

Neighborhood News

The Neighborhood Learning Center's monthly newsletter

The Director's Corner

Hi!

August is here and many people are trying to get in their last summer trips before the school year starts and the busyness begins. It made me remember one summer trip Carson, Anna and I took in August five years ago. We had the privilege to go to Romania for three weeks and lead three Vacation Bible Schools at three different locations for over 500 gypsy children who spoke three different languages. It took a lot of planning and hard work for the team of 13 people from our church, and we couldn't have done what we did without the 8 local translators we had to use.

My youngest daughter Anna was a senior in high school and this experience changed her world view, especially growing up in Loudoun County. The level of poverty among the gypsies and the discrimination they experience every day was eye opening for us all. There was a mob scene every day when we handed out snacks and water because for many of them, it was all they were going to get for the rest of the day.

As we get busy in our everyday lives, take some time and find a way to involve your children in helping others. We began involving our children in delivering meals to shut-ins while they were in preschool. I believe we all want our children to be compassionate, caring adults; so why not start teaching them now by example? There are LOTS of ways to help other people! Some ideas: St. Andrew collects canned food for Loudoun Hunger Relief (see the big wooden donation box in the main entry). There is currently a baby blanket drive going on (see the donation box in the main entry). Every week the Sunday School children donate money towards Mobile Hope—they are always looking for volunteers of ALL ages, too!

I hope you all enjoy your last few weeks of summer.

Blessings,

Jo Anna Rich



August Highlights

August 18:

NLC CLOSED for Staff Development Day

Meet & Greet Open House 3-5 pm

August 19:

Parents' Night Out 5:30—8:30 pm

August 20:

Church Picnic

August 21:

Promotion Day for preschoolers

August 21-23:

Rising Kindergartners attend camp with the school agers

EVERY FRIDAY:

Ice Cream Afternoons! The children will enjoy ice cream every Friday afternoon at snack time!

SAVE THE DATE:

September 7:
Back to School Picnic 5-6:30pm

This Month at School...

Summer is quickly rushing to a close, and school is just around the corner!

- The NLC will be CLOSED on Friday, August 18th, for a staff development day. There is also a Meet & Greet Open House on the 18th from 3-5pm when parents and children are invited to drop by, meet their teachers, and visit their classroom.
- The last Water Days of the summer will be the week of August 14th.
- August 21st is Promotion Day for preschool children!
- The rising Kindergartners will be attending camp with the school agers from August 21st-23rd. This will give the preschoolers the chance to promote up to their new classrooms, while giving the kindergartners a chance to promote up to the big kid group!
- Save the Date! September 7th from 5-6:30pm will be our Back-to-School Picnic! Details will be provided closer to the date.

**The NLC will be CLOSED
on Friday, August 18th for a
staff development day.**

**Meet & Greet Open House
from 3-5pm.**

Security Upgrades

New security cameras have been installed in several locations around the building, including on both playgrounds and the entry doors. These cameras are the first step in increased security throughout the building, with the next step being electronic keypad entry systems on the exterior doors in the building, not just the main entry. The safety and security of the children in our care is our number one priority, and we are always alert to how we can improve.

New School Year Preparations

August means that parents will be spending time shopping for new school clothes, buying school supplies, planning that perfect "first day of school picture," The list goes on! So what does the NLC do to prepare for the new school year?

- All of the classroom carpets and area rugs will be professionally cleaned.
- Classroom walls will have paint touchups.
- Teachers will be updating classroom décor, cubbies, materials....their list is practically endless, and exciting! As part of their update process, the NLC will be closed on Friday, August 18th, for a staff development day. Part of the day will be spent in training, and the rest will be spent putting finishing touches on classrooms, so they will be ready for the children Monday morning. NEW THIS YEAR is a Meet & Greet Open House from 3-5pm on the 18th, a chance for students and parents to stop by their new rooms, meet their teachers, and get the lay of the land!

We hope you are as excited as we are for this new year!

The Pastor's Epistle:

A new day for St. Andrew and the NLC

Summer welcomes rest and renewal with vacations and perhaps a slower pace at the office and on the road. Since my wife, Bonnie, is a teacher, I find myself sleeping in a bit later, the alarm clock turned off with schools closed. I hope that you have enjoyed the same.

That said, the summer at St. Andrew this year has been busy with the departure of Pastor Jessica McClure Archer. Jessica is becoming the Pastor/Head of Staff at Sampson Mills Presbyterian Church just outside of Pittsburgh. We said our tearful, appreciative goodbyes to her and to her family just a few weeks ago. She served here for one month shy of ten years and we were very fortunate and grateful to have her gifts for ministry for that long of a time.

Pastor Jessica gave a great deal of leadership to the beginning of the Neighborhood Learning Center, even naming it, truth be told! Besides that, I know that she was beloved by the children, faithfully leading their chapels week-by-week. She also made herself available to the NLC families and staff to care for you and to be helpful.

Jessica came to our church as an exceptionally qualified surprise, a recent graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary (also my alma mater) answering a posted ad. From her first telephone call, I could see God's hand in having her join our staff. As sad as it has been to say goodbye, nevertheless, I have been looking for God to

bless our church and school. And that's what has happened.

As Jessica finished her last weeks at St. Andrew, our new NLC Director, Jo Anna Rich, suggested that she could take on the children's and family ministry portion of Pastor Jessica's position. Perhaps you know that Jo Anna is an ordained minister, as well, and in her former position at Leesburg Community Church both directed their child learning center and led the programs for their children and their families. God continues to be so good to us! So, Rev. Jo Anna will help us with further developing our Wednesday Afterschool Café and Sunday School starting this fall, in addition to continuing to do her wonderful job as Neighborhood Learning Center Director. She will help our church stay close to the NLC in ways that promise good for both organizations.

My special blessing is that I will begin to lead weekly chapels starting in September. I had the opportunity to lead the chapels in 2015/16 when Pastor Jessica was on sabbatical. You all have some wonderful enjoyable children and I am so delighted to have this chance to visit with them a bit more regularly and to be a part of the church's mission to tell the good news of God to them. Bless our NLC and all of its children, families and staff.

I remain yours faithfully,



Pastor Dave Milam

Coming up at St. Andrew...

Weekly Worship: *Sundays 10am*

(Saturday worship services are put on hold during the summer)

NOTE: Child care is available for the littlest ones during worship. For children age preschool and up, Sunday School is provided during Sunday worship services—your child starts the service sitting with you, will leave for Sunday School and then will return to you before the service concludes. The first Sunday of every month is Family First Sunday, when children remain in the service and their joyful noises are welcomed!

August 19th—10am-noon—Believing & Belonging Class: Pastor Dave is welcoming visitors to join an introduction to St. Andrew and to the Christian faith we hold. For more information on this 3-4 week course, contact Pastor Dave at revdocdavem@aol.com.

August 20th—Church Picnic: Join us after worship in Fellowship Hall for great fellowship, good food, fun games, and music! Deacons will provide hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks; bring a side or dessert to share.

September 10th—8:45am—Back-to-School Breakfast: Kick off for Fall Sunday School! And discover this year's Children & Youth programming, and get plugged in via registration and volunteering.

