

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Our preschoolers (3-and 4-year olds and Kindergartners) worship with us on the transept rugs at the front of the Sanctuary. They are led by their Sunday school teachers to the sanctuary ten minutes prior to worship. At the end of the Invocation, the teachers lead the children back to their classrooms where they have circle time and a simple snack.

FAMILY DEDICATION AND BLESSING

Family Dedication and Blessing is a meaningful and sacred liturgy involving families, their children, and the congregation. Typically celebrated during Sunday morning worship, the purpose of Family Dedication is to join parents and the congregation in nurturing the spiritual growth of children.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMS

Wednesday night programs are a great opportunity for making church an important part of your young child's life. In addition to the weekly fellowship dinner, which runs from 5:15 to 6:15, parents and children are invited to participate in a variety of programs, workshops, choirs, and fellowship.

OTHER PROGRAMS

Special enrichment opportunities will be offered periodically throughout the year, including educational, recreational and social programs. Supplemental educational materials on child birth, health, and development are available through the Early Childhood Minister's office located next to the Conference Room.

THROUGH-THE-WEEK SCHOOL

Through-the-Week School is our weekday preschool for children ages 12 months to 5 years old. Since it began in 1955, this program has been an outreach of the church. The purpose of the school is to offer the church and the community a program which encompasses the highest standards in early childhood education within a Christian environment of love and support.

Emphasis is placed on the growth of the whole child, including cognitive, spiritual, emotional, social, and physical development. Activities are planned with each child's developmental level in mind. The family gives the child first experiences in building skills. TTWS offers each child a continuation of this process.

Our TTWS has half-day classes for toddler through transitional Kindergarten children. The school is accredited by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs, a division of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Registration is in February. Please call Director Belinda Geuss at 704.377.1683 to schedule a time to see our classes in action!

Reverend Cheryl Collins Patterson
Early Childhood Minister
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Artwork by Mary Cassatt, *The Bath* and *After the Bath*.

Myers Park Baptist Church



Godly Play Three's & Four's

September 2011 - May 2012

WELCOME TO THE 3'S AND 4'S ROOMS

We are delighted that you and your child are making Myers Park Baptist Church a part of your faith community. Our church programs offer a loving learning environment where children grow in their experiences of God's world and their places in it. Having children in our midst is a holy privilege and we strive to respond to Jesus' words: "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me." (Mark 9:37).

A year of wonder and discovery awaits your child as we learn together the stories from the bible, sing songs from our faith, play, and attend the first part of worship together in the Sanctuary. We have an excellent team of teachers, including Edith Collins, Cathy Andrako and Justin Williamson who bring over 50 years of combined experience to the classroom.

Good cheer,



Reverend Cheryl Collins Patterson
Early Childhood Minister

SUNDAY SCHOOL LOCATION AND CURRICULUM 9:30 A.M. – NOON

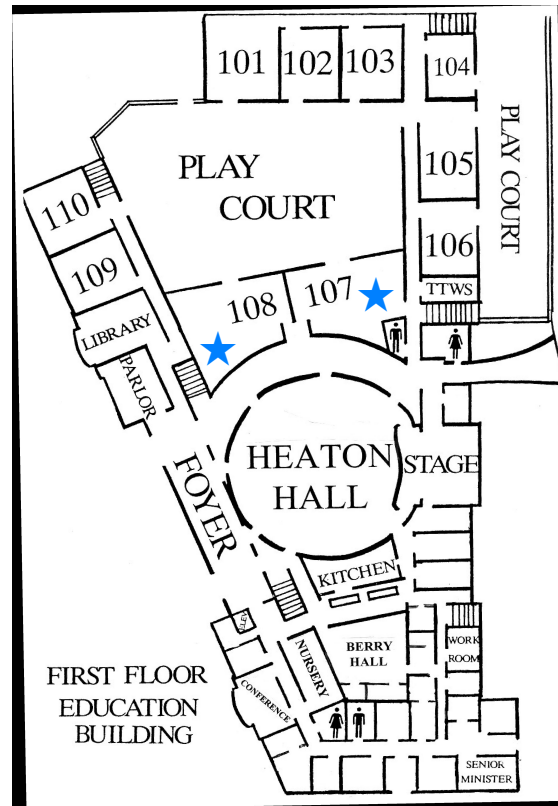
- ★ Three year-olds gather in Room 107
- ★ Four year-olds gather in Room 108

Both rooms are across from Heaton Hall on the first floor of the Education Building.

Sunday School begins at 9:30am and our curriculum for preschoolers, **Godly Play**, is a Montessori-based method of telling bible stories, presenting parables and instructing children about Christian liturgy, ritual and traditions. It invites listeners into the stories and encourages them to connect the stories with personal experience. **Godly Play** is a non-coercive way to encourage children to move into

larger dimensions of belief and faith, through wondering questions and open-ended response time. It is a way of preparing children to join in the worship and life of our congregation as they develop a deeper understanding of stories, symbols and rituals.

We continue teaching to encourage our children's religious imagination with science, art and drama activities; nurturing their spiritual development through prayers, stories and songs. We give children the opportunity to express themselves and ask questions in a loving environment that demonstrates God's love and acceptance of them. We seek to create a Ministry of Belonging so that every child knows he/she is loved by God.



"In most religious education children are *told* who God is. In '*Godly Play*' children *discover* who God is."

~ Rev. Jerome Berryman, curriculum founder

DROP OFF/PICK UP PROCEDURES

Safety is our primary concern for all the children in our care. Please follow these procedures when dropping off/picking up your child:

Each time you drop off your child, please sign-in your child recording his/her name, your name, your cell phone number and where you will be on the church campus while your child is in our care. Your child will be given a nametag to wear. When picking up your child, please sign out, noting the time of pickup. If you need a pager, please let us know at the time you sign-in.

WHAT TO BRING

Please bring any supplies your child may need while staying with us. This might include a change of clothes. You may place your child's belongings in the cubbies provided.

We do offer a light snack of graham crackers and water for our Preschoolers during the worship hour. We are happy to serve your child any snack that you provide.

Please alert us to any allergies you child might have.

HEALTH POLICY

In order to provide a safe, healthy environment for all our children, we ask that you keep your preschooler with you any time he or she exhibits the following symptoms:

- Fever, vomiting and/or diarrhea within the previous 24 hours
- Any symptoms of childhood diseases such as scarlet fever, measles, mumps, chicken pox, whooping cough
- Any unexplained rash
- Runny nose with any persistent or colored discharge
- Any skin infection
- Pink eye and other eye infections
- Head lice (child should be free of all nits)
- If your child is being treated with antibiotics, he/she should be on the drug for at least 24 hours before returning to Church.

While general first aid, such as applying band-aids to minor scrapes will be administered, our teachers, volunteers and childcare providers are not permitted under any circumstance to administer medication.