



Encourage Year-Round Gratitude

November may be the month when we focus on being thankful, but that's an attitude we can express each day. Even during tough economic times or family hardships, we all have many blessings for which to be grateful. God gives us life and takes care of us. He loves us and sent his Son, Jesus, to die for us. He puts many special people, including our children, into our lives.

Let your children know you're grateful for them—and also that they can show gratitude to you, to other people, and to God. Here are some ideas for cultivating thankfulness throughout the year:

Live out your thankfulness. Gratitude is contagious. When your kids see you giving thanks in all circumstances, they'll learn to do the same. Remember to thank your children for everything from helping around the house to helping you grow in your own faith.



Highlight biblical examples of thankfulness. Scripture is full of "great gratefulness." Hannah was grateful that God blessed her with a child (see 1 Samuel 2:1). Jesus forgave and healed many people, most of whom were thankful in return. Paul's letters often begin and end with thankful messages, and many psalms overflow with gratitude to God. As you worship with your children, point out all the ways that God's people give thanks.

Lead children in thank-you activities. Together, brainstorm people in your community or church who'd appreciate an unexpected thank you. Then come up with creative, meaningful ways to say thanks joyfully. Children can deliver thanks with cards, a prayer, a skit, a song, or even a PowerPoint presentation. Be sure to thank kids for their enthusiasm and contributions.

An Abundance of Thanks

In a survey at smartgirl.org, more than 400 preteen girls spoke up about what they're most thankful for. Top responses, in order, were parents, friends, health, siblings, grandparents, and pets. Girls said they chose those people and things because they make them feel happy and safe. Girls then completed the statement "I feel guilty for being thankful for..." with these answers: money, Internet, television, clothes, makeup, music, and video games.

PowerSource



Ask God:

1. To show your children the many reasons they have to be thankful.
2. To help your children express gratitude through their words and actions.
3. To help your family be grateful at all times.

Parenting Insights

Turn on children's "gratitude lights" with these tips from *Children's Ministry Magazine*:

1. **Encourage the language of thankfulness.** If children neglect to show gratitude, prompt them with words such as "What can you say to your friend for sharing?"
2. **At unexpected times, give small gifts.** Let children know you think of them often and always thank God for them.
3. **Affirm children's feelings of gratitude.** When you observe physical demonstrations such as eyes that light up, say, "I can see how much you're thankful for that."
4. **Model thankfulness in the little things.** Thank your children for picking up something you drop or for being patient with a sibling.

OpenTheBook

**“Enter his gates with thanksgiving.... Give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation.”
Psalm 100:4-5**

God deserves our praises not just because he blesses us but because of who he is: our good, mighty, just, and loving God.

Teachable Moments

- 1. Cornucopia of Thanks—** Together, choose some items that remind your family to be thankful (an apple, a toy car, a stuffed animal, a key, a school paper). Place them in a cornucopia or basket so family members can think about God’s blessings often.
- 2. Thankfulness Makes “Sense”—** Serve a special snack while playing soft music and using potpourri. Then have children use their five senses to notice some blessings that they usually take for granted.
- 3. Don’t “Leaf” Anything Out—** Cut out leaf shapes on colorful construction paper. Then have family members write about people or things for which they’re grateful. Tape the stems onto string to make a festive garland filled with reminders of gratefulness.



“So commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these words of mine. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are **ON THE ROAD, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.” Deuteronomy 11:18-19, NLT**

Most of us have so many blessings that we often take them for granted. Ask these questions to help your children consider all the ways that God meets their needs:

1. What people and things are most important or special to you? How would your life be different without them?
2. Name 10 blessings or gifts God has given you since this morning. Which ones are easiest to remember to thank him for, and why?
3. Why is it important to express gratitude to people who do nice things for us? Describe how hearing “thank you” makes you feel.
4. How often do you thank God for his blessings? What are some ways we can let him know we appreciate what he does for us?

Family Experience: Pictures of Thankfulness

Use these creative ideas to provide a “snapshot” of what your family is thankful for this Thanksgiving.

- **Gratitude Newflash—**A week before Thanksgiving, give each family member a disposable camera (or take turns using a digital camera). Then have them take photos of people or things they’re thankful for. (A parent or older sibling can help young kids.) Try to take photos when no one is looking. Come up with creative ways of doing this, such as taking a picture of a person’s photograph. Develop the pictures and then share them with one another after your Thanksgiving meal.
- **Memorable Montage—**Create table decorations to use as a Thanksgiving discussion starter. First, have family members each select several photographs for a place mat. (To protect originals, make copies ahead of time.) For each place mat, you’ll also need one 12x18-inch sheet of construction paper, scissors, glue, and clear Contac paper. Have family members cut and arrange their photos to create a collage on one side of their construction paper. Glue the photos to the paper and allow to dry. To protect the place mats, carefully cover both sides with Contac paper. At your Thanksgiving meal, use the place mats to share memories you’re thankful for, to reminisce about fun family activities, and to let family members know how much you appreciate them.





What's Playing at the Movies

Movie: *Disney's A Christmas Carol* (Nov. 6)

Genre: Animated Drama, Fantasy

Rating: PG (for scary sequences and images)

Cast: Jim Carrey, Gary Oldman, Robin Wright Penn

Synopsis: Carrey tackles multiple roles in this 3D version of the Charles Dickens classic. The ghosts of Christmas past, present, and yet-to-come visit old miser Ebenezer Scrooge and take him on a journey of self-redemption. His cold heart gradually defrosts, and he becomes kinder to others.

Discussion Questions: Describe your personality: How do you usually feel about other people, and why? How does Christmas bring out the best and the worst in people? Read aloud 2 Corinthians 9:7. Explain whether you're a miser or a cheerful giver. Think of a time you've felt like a scrooge: What, if anything, convinced you to change your attitude?



What Music Is Releasing

Artist: Kris Allen

Album: *Kris Allen*

Artist Info: This 24-year-old singer-songwriter from Arkansas won season eight of *American Idol*. He's a Christian who served as his church's assistant music director and has done overseas missionary work. Auditioning for the TV show was Allen's "last hurrah" before he got "a real job."

Summary: Allen's music has a folk sound. He plays piano, acoustic guitar, and electric guitar. The first single from Allen's debut album is "Live Like We're Dying." The lyrics include, "If your life flashed before you, what would you wish you would've done?"

Discussion Questions: What impact can Allen have on the music industry? If you were in his shoes, would you sing only Christian songs? Why or why not? Read Psalm 39:4-5. How does life seem long or short? What does it mean to live like you're dying? How can we do that?



What Games Are Out

| Title | Content | Rating & Platform |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Our House Party</i> | Players race to design, build, and decorate a custom house. Then they show it off to the neighborhood. | E; