

# The Neighborhood Learning Center



## The Director's Corner

Marcie Peterson, Director

The Christmas season is a wondrous, magical time of year for families and especially children. As we at NLC prepare for the birth of Baby Jesus, our school will be filled with anticipation and excitement. The children will be practicing to sing at the Christmas Pageant, making gifts for their families, learning about the Christmas symbols and hearing the story of the birth of Christ.

Along with the sights and sounds that will fill your children with excitement, they may also be making a list or telling

you all of the things they want on Christmas Day. The list probably will change from day to day. Our commercial world strongly emphasizes the material aspect of our Christmas celebrations. A child who watches just one children's program on TV will increase his or her "wish list" by leaps and bounds. While it is wonderful to be able to shower your child with gifts, it



Continued on Page 2

## DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS!



PRESCHOOL CLOSINGS:

CENTER CLOSING @ 2 PM December 24th

CLOSED: December 25th, Christmas Day . Also, January 1st

Happy Birthday Jesus parties—December 24th

Scholastic Book Club Orders DUE: December 7th.

All church & school Christmas Pageant: Sunday, December 16th at 10:00 am.

Please dress the children to go outdoors. They need coats, hats and mittens with their names on them. Extra clothes are also needed in their cubbies.

## Staff Spotlight



Mark 10:13-16  
Let the Children  
Come to Me

<sup>13</sup> And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. <sup>14</sup> But when Jesus saw it, he was

indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.

<sup>15</sup> Truly, I say to you, whoever does not

Continued on Page 3

## Friendly Reminders

### SCHOOL CLOSINGS (Updated)

The NLC will follow the Loudoun County Government Offices' schedule for closing due to inclement weather and late opening.



\* If Loudoun County Public Schools have an early dismissal, the NLC bus will immediately pick the children up from school.

Continued on Page 3

## NLC BOOSTERS

Thanks to those of you who have volunteered. For those of you who have volunteered for an activity we will be contacting you within the next two weeks to talk about where and when you can help. For those who have volunteered to provide food and other items for events we will be contacting you as we need items.

It is not too late to sign up as a booster. The volunteer opportunities are posted

Continued on Page 3





### Director's Corner (from Page 1)

is just as important to help your child focus on others, rather than on self. Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus, our Savior. He loves us so much, He was willing to be born as a baby in a humble stable.

Also keep in mind as Christmas approaches, toddlers and young children do not understand what the season is all about. The one thing they do know is something special is happening. Very young children can easily be overwhelmed by the excitement of the holiday and the disruptions in their day-to-day routines. They are excellent at sensing the emotions of their parents. Just like grownups, children feel stress from time to time. So during this special time of advent, as we prepare our hearts and minds for Christmas, family traditions become an important way to establish routines with your children.

Teaching your little ones about the true meaning of Christmas through family activities may help your children to find peace during this busy, yet joyful, time of year. Here are some ideas of ways you can share Christmas with your child and begin those family traditions.

- \* Purchase colorful board books and nativity sets that show Mary and Joseph and Baby Jesus, the angel and shepherds, etc. Tell how Mary and Joseph loved Baby Jesus and took care of Him. Remind your child of your love and care.
- \* Play Christmas CDs. Include traditional Christmas hymns as well as children's songs.
- \* Purchase a small artificial tree for your child, complete with unbreakable ornaments with which they can play.
- \* Make it a family tradition to attend advent and Christmas church services in which your child will hear the story of God's love and gift of his Son, Jesus, to be the Savior of the world.
- \* And as we do at school, sing "Happy Birthday to Jesus," just as you sing Happy Birthday to your child!

**Have a very Merry Christmas and may every day feel like Christmas day in your home!**

**Ms. Marcie**



*Look for us on the web at* <http://tnlcenter.com/>

### **NLC CHILDREN TO SING IN THE CHURCH CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

The children have already started practicing the two songs they will be singing at church, December 16th at the 10 am service. They are singing "Christmas, Christmas" and "Come Let Us Worship." Listen for bits and pieces of each song and we will send home the words so that you can practice with them.



### **NEW PARENT HANDBOOK**

Have you received the new parent handbook? Your child's teacher will be making sure you have returned the last page as an acknowledgement of receiving it.

There is a lot of important information for you to be aware of such as tuition policies, vacation credits, meals and food brought from home.

Also, please note we have changed the inclement weather/school closing policy. Instead of following the Federal Government, we will follow the Loudoun County Government Offices' schedule.

### **Wednesday Afterschool Café**

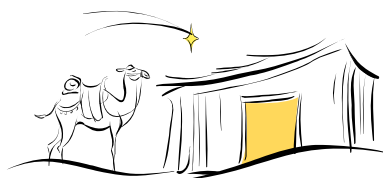
The Wednesday Afterschool Café program for youth (4th – 12th grade) is St. Andrew's mid-week ministry program open to the church, community and the NLC. Our weekly program begins at 3 pm and concludes with family dinner at 6:30 pm. Our afternoon includes snack, tutoring, games, worship lab and Bible Study. If you would like your 4th or 5th grader to participate in the program simply fill out the Wednesday Afterschool Café Enrollment Form on Page 4 and drop it off at the NLC.



## The Chaplin's Corner

### *Journey toward the Manger*

On Monday, we started our walk to the Manger. We listened to how the church keeps time and learned that we are entering a



new year as we prepare for Jesus to come to us again. In the coming Mondays, we will take more steps so that we may find ourselves on Christmas Eve peering into the manger to behold the sight that Jesus has come to be Love Come Down

for us. I am excited for our holy travels that await us!

