

“We will speak the truth in love. We will grow up into Christ in every way.” Ephesians 4:15

## GROWING UP TOGETHER

As the Summer of 2011 ends, more kids pile into the halls of West Highland on Sunday morning. Many of them return to us with darker shaded skin from hours spent in the sun. Some share their adventurous stories of sojourns in far off places. Though older kids try to mask their eagerness to start school by sharing woes of their vacation freedoms coming to an end, their faces expose the truth. They are excited for change and the opportunity to experience new things.

Children are like seeds that, when planted in a nurturing environment, can't help but spout! Growth is most natural for children and they are quite resilient in times of change. If only we adults didn't have to work so hard to be more like them! As the Apostle Paul says in Ephesians 4:15, we are “to speak the truth in love... and **grow** into Christ in every way.” Growth in Christ is never complete this side of heaven! We adults often parent and serve children from the perspective that we are the teachers and children are the learners while forgetting that we have much to learn from our children. We are all on a faith journey and ought to be growing daily.

A child's example can have great impact on our spiritual growth. Even Christ acknowledged this truth in the Gospels when he said that we adults ought to accept God's Kingdom with the simplicity of a child or we would never get into it. Children are less inhibited to grow from the spiritual truths they are taught, and they apply those truths to their lives by faith.

Children look at God's Word through the lenses of exploration and excitement. They can often accept God's

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truth without a shadow of doubt.

As I rub shoulders with children at home, at church and in my community, I become more aware of my need for them. Their example often reminds me that I have a lot of growing to do. The depth of my faith often fails in comparison to the simplicity of their faith. At times when I go to teach them, I see how I fall short of the truth I am teaching. What parent hasn't impatiently instructed their child to be patient? What teacher or leader hasn't been inspired by the depth of faith a child has?

I am reminded of a time when my son and I were cuddling in bed after his Dad left for work. He said he wanted to be with me because he was lonely and missed his Daddy. I replied, you have no need to feel alone, Caleb, for your heavenly Father is always with you. Little did my son know that prior to his arrival in my bed, I too had been feeling lonely; I was longing to be held by someone and asking God how I could feel his presence when he wasn't physically here to hold me.

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## CELEBRATING THE HI-LIGHT OF VBC



Last month, West Highland was buzzing with excitement as the 227 kids and 91 leaders travelled back in time to visit Jesus' hometown, Nazareth! This summer's Vacation Bible Camp was a week filled with games, singing, dancing, building new relationships and learning more about Jesus. We heard from Mary, Jesus' mother, about some of the things her son did and said when he was a kid. We made Jewish prayer shawls and tzedakah boxes while learning about Nazareth in the Marketplace. We worshiped God through song and remembered what God was doing in our lives. We played games and learned traditional Jewish dances. Then, we ended our fantastic week with a big celebration that all the kids and their families were invited to attend! What a privilege it was for the kids to share their experiences with their family and for the volunteers of West Highland to meet them! This was a wonderful time! As VBC director for the summer, I had many personal highlights. A few of the highlights for me were:



Amy Gerics  
STAR Kids Intern

- † Watching new volunteers step up, grow, and serve.
- † Hearing from many kids that they were anxious to visit Mary's House and hear more stories about Jesus.
- † Listening to the kindergartens ask deep inquisitive questions about Jesus and the Bible.
- † Hearing kids share how they saw God working in their lives.
- † Hearing from parents that they saw growth in different areas of children through the week and they had a lot of fun with friends.
- † Seeing kids raise their hands and hearing them lift up their voices in worship to our Savior while singing "Jesus Messiah" and other precious songs. Knowing parents now have the privilege of hearing these songs OVER and OVER again in their cars and homes!

This week was a true blessing! It was a time of much growth for myself and for many others. I want to say a big THANK YOU to all of the volunteers who gave so freely of their time and energy to help make this week such a success. I came out of it feeling so encouraged by all of your hard work and support! None of us can fully know the impact that this week will have made on kids and families who were involved. I thank God for what He did that week and continues to do as a result of it. To Him be the glory!



## GENEROUS GIVING - by Suzanne Kirsch



With tears in her eye, Sue Lamont praises God for His goodness and thanks our 227 kids at Vacation Bible Camp for the \$1027 that was collected during the week. This money will sponsor 29 kids at City Kidz. It is the highest amount of money we have ever raised during a camp! We also are most excited to see how God used the children's giving to encourage an anonymous donor to match each dollar collected and raise our total of sponsored children to 58!



I vividly remember the day that my six year old daughter announced to me she wanted to give half of her recently received birthday gift money to God. In my mind, I thought she was already being quite generous by asking her friends to only bring \$4 rather than a gift which would surely have cost more money from a toy store. Then she explained that she wanted to donate half of each \$4 gift to the Ronald McDonald House. Such generosity made a mother's heart proud. Soon, the birthday was over, the money was totaled and her donation was set aside to be delivered in person. But she wasn't finished. Now she was asking to give half of her portion of the money to God.

To be honest, I was almost tempted to say, "Sweetie, don't you think you've given enough already?" Then God's truth penetrated my thoughts; I realized I almost missed an opportunity to affirm the Christ-like character I was seeing in Sarai. All those years of teaching my daughter that God loves a cheerful and generous giver had blossomed in my daughter's life! The question at that specific moment, was whether that same teaching produced as much fruit in my life? I began to see one more reason why Jesus said that the kingdom of God belongs to children and that we are to be like them. On my daughter's sixth birthday, God wanted me to learn a lesson from a child, my child; he wanted to challenge me to reconsider my own giving as well as my attitude about giving.

In theory, if giving is part of a family's core values, then children learn about giving by observing their parents' giving behaviors. Unfortunately, in many families, the giving process is not transparent to the children. What a missed opportunity!

But parents aren't the only ones who can teach their children about giving. Peo-

ple who are given the privilege to build relationships with your children and teach them at church can also play a significant part in shaping your child's perspective on giving. Yet in both cases, this teaching doesn't happen automatically. It takes thoughtful and intentional effort to model generous giving and provide kids with opportunities to grow in their understanding of giving "time, talent and treasure."

In STAR Kids ministries this year, we will be striving to create an environment whereby your children will be encouraged to consider how they can give generously to God. In TREC, our Sunday evening worship and arts training ministry, children will be given opportunity to give their time to God and use their talents for God. During Quest, our mid-week children's ministry, some of the groups will travel outside the church walls to give a helping hand to seniors. During STAR Kids worship service, kids will be encouraged to bring money for a specific need in God's Kingdom; for the months of September and October the money collected will be for Operation Christmas Child. We want to raise \$200 to help towards the cost of supplies for boxes and pay for shipping costs.

So, as we work toward this end in STAR Kids, may we challenge you as a parent to consider how we can partner together in raising up cheerful givers. When your children are given money, whether a gift, an allowance, or earned, how can you encourage them to give a portion of that back to God? Getting the children to bring money to church is not the same as teaching them to give. The goal is not to bring money but to teach your children to be givers and to be mindful of God's principles on giving.



## IS MY CHILD READY FOR BAPTISM?

It was Sunday, October 21, 1990, when I was baptized. I'll never forget it. I even have a picture. My decision to get baptized was the result of personal reflection and study. I was ready for this next step in my faith. What added to the whole experience was that I was baptized along with several of my closest friends at the time. We spent a year together exploring what baptism means and why it is important for us to obey what Jesus commands in the New Testament. There were a lot of questions along the way. Some of us even had serious doubts about getting baptized. Were we really ready for this big step?

Adults typically ask themselves if they are ready for baptism, but what about children? After kids express a desire for baptism they generally don't quickly add, "But am I ready?" They just want to go ahead and do it. It's adults who ought to question their readiness.

Is my child ready for baptism? For some of us, this question makes us nervous. I admit that's how I felt when my daughter first requested that she be baptized. She was eight, I think. She had just witnessed a good friend get baptized. The whole event was remarkable. Her friend invited us to come to her baptism. When the weekend finally came around, family and friends showed up to see this event. Afterward, everyone stayed behind to celebrate and eat cookies.

When we returned home, we talked about what we had just seen; that going under water and getting completely wet in front of the whole church is something that actually means a great deal. It's a picture, a drama, or re-enactment of what Jesus did by being laid in a tomb (going underwater) and then coming back to life (coming out of the water). Okay, that makes sense. My daughter got this. "So can I get baptized?" she asked. I stalled. I wanted to say yes but I also wanted to delay it a little.

I think there are good reasons to delay a request for baptism from young children but if the following are in place, your child may be ready.

**Evidence of saving faith.** Naturally, young children aren't going to be able to articulate their faith the same way adults can, yet they still need to articulate something that resembles saving faith. There needs to be an understanding of sin, that they are sinful, and that sin keeps them from a relationship with their Heavenly Father. Only a real and active faith in the person of Jesus is able to restore this relationship. If this truth can be articulated in their own words, and at an age-appropriate level, then we can take their faith at face value. Praise God!

**Understanding of baptism.** From a Baptist perspective, baptism does not save an individual, nor is it necessarily the moment of "being born again" (regeneration). Baptism does not wash away our sin. Instead, baptism is a symbol that we identify with Jesus' death and resurrection. Symbols carry deep meaning (like a wedding ring, or a nation's flag). It's important that your child be able to understand and explain what symbols are and why they're important.

**Making a public declaration.** Since baptism takes place in front of the whole church, your child should also understand that they're making a public declaration to be a Jesus-follower. They're becoming part of a larger group. Similar to a new citizen of Canada becoming a Canadian, your child becomes part of the church community and citizen of heaven. Your child is choosing to live as a Christian from now on. It's not expected that they fully understand the implications of this, but hopefully they will be able to recognize and explain the difference between living as a non-believer and living as a Christian.



**Settling in a community of faith.** This point is more for you than your son or daughter. You are the primary authority figure in your child's life, and ultimately you decide whether or not your family remains in a specific church. For anyone getting baptized, child or adult, the act of baptism places you under the care and authority of the church. That's God's idea, and that's what happens when we choose to become part of a local community of faith. As a parent, then, it's worth explaining to your son or daughter that the church will encourage and support them. Also explain that as their parent you are going to allow this to happen by being plugged in, by exposing your child to the activities and teachings of the church.

After Children are baptized they need a great deal of encouragement and instruction in order for their faith to mature and grow. Baptism itself doesn't guarantee ongoing faith. Aside from the personal responsibility that your child has to eventually take for his or her own faith, support from the congregation is just as necessary.

It's natural to have reservations about baptizing children. For example, is my child's profession of faith credible? Is there evidence of conversion from a sinful life? (This is a tough one since children obviously haven't had the opportunity to make horrible, life-altering choices, unless you consider dumping spaghetti on their baby sister's head a horrible choice). Is their profession of faith and decision to be baptized *really* their decision? After all, children are susceptible to persuasion by their parents.



These are valid points. However, our reservations may be caused by unfairly placing adult expectations upon our children. Some day they will understand more fully what it means to follow Jesus, especially since they too will face difficult choices like we adults do. The trials of life and a full understanding of Scripture isn't required for baptism (consider the New Testament examples of Lydia and the jailer, people hardly with enough time to have a full and complete understanding before being baptized). What is required is faith. It's hard to evaluate the credibility of somebody's faith, regardless of age. Since we can't peer into the hearts and minds of our children, the best we can do is prayerfully and patiently explore with them their journey toward baptism and deeper faith. The

more our children understand their faith, and own it as their own, the greater the potential for a life-long commitment to Jesus Christ.

If both you and your child are certain that it's time for baptism, my wish is that your child have a great experience like I did. May they also find themselves in a community that surrounds them with love and support.

*Henry Kirsch has been married to Suzanne for 13 years. Both are proud parents of 2 wonderful children. Henry currently teaches during Star Kids on Sunday morning. Having taught primarily adults as a pastor, he finds interacting with children quite refreshing. He is also ordained with the North American Baptist Conference and has served in two churches prior to coming to West Highland. Henry prides himself in being "uncool" and finding new ways to embarrass his children.*



For parents of children who expressed a desire to explore baptism or to know how to live for Christ after baptism, I have two excellent workbooks for you by Pre-teen's Pastor Chris Gabbard. One workbook is entitled "Taking the Plunge!" the other workbook is entitled, "I Took the Plunge. Now what?" Cost \$5 each. If you take your child through the book on baptism and you feel your child is ready to have a conversation with a leader about being baptized, please contact Suzanne Kirsch, Director of Children's Ministry at [suzannekirsch@westhighland.org](mailto:suzannekirsch@westhighland.org) by October 16th.



## LOSING YOUR MARBLES! BUILDING A FAITH COMMUNITY - by Suzanne Kirsch



Building a vibrant faith community at West Highland will require intentional effort and even some hard work! Being a church that will soon break the barrier of 1000 attendees with over 200 of them being children on a given Sunday, we will inevitably have challenges to building community closeness. In the adult worship, we often encourage people to get involved in life groups and to get plugged in an area of service at our church. We encourage individuals to write their praise items on a slip of paper and place them in our thankometer so the community of faith can see the magnitude of what God is doing in our church family. We challenge people to be intentional about greeting others they do not know, with the knowledge that there are people attending from outside our church walls and from our surrounding community. So, it is only fitting that the children of West Highland be equally challenged to take practical steps in building up the community of faith at West Highland, but how? This Fall, we are making a few shifts to Sunday ministry focus that we hope will help facilitate the kids' growth in this area.



Every Sunday, kids in grade 1 to 6 will spend half of their worship time in small groups. In their group, they will pray together and be blessed by a benediction from God's Word. Leaders will intentionally challenge the children to get to know each other and welcome any guests. The kids will be encouraged to bring their Bibles so they can look up the Bible story together.

They will recite together their monthly memory verse. As a reward, children will no longer receive stickers for their individual effort. Instead they will earn marbles not for their own pockets but for our marble thankometer! It is our desire that kids will come to understand that they are not losing their marbles but working toward building a vibrant faith community! We want to encourage the kids to celebrate as a community the

great things God has enabled them to do, like reciting His word! Just as in Old Testament times when God's people were commanded to make a pile of rocks to remember God's provision and presence, we too will take time to remember with a

pile of rocks or... agate marbles!

Another means of building faith community will be providing opportunity for children of all ages to worship God together. During our singing and Bible teaching time, all children from Grade 1 to 6 will be gathered together in one large group! Older children will be encouraged to model faith to the younger ones. On special occasions, we will even invite 4 & 5 year olds to join us for a grand celebration! We will call these Sundays, "Remember and Celebrate".

At these special services, the kids and volunteers will celebrate all they have learned about God's Word and all God has done in their lives through His Word. This quarter we've reserved October 16th and December 4th for these celebrations.



Volunteers are being encouraged to make relationship building a primary focus on Sunday. To do this, they are striving to know parents more. They are encouraging parents to be committed to bringing their child to the same worship service each week— either 9 a.m. or 11 a.m.— so that the kids have more opportunity to deepen their relationship with their leaders and other kids. A few select leaders will be serving in both services to build a bridge between the families who come at different worship times.

At Christmastime, Lindsay McFarland, our newly appointed worship leader in STAR kids, will help the children, ages 2-12, learn worship pieces they can

share with the body of Christ on December 4th in the adult worship services. This ministry will replace our traditional “Sunday School” evening concert for the 2011 year. We want kids to learn how to serve Jesus together in the our church community rather than have each class prepare something on their own.

Although these steps might appear minimal to building a faith community, we believe they will collectively get us far on our journey toward community closeness at West Highland. We are trusting that the environment we create and the faith we model to children will reap great things through the work of the Holy Spirit for the greater body of Christ.

# REMEMBER & CELEBRATE

ULTIMATE SUPERSTAR is a fun packed kids musical for kids from grades 1-8. During the next 2 TREC semesters held on Sunday evenings from 6:00 – 7:15 p.m., the children will be studying drama, music, dance, lighting set design, and costume design. This is all leading up to a full 40 minute musical drama that will be presented following the second semester. The children will learn what makes an Ultimate Superstar. Musical styles range from a country jamboree to Elvis all mixed together with some contemporary music as well.

Other leaders will be helping, at various times, with their own specialties. They are:

- Phil & Steph Seagrove – drama and set design
- John & Lindsay McFarland – music, lighting and set design
- Lee Brubacher – music, sound mixing and set design
- Karen Barten – drama and team building
- Elizabeth Walker – costume design



*Cheryl and her husband Lee came to West Highland 10 years ago. She has worked with children's and music ministry since joining West Highland. Cheryl has been involved in teaching the 2's and 3's class, even at her home church since she was 13 years. She has given leadership to the last three semesters of the STAR Kids TREC classes. Cheryl has a love for music and drama and a desire to teach the children to use their talents to glorify God.*



## CREATING SPIRITUAL ENVIRONMENTS - A Book Review by Suzanne Kirsch

1. Storytelling – Exposes children to the Big God Story. This gives them an awe-inspiring perspective into how God has been moving throughout history and is creating even our own unique story for his glory.
2. Identity – Focuses on who we are in Christ, according to Ephesians 1. An understanding of their true identity helps children stand firm against the myriad of false-identities waiting to seduce them in the world.
3. Faith Community – Helps children see the importance of living life with, worshiping with, and learning from others who are following Him.
4. Service – Cultivates a heart that asks, “What needs to be done?” and helps kids to view their lives as living sacrifices that they can generously give away.
5. Out of the Comfort Zone – Inspires a generation to seek not comfort but a radical life of faith in Christ.
6. Responsibility – Enables children to take ownership of their lives, gifts, resources, and relationships before God.
7. Course Correction (Discipline) – Fleshes out Hebrews 12: 11-13 and a grace-driven vision for biblical discipline of a child.
8. Love and Respect – Recognizes that children need an environment of love and respect in order to be free to both receive and give God’s grace.
9. Knowing – As we, through personally knowing God, create an environment that upholds and displays God’s truth, we give children the assurance of being known by God through a relationship with Him in Christ.
10. Modeling – Biblical content needs to be expressed in practical living in order for it to make a difference spiritually. Knowing is the “who” while Modeling is the “how.”

**Moms and Dads:** If you pick up only one parenting book this year, I would recommend *Spiritual Parenting*. Dr. Michelle Anthony, the author of this book, strives to have every parent ask, “What is my end goal in raising each of the children that God has entrusted to me, and then how will I parent them with that end in mind?” Her thesis: “The goal of spiritual parenting is that our children would learn to hear and know God’s voice, desire to obey it, and obey it in the power of God’s Spirit, not their own strength.”

Anthony encourages parents to know their children and embrace the way God made them. Without a formula to follow, parents are better reminded of their eternal focus. “What is our job then? The joy of parenting can be spent on cultivating environments for our children’s faith to grow, teaching them how to cultivate a love relationship with Jesus as we cultivate our own, living our lives authentically in front of them so that they become eyewitnesses to our own transformation.” Through honest personal stories and clear biblical teaching, Anthony paints a big picture of a parent’s God-given role. She calls us as parents to depend on God for our children’s spiritual growth while cultivating 10 environments in our homes that foster a heart-transforming faith: storytelling, identity, faith community, service, out of the comfort zone, responsibility, course correction (discipline), love and respect, knowing, and modeling. You will see these 10 environments featured in your kids weekly Sunday worship take-home sheets and also in the FREE HomeFront magazine made available to you and your family in print or on our church website every month.



Before you start to think that incorporating these 10 environments seems overwhelming, I encourage you to read Anthony’s book. As I read each chapter, I felt like I had significant ways to grow in each one of these areas. Fortunately, Anthony does a great job of reminding parents again and again that it’s not about us. It’s about God. Our role is from God, and He wants to equip us and help us grow as spiritual parents as we seek Him. The book appropriately ends with a simple prayer that you and I can make our own today: “I am Yours. Our home is Yours. These children are Yours. Be glorified! Amen.”



My son, not content with my most “scriptural” counsel, said to me, “I’m okay now, Mum, because God gave me you to cuddle.” Those words, “God gave me YOU to cuddle” were profound. At this time, my son’s loneliness was filled by giving me comfort not getting it from me. God’s presence at that time was found in the arms of my four year old son. God was with me and it took a child to remind me of that.

We ALL NEED each other in order to “grow up into Christ”! In God’s eyes and according to His WORD, none of us is less needy. Yes, children do need you to learn how to grow in God’s love and truth but you also need them to do the same. **This two-way exchange of sharing in a faith community is what grows us, ALL of us!** For me, I wonder if just maybe children have had more influence on my life than I on theirs! But of course, growth in Christ is not measured in comparison to others, even a child’s growth. It is measured in comparison to God’s word and standards. It is also nurtured in a faith community environment that includes children.

During the month of September, as we focus on creat-

ing an environment of faith community, it is my hope that children, parents, and volunteers will see their need for each other. For those of you reading that are not currently in a faith community environment that has children rubbing shoulders with you, I encourage you to prayerfully ask if there is a way you can volunteer to do so either in your family, community, or at West Highland. If you are already involved in the lives of children, then ask yourself two questions. “What truths am I imparting to the children I serve?” and “What truths am I learning from them?” I challenge you in this way, because I am convinced that growth in Christ is essential for all of us and that this growth happens most effectively when adults and children are striving to learn from each other.

Suzanne Kirsch is Director of Children’s Ministry at West Highland. She has been an educator most of her life, serving in children’s ministry and non-profit organizations for 20 years and homeschooling her children in their early school years. She holds a Christian Education Degree and has had the privilege of serving with her husband (and best friend) for over 15 years.



## CURRENT STAR KIDS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

	Sunday Worship 9 a.m.	Sunday Worship 11 a.m.
Infants (0-23 mon)	Rotational Volunteers (1x/Month)	Rotational Volunteers (1x/Month)
Toddlers (2-3 yrs)	1 Rotational Volunteer (2x/Month)	4 Rotational Volunteers (1-2x/Month)
JK/SK (4-5 yrs)	1 Small Group Leader (Weekly)	1 Small Group Leaders (Weekly)
Primary (Gr. 1-4)	1 Small Group Leader (weekly)	2 Rotational Small Group Leaders

	STAR Kids Ministries
TREC	Sunday Evening 6 p.m. <i>(Starting in September 2011)</i>
	2-3 Rotational Volunteers for Infants (Age 0-2 years)
	2-3 Rotational Volunteers Toddlers (Age 3-5 years)
	Volunteers Gifted in Worship and Theatre Arts for Children (Grades 1-6)
Quest	Tuesday Evenings 6:30—8:00 pm <i>(Starting in September 2011)</i>
	3 Volunteers for Primary Girls
	2 Volunteers for Primary Boys
	1-2 Volunteers for Junior Boys
Assorted Sunday	Rotational Welcome Window Greeter, Sundays (8:30 am – 9:30 am)
	2-3 Mid-Service Volunteers for JK-Gr. 6, Sundays (10:15 am – 11:00 am)
	Hall Monitors, Sundays (9:00 a.m. & 11 a.m.)



## TRANSITIONING CHILDREN TO NEW CLASSES

After much discussion with our veteran volunteers and a meeting with our STAR Kids UNITE team, it has been decided how and when we will advance children through our STAR Kids ministry on Sunday mornings. There have been many different ways of doing this in the past at West Highland and so our current policy needs to be clarified to you.

In the nursery (0-24 months) and the 2/3 ministry, children are advanced according to their age. On the week of your child's 2nd birthday, the nursery volunteers will move your child to the 2/3's classroom; your child will remain under the care of our 2/3 ministry volunteers on Sundays until their 4th birthday. On the week your child turns 4 years of age, they will be moved from the 2/3 classroom into the 4/5 classroom. They will remain under the care of our 4/5 ministry volunteers until they begin Grade 1 in school (September).

Our primary ministry has recently been altered to in-

clude Grade 4 children. Once your child is ready to move into Grade 5 at school, they will be promoted to our junior ministry. Children who complete their Grade 6 school year will move up to Student Ministries in July of that same year.

Because many of our STAR Kids volunteers are parents themselves, they understand that it can be challenging to accept decisions that are made with primarily the common good, especially if that decision may not appear to benefit our own child. We empathize with those of you who may feel this way about our new policy on promoting children at West Highland. Know that we are committed to partnering with you and helping your child adjust to any changes made in our ministry.

If you have any further questions regarding the promotion of children in STAR Kids ministries, please feel free to contact our Director of Children's Ministry, Suzanne Kirsch, at [suzannekirsch@westhighland.org](mailto:suzannekirsch@westhighland.org).

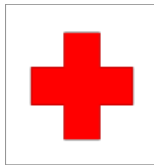
## KEEPING OUR FAITH COMMUNITY SAFE

In STAR Kids, we are continually improving our ability to create safe environments for your children. New volunteers are screened. We have a written protection policy to follow as we interact with your children.

Several of our volunteers have been trained in Emergency First Aid and CPR; in fact, early this summer we had an additional 6 STAR Kids volunteers complete Emergency First Aid and CPR training which provides us now with at least two trained volunteers in each of our STAR Kids ministries.

As we continue to improve our safety procedures, we ask for your help us in two specific areas. For those parents

with children who are in Grade 3 or are younger, we ask you pick your child up from their classroom in a timely manner after each Sunday morning worship service. Our



volunteers are required to remain in the classroom until you arrive. Your child will not be permitted to leave on their own OR with an older sibling unless there has been prior arrangements made with the Director of Children's Ministry. Also, if there is a field trip during our mid-week Quest ministry, please know that your child can only attend if you sign the waiver form. Let's continue to partner in making the community of West Highland a safe place!

## MIRACULOUS PROVISIONS



With the anonymous donation of \$1,000 to STAR Kids, the donated desktop computer from the Budge family, and the sacrificial gift of time that Lee Brubacher, Richard Wouters, and Henry Kirsch gave to install equipment, we have a new and more reliable audio visual set-up in our Fellowship Hall! Also, we thank God for the three recently trained youth we have in STAR Kids to run this system on a Sunday morning: Nathan Budge, Rebekah Sheppard, and Jonathon Sommers. Also, we are excited to have our very first child from STAR Kids trained to be an TECH assistant during morning worship; way to go, Dylan Cochrane! Praise God for how He miraculously provides!



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## Parents & Volunteers

SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	18	20	21	22
23	24	26	26	27	28	29
30	31					

NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

- ☑ Sat., Sept. 10: STAR Kids Open House Registration (1:00-3:00 p.m.)
- ☑ Sun., Sept. 11: Dual Services Begin (9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.) TREC Begins (6:00 –7:15 p.m.)
- ☑ Tues., Sept. 13: Quest, our mid-week ministry to children, Begins (6:30 –8:00 p.m.)
- ☑ Sun., Oct. 9: Thanksgiving—No Sunday Evening STAR Kids TREC
- ☑ Sun., Oct. 16: Remember & Celebrate Service for Kids at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
- ☑ Sun., Oct. 23: Baptismal Class for kids and their parents at 9:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m.
- ☑ Tues., Oct. 26: Quest—Harvest Party
- ☑ Sun., Oct. 30: Baptismal Class for kids and their parents at 9:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m.
- ☑ Tues., Nov. 8: Quest—Operation Christmas Child Box Packing Party
- ☑ Sun., Nov. 13: Baptismal Services (9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.)
- ☑ Sun., Nov. 27: Last Sunday Evening TREC for 2011 (6:00—7:15 p.m.)
- ☑ Sun., Dec. 4: STAR Kids Christmas Choir Performance at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Also, Remember & Celebrate Service for Kids at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
- ☑ Sun., Dec. 4: WH's Quarterly Business Meeting, time TBA (childcare provided)
- ☑ Tues., Dec. 6: Christmas Celebration and Last Day of Quest for 2011
- ☑ Sun., Dec. 25: NO STAR Kids ministries during the service on Christmas Day
- ☑ Sun., Jan. 1: NO STAR Kids ministries during the service on New Year's Day





West Highland

# UNITE



Suzanne Kirsch



Jim Sheppard



Henry Kirsch



Carolyn Sheppard



Velma Roessner



Lynda Kapteyn



Stephanie Seagrove

As Director of STAR Kids ministries, it is my privilege to be working with a select group of STAR Kids volunteers who were prayerfully chosen to form a team called UNITE. It is the goal of this team to discover God's direction for West Highland's ministry to children and to build STAR Kids ministry up according to the mission and vision God reveals. Because we have only been working together for a couple months, we would appreciate your prayers. We have some huge challenges before us, and yet we are excited to see what God has in store as we learn to depend on Him for wisdom and discernment.

Suzanne Kirsch  
*Director of STAR Kids Ministries*



West Highland

# Leaders



STAR Kids leaders are the people chosen to oversee STAR Kids ministry divisions. They are the backbone to our ministries and are committed to growing in their ministry role at West Highland. Please pray for these dedicated leaders and support them in their roles; they carry a lot of responsibility and work hard to serve the children and families at West Highland.



Cheryl Brubacher  
*TREC Leader*



Jay Keddy  
*Administrator*



Katrina Stairs  
*Quest Leader*



Lindsay McFarland  
*Worship Leader*



West Highland

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