, we extend our heartfelt thanks. Sadly, this is our last time to list and acknowledge our “collectors.” Any box tops and labels already held by the Open Door will be given to Jeanette Myhre Elementary School, our neighbor down the street.

Marilyn Johnson, Bismarck, and Bob and Betty Jo Todd, Dickinson, contributed to both of these programs. Justin Puhalla, Bismarck, and Marlene Johnson of Williston submitted Box Tops, and Betty Widmer of Jamestown and First UMC-UMW of Devils Lake collected Campbell's soup labels for the Open Door.

Open Door Wish List

The preschool classroom uses lots of equipment and supplies. Here is a list of some items that we would be grateful to receive. If you have questions about specific items, please contact Jolene at 222-3004. Thank you.

Prisms for the science center



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Bismarck, ND 58504

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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.

The Witness is produced semi-annually by the Open Door Community Center. Editor: Jean Newborg; Layout: Jerry Newborg; Photocopy: McCabe UMC, Bismarck; Collation and Mailing: Marilyn Johnson; Website: Armour Interactive, Bismarck.

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