During our chapel time, we are also preparing songs to be sung at our Christmas program. The kids will sing at a special service

### **Staff Spotlight (From Page 1)**

receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." <sup>16</sup> And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

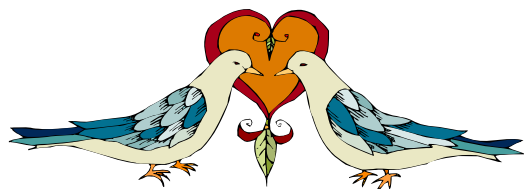
I have been in the Early Childhood Education Field for twenty plus years. I hold a degree in Applied Science, and Interior Design and also am certified as a Reading Specialist, a Nursing Assistant, K-12 Smart Board Teacher, and an Early Childhood Administrator. I have designed two learning centers from construction phase to licensing, taught phonics and math, was a Director and Assistant Director, Program Specialist, Curriculum Coordinator, and have taught several training classes in the field.

My family and I recently moved to Virginia from Delaware. My husband and I have been married for 23 years and have been blessed with four wonderful children: Alexa, a senior at Susquehanna University, Madison, a sophomore at Notre Dame of Ohio, Griffin, a freshman at Loudoun Valley, and Logan, a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Blue Ridge.

I am thrilled to be working at The Neighborhood Learning Center. The staff and families are so supportive and the children are a joy! I look forward to growing with the center and educating your children.

Wishing you all the blessings of the season,

Ms. Terri



at 10 am on December 16th. Mark your calendars so that you may support the kids' Christmas offering.

All of us at St. Andrew wish you and your family a blessed Advent. Feel welcomed to join in worship on Sundays this Advent, too. A highlight is always our Family Christmas Eve service at 5:30 pm. We hope your family will find moments of peace, hope, love and joy in the midst of the busy-ness that this season brings and indeed that you will find yourself welcoming the babe born to us on Christmas.

In Christmas Peace,

*Pastor Jessica*



### **NLC Boosters (from Page 1)**

on the website. Take a look and see what interests you, even if you only have one hour a month to give; it is appreciated and very rewarding. Review the sign-up sheet and return it to your child's teacher or to Ms. Marcie.

Thank you.

### **Friendly Reminders (From Page 1)**

- \* If the Loudoun County Government Offices have an early dismissal, parents are required to pick their children up immediately.
- \* If the Loudoun County Government Offices have a delayed opening, The NLC will open one hour PRIOR to the opening of the County Government Offices.

When Loudoun County Public Schools are closed due to holidays or teacher workdays and the NLC is open, school-age children may attend for an extra fee. The extra fee is applied if the child arrives before their normal time i.e. 11:00 am for kindergarten or 2:45 for 1st – 5th grade.

### **NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL AND ON-LINE**

The NLC Newsletter is now being distributed through email and is also available on-line at the NLC Website at

<http://www.tnlcenter.com>.



## The Pastor's Corner

Advent is our church's time to prepare for Christmas. The season comes with experiences of amazement. We already witnessed that in our Advent Workshop which took place on Wednesday, earlier this week. Our kids from the Wednesday Afternoon Café (our Wednesday program for youth ages fourth grade through high school) were busy decorating the church with greens, making wreaths, helping put together stockings for needy children and eating the several delicious chilis from our annual Chili Cook-off. The evening culminated with singing and worship in the sanctuary which made me hear

angels singing in the night sky. It is a thrill for us when NLC families join us for events like this. We loved having the NLC children's choir sing at our St. Andrew Day in November. There were families present at the Advent Workshop, as well. On Sunday, December 16 the NLC children will be our special guest performers when we have a combined worship service featuring our Children's Christmas Pageant. The service will be at a special time of 10:00 am. On Christmas Eve we have an interactive service for families at 5:30 pm. Last year we painted the Christmas story on a huge mural captivating the children's interest (I've never seen children stay so quiet and attentive in

a worship service!). This year we will try again to bring the children into the wonder of celebrating Jesus' birth.

We welcome the families of the Neighborhood Learning Center to join us for these Advent events. We are blessed to have you among us and wish for you to feel that the church is open and available to you in the best ways that we can. Blessings on you in this holy season.

Pastor Dave Milam

*Pastor Dave*

# December 2012

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7 Tuition Due Scholastic Book Orders	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Tuition Due	15
16 All church & school Christmas Pageant	17	18	19	20	21 Tuition Due	22
23	24 NLC Closing at 2:00 Happy B'day Jesus Party	25 NLC Closed for Christmas	26	27	28 Tuition Due	29
30	31	January 1 NLC Closed for New Years				

### CHILDRENS' ORNAMENT TREE

The children of the NLC will be making individual ornaments to be placed on the Christmas tree in the



lobby. The children are always very proud of their work and enjoy looking at it. They will want to show it to you and will be able to



take it home for Christmas. Please help your children enjoy this beautiful display of their artistic talents.

### Contact us!

We welcome all comments and are happy to hear your recommendations and concerns. Call The Neighborhood Learning Center at **540/338-3956** or e-mail our Director, Marcie Peterson, at

[Marcie@theneighborhoodlearningcenter.com](mailto:Marcie@theneighborhoodlearningcenter.com)

### Wednesday Afterschool Café Enrollment Form

Child Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Grade \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parents' Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone# \_\_\_\_\_  
 School \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parents Signature \_\_\_\_\_