

Kidz Newz

What moms and dads need
to know about happenings in
the HPF children's ministry!

Feb. 2009

After School K-3rd Grade Parent/Child Bible Study to Begin in March

HPF parent Amy Casteel wants to play a key role in teaching her two children, Hannah and Gabe, about God and helping them develop their young faith.

To Amy, that means more than simply sending her kids to Bible class for an hour once a week. Although it's a good place to begin, she says, "I would love to firm up the foundation that church and Sunday school has started up to now."

"I want to create a social and spiritual network within our church—and even community—for our parents to teach and demonstrate to their children who God is and what His Word says."
- Amy Casteel

No matter how much parents desire to leave a legacy of faith for their children, carving out time to devote to Bible study is difficult. Between school, homework and extracurricular activities, kids who attend school outside the home just don't have a lot of margin left over. Still, most parents believe that helping their kids develop a personal relationship with the Lord should be their highest priority. They just don't always feel equipped to make it happen.

Amy's hopes for her own kids to know more of Jesus led her to do something about it. Beginning in March, depending on parental interest, she plans to launch an after-school Bible study (most likely on Thursdays from 3:30 -5 p.m.) for kids in grades K-3. "I want to create a social and spiritual network within our church—and even community—for our parents to teach and demonstrate to their children who God is and what His Word says," Amy says.

In addition to the study, there will be fellowship time that includes snacks and games. Amy hopes the relationships kids build with one another will give them the social support they need to carry the things they learn into their daily lives.

If you are interested in participating with your child(ren), contact Amy at acasteel@suddenlink.net or Andy at andy@hpf.org.



Amy Casteel

Q&A

With Children's Pastor Mr. Andy

Q What is your philosophy of children's ministry?
I think I started out focusing mainly on ministry to the teachers: to make sure they have the resources and support they need, but mainly so that when we ask people to help and they do, they want to come back! Still, I believe my role is to equip people for ministry to children, and to help all our volunteers do their ministry well. My ministry is defined by Ephesians 4:12: "To prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."

Q What are your top priorities for the ministry in 2009? One huge issue on my heart has been to really equip and support parents, and this issue has really resonated with other children's leaders at churches I have met with. Also, our team recently discussed how we want to make sure we are really helping children develop a real ongoing relationship with God, and I look forward to how that will impact a lot of our ministry. Another major priority will be adding another worship hour. (Whew!)

Q You worked in full-time youth and outreach ministry for more than a decade before moving to Cedar Park and changing careers. What made you decide to jump back into it? I struggled last year with career decisions and actually decided at one point to back out of kids ministry. However, after that decision it seemed God was really pointing me the other way. A lesson we had in kids church the next Sunday was: "never give up on doing good." I realized I was choosing what was easy, not what was best. I finally realized the opportunity God was giving me. Thankfully, HighPoint was kind enough to let me change my mind! Now, I feel truly blessed to be able to dedicate myself full-time to something so significant.



The Adkins Family: Andy, Amber and Patti

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March & April Kids' Worship Theme:

Berry Blast Theme Park: Lessons about the fruit of the Spirit!
There will be new and improved family homework each week.

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Q&A With Mr. Andy

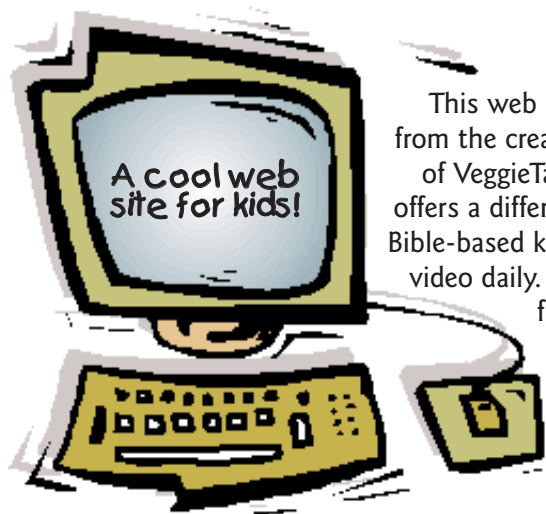
Q What role(s) can/should parents play in children's ministry? Parents are the true ministers to their children. We tend to focus on our kids' school and activities during the week, and restrict God to Sundays. I want to encourage myself and other parents to pray, talk about God and teach from scripture every day. I want us to take our spiritual "home-work" as seriously as school homework.

Q Most of the kids at HPF already know and love your wife, "Miss Patti," as the energetic children's worship leader. What else can you tell us about your family? Well, I love being known as "Miss Patti's husband" to the preschool kids. We have our daughter, Amber, of course, who is in 3rd grade and growing up waaay too fast. And we have only one pet—a fish named Crystal. Our fish actually does tricks!



Q How can parents volunteer to help in HPF kids' ministry? Call (331-7421), email (andy@hpf.org), or talk to me or anyone else on our kids team to volunteer. Or just answer your phone when I call you! We have kids ministry applications and the schedule posted next to the sign-in table. Our main needs currently are in the nursery classes, and assistants in the 4th and 5th grade class. We also need more musical or dance people for Kids' Worship. And we can always use extra help with the Pre-K through third grade group, especially at 11:15 a.m.

www.jellytelly.com



This web site from the creator of VeggieTales offers a different Bible-based kids' video daily. It's free!

SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITIES:



Though technically, it's still winter, it's time to begin signing your children up for summer activities! Below is a list of HPF-related camps that your kids might want to attend.

Mini Day Camps for Kids Ages 3-6:

HighHopes Preschool teacher Joy Taggart will offer two 4-day mini day-camp sessions during the summer and possibly a shorter 2-day session. These are expected to fill extremely quickly, so be watch for information on exact session dates/times in March.

Day Camp for Kids Completing 1st-3rd Grades:

July 6-9: Kids can experience a Christian outdoor camp experience without leaving town. Our kids will be participating with those from several other area churches. Sign up if you are interested, and especially if you can chaperone for one day.

Overnight Summer Camp for Kids Finishing 2nd-5th Grades:

There are not yet specific plans for which camp this age group will attend, but we will gauge interest and then work together to find a nearby camp where kids can develop friendships, learn, and grow in their relationship with Christ.

In addition to the camps listed here, Andy has gathered brochures from dozens of other camps in our community. The brochures will be available at church for your viewing.

Pre-K - 5th Grade Summer Family Day or Family Nights (AKA "VBS")

Mark your calendar for the week of July 26-30. The HPF kids' ed team is gearing up to have our first VBS-like event in several years, but we can't make it happen without YOU! We need parents to come alongside us and help us plan for this event that will either be on a Saturday or spread out over several nights. Families will participate together. Contact andy@hpf.org to get on board to help! If we get enough interest, we'll go full-steam ahead!

'09-'10 HighHopes Preschool Registration Going on Now!

Registration for the 2009-10 HighHopes Preschool school year is going on now for families of students who are currently enrolled. **Registration for HighPoint Fellowship members will begin February 23**, and registration for the community begins March 2.

As long as spaces are available, families can reserve a spot for their 2-, 3-, or 4-year-old children (according to what their age will be on Sept. 1, 2009) with a non-refundable \$100 registration fee/child (\$115/child after April 15).

Tuition will be \$170/month for two days a week and \$220/month for three days a week. Stop by the HighHopes office between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. for more information and/or an application. **Classes are expected to fill quickly, so don't wait!**



If you have something you'd like to see included in an upcoming issue, contact KidzNewz editor Gretchen Allan at ngallan@earthlink.net.