

Neighborhood News

The Neighborhood Learning Center's monthly newsletter

The Director's Corner

Greetings!

October is one of my *favorite* months. Pumpkins, hot cider, cool weather, college football, fall festivals, and the NLC/St. Andrew Trunk-or-Treat! St. Andrew and the NLC come together for this family fun event for the community. People decorate their car trunks and pass out candy as children trick-or-treat around the parking lot. There are much coveted prizes for the best decorated cars AND best costumes. People dress up and enjoy free hotdogs, popcorn, chips, cider, a moon bounce, face painter, balloon twister, and lots of candy. We look forward to another wonderful time on Friday, October 26 from 5:30-7:00. If you're interested in decorating your car, please sign up at the Front Desk. See you at the Trunk-or-Treat!

Blessings,

Jo Anna Rich



October Highlights

October 2
World Farm Animals Day

October 3, 10, 17, & 24
Family Night—ALL ages
Dinner 6:00—6:30 pm
Activities for children & adults 6:30—7:30 pm

October 4, 11, 18 & 25
AcroKidz Bus 9:45 am
Registration Required
New Session Starts 10/18
Wee Little Arts
Registration Required

October 5, 12, 19, & 26
Soccer Bugs 3:30
Registration Required

October 8
NLC CLOSED for Columbus Day

October 16
Wear ORANGE Day

October 20
Parents' Night Out
5:30—9:00 pm

October 22
LCPS Closed, NLC OPEN
School's Out Drop-In Day for School Aged

October 25
Pre-K Field Trip to Wayside Farm—Bus departs at 9:15 am

October 26
National Pumpkin Day
Trunk-or-Treat 5:30—7:00 pm

October 30
National Candy Corn Day

October 31
Halloween

Sunday worship and Sunday School every Sunday at 10:00 am

This Month at School...

October is all about fall fun!

- Please join us on Wednesday evenings for **Family Night!** See the article at the bottom of this page.
- Please see the articles on page 3 regarding **AcroKidz, Wee Little Arts, Soccer Bugs, and the Mercier School of Dance.** We are so excited to bring these fully optional extracurricular activities to your children.
- The **NLC will be CLOSED** on Monday, October 8th in observance of Columbus Day.
- To celebrate autumn, be sure to send your little one to school **wearing ORANGE** on Tuesday the 16th.
- Don't forget to sign up for **Parents' Night Out**, which will be held on Saturday the 20th from 5:30—9:00.
- LCPS will be closed on Monday the 22nd, but the NLC will be OPEN. Parents of School Agers—we will hold a **"School's Out Drop In Day"** so be sure to sign your child up for a day of fun activities!
- Our Owls class will head to Wayside Farm in Berryville on Thursday the 25th for their **Fall Pre-K Field Trip.** The bus leaves promptly at 9:15 am for this annual favorite.
- **Trunk-or-Treat** will be held Friday the 26th from 5:30—7:00 pm. This event is **NOT TO BE MISSED!!** Bring the kids in costume (and you, too!) for some Halloween fun—trick-or-treating in our parking lot from the decorated car trunks of volunteers, hot apple cider and hot dogs, a moon bounce, amazing face painter and incredible balloon twister. This was an absolute favorite event last year and we are excited to offer it again! You will need to pick up your child in their classroom and bring them out to the event in order for them to participate.

Crafting with a Cause—**CALLING ALL CRAFTERS!**

St. Andrew's Mission Committee will sponsor "Crafting with a Cause" this year on **December 8 and 9.** On the same Saturday evening, the Loudoun Chorale will be performing for St. Andrew's Music with a Cause program here at the church, bringing an audience of buyers right to the craft tables! The craft sale will be open before and after the concert and on Sunday morning and afternoon.

Crafters from the congregation and from our Neighborhood Learning Center family are invited to sign up for a table at no charge for space. Any handmade craft items are welcome: quilting, needlework, painting, woodworking, toys, etc. We ask participants to give 30% of their proceeds to the Crafting with a Cause program, with proceeds to benefit the Loudoun Abused Women Shelter (LAWS).

Don't wait too long to sign up because there are a limited number of tables available! Contact Ibby Dickson for details at edickson36@gmail.com

If you haven't yet "Liked" our Facebook page, please do so! We post announcements, reminders, and LOTS of fun photos.

Please consider leaving us a review—it really does make a difference!

Family Nights

Wednesday evenings from 6:00—7:30

Join us for a fun-filled, midweek gathering where you can reconnect and recharge with your NLC & St. Andrew Family and Friends!

Dinner kicks off at 6:00 pm, followed by music & programming for the kids and book study & service projects for the adults.

Invite your friends and neighbors!

OPTIONAL Extracurricular Classes

AcroKidz (Busy Bees, Hummingbirds, Birds, & Owls)

AcroKidz is a full-sized school bus converted into a safe and fun gymnasium. Our bus is padded and filled with fun equipment specifically designed for children ages 2-5. We will be coming to The Neighborhood Learning Center weekly on Thursdays to hold a 45-minute preschool age fitness and gymnastics class that includes fitness and basic gymnastics skill instruction.

Thursdays from 9:45 am—10:30 am

NEW SESSION runs from October 18th through November 15th

Cost of 5-week session: \$75

To register, visit <https://www.acrokidz.net/product-page/neighborhood-learning-center>

Mercier School of Dance (2s through School Age)

Creative Movement/Tot Tumbling Bees, Hummingbirds & Birds: 3:00—3:30 pm \$60/month

Children work on coordination, as well as balance and beginning tumbling skills. We will work on your little tumblers' flexibility as well as basic floor skills such as bridges, forward rolls, and obstacle course fun! We utilize a variety of fun interactive movement songs and props. We also start learning ballet arm positions and basic positions of the feet.

Ballet/Tap Birds, Owls: 3:30—4:00 pm \$60/month

Ballet or Tap? Why choose? We do both in a fun and engaging combination class! Students will learn both basic ballet skills such as positions of the feet and arms, as well as tap skills such as heel toe walks, stomps, and shuffles. Tap and ballet shoes are required.

Hip Hop School Age: 4:00—4:45 pm \$72/month

A high energy class that infuses the latest styles of street dancing, breaking, popping, and locking. Classes encourage students to step outside the box by bringing their own individual style and personality to the movements

FREE Demo Classes will be held on Monday, October 15th! All classes will be on Mondays.

To register, visit www.mercierschoolofdance.com

Soccer Bugs (Birds, Owls, & School Age)

The Fall session is already in progress. We look forward to them returning again in the Spring!

To learn more, visit mysoccerbugs.com

Wee Little Arts (Birds, Owls, and School Age)

During this 8-week session, students are exposed to the basics of art education. Art history and children's literature will play a major role in introducing the simple, yet necessary, elements of line, shape, color, and texture. Students are exposed to a variety of safe, high quality materials which foster their imagination to think "outside the box." Look for their artwork on display in the entry way!

Classes will be offered on Thursdays from September 18th through November 6th.

It's not too late to sign up—there are still spaces available!

Birds & Owls: 2:45 pm—3:30 pm

K-5th Grades: 3:45 pm—4:30 pm

Cost of 8-week session: \$144

To register, visit www.weelittlearts.com

Thank you to everyone who attended our Fall Class Picnics!



The Pastor's Epistle:

Chapels

Throughout the school year, I am and will be conducting chapels for the Hummingbirds, Busy Bees, Birds, and Owls (2-4 year olds). It is one of the highlights of my week and, I hope, theirs as well. For the most part, I tell the major stories of the Bible, seasonally themed, with the hope of encouraging wonder and grace in these groups who meet with me in the sanctuary every Tuesday morning for about twenty minutes each.

Here's a thumbnail sketch of how each chapel goes: First, the teachers help the little ones to line up at the door of the sanctuary. I talk with them, asking how their day is going, learning their names better, encouraging them to prepare for a time of reverence in the sanctuary. Then we go in.

We sit on the floor in a circle. Often there is a bit of jostling for who gets to sit next to Pastor Dave and/or their favorite friend. When we get settled, I light a candle, placing it before them, asking them to notice its beauty, movement, light, and heat. The candle is to remind us that we are thinking about God in chapel.

Next, I bring out simple props to help the children imagine amazing stories in the Bible, such as the creation, the Israelites' exodus from slavery in Egypt to freedom, the

journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem for the Christmas birth of Jesus, Jesus' journey to the cross and to his resurrection. The materials and method of the chapels comes from a curriculum called "Godly Play," which seeks to solicit a sense of mystery and wonder which is natural and innate in children. It is a Montessori School-like curriculum, keying on the children's imaginations, inviting experiences of awe, and opening their hearts to ask questions.



Crossing of the Red Sea

After the storytelling, we close with a prayer. Then I bring the candle back out in front of them. Since the candle is there to remind us of God, we have to figure out what happens when we put it out. I use a candle snuffer. As the flame is extinguished, I raise it up and smoke drifts skyward. I ask where God is and the children gleefully respond with me: EVERYWHERE! With a

sense of celebration, the children give me high fives or hugs and go out with joy.

It is a real blessing to spend this time with these wonderful children of the NLC. Every week, it helps me to remember the joy that Jesus had in welcoming the little children to come to him. I hope that they tell you about some of the stories and share a bit of their own wonder and joy.

Yours faithfully,

Pastor Dave

Pastor Dave Milam

Coming up at St. Andrew...

Weekly Worship: *Sundays 10am*

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.

Ongoing Wednesdays—Choir Rehearsal—7:00 pm—All are welcome, come sing with us!

Sunday, October 21st—Music with a Cause featuring George Bowerman—4:00 pm— The concert will feature

classical works to include Ludwig van Beethoven's monumental Waldstein Sonata in C Major, Op. 53, and Franz Liszt's Divine Comedy inspired Dante Sonata. George Bowerman's recent honors include Second Prize in the Bradshaw and Buono International Piano Competition and a semi-finalist award in the Seattle International Piano Competition. Tickets are \$20 with proceeds benefiting Heart Marks.

October 7th, 14th & 21st—Adult Sunday School—9:00—10:00 am—A discussion of Waking Up White: Finding Myself in the Story of Race by Debby Irving. In response to the National Capitol Presbytery's call to the DC Metro congregations to "engage in edifying discussions so that we could dismantle racism as a part of our Christian commitment."

Extracurricular classes in action!



Service Opportunities

Hurricane Florence Donation Drive

The Loudoun Clergy Group has organized a supplies drive to provide relief for rural areas like the Rose Hill, Wallace, and Chicapen communities in North Carolina.

Please drop off donations in the main entry in the box provided.

Supplies needed:

- ⇒ **Toiletries**
- ⇒ **Canned food**
- ⇒ **Baby products (diapers, wipes, soap)**
- ⇒ **Cleaning supplies**
- ⇒ **Small tools (screwdrivers, shovels, etc.)**

Donations will be collected til October 19th

Thanksgiving Dinner Bag Drive

Every year we help Loudoun Hunger Relief gather food and grocery store gift cards in order to make sure that EVERYONE in our community has the opportunity to celebrate Thanksgiving dinner.

Towards the end of October, we will be challenging each classroom to fill at least one of these bags by bringing the requested items to the box outside each classroom. Our children will assemble the bags at one of our Wednesday Family Night gatherings.

You might consider adding an item or so to your grocery list each week until the collection boxes are placed—it's amazing how much adds up, a little at a time! The items requested for each bag are:

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| ⇒ Stuffing mix | ⇒ Cranberry sauce |
| ⇒ 4 cans of vegetables | ⇒ Dessert mix/ingredients |
| ⇒ Boxed potatoes | ⇒ \$10 grocery store gift card |
| ⇒ Gravy (mix or jar) | ⇒ Reusable grocery bag |
| ⇒ Cornbread or biscuit mix | <i>NO perishable items, please!</i> |

October 2018

Theme: Fall Fun

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 World Farm Animals Day	3 Music & Movement Family Night	4 AcroKidz Bus 9:45 am Registration required Wee Little Arts Registration required	5 Soccer Bugs Registration required	6
7 Adult Sunday School 9 am Worship & Sunday School 10 am	8 NLC CLOSED for Columbus Day	9 Chapel	10 Music & Movement Family Night	11 AcroKidz Bus 9:45 am Registration required Wee Little Arts Registration required	12 Soccer Bugs Registration required	13 Trustee Work Day
14 Adult Sunday School 9 am Worship & Sunday School 10 am	15 Mercier School of Dance Free Demo Classes	16 Wear ORANGE Day Chapel	17 National Pasta Day Music & Movement Family Night	18 AcroKidz Bus 9:45 am Registration required Wee Little Arts Registration required	19 Soccer Bugs Registration required	20 Parents Night Out 5:30 – 9:00
21 Adult Sunday School 9 am Worship & Sunday School 10 am Music with a Cause 4 pm	22 LCPS Closed, NLC Open Mercier School of Dance Classes Registration Required	23 Chapel	24 Music & Movement Family Night	25 Pre-K Field Trip AcroKidz Bus 9:45 am Registration required Wee Little Arts Registration required	26 National Pumpkin Day Trunk-or-Treat 5:30 – 7:00 pm	27
28 Worship & Sunday School 10 am	29 Mercier School of Dance Classes Registration Required	30 National Candy Corn Day Chapel	31 Halloween Music & Movement NO Family Night			

Of Note...

- **AcroKidz** – 2-year old classes and older. Registration required.
- **Soccer Bugs** – 3-year old classes and older. Registration required.
- **Wee Little Arts** – Birds & Owls 2:45 – 3:30 pm; K – 5th Grade 3:45 – 4:30 pm; Registration required.
- **Pre-K Field Trip** – Wayside Farm; departs at 9:15 am
- **Family Night** – Dinner at 6 pm. Activities for children and adults 6:30 – 7:30 pm.
OPEN TO EVERYONE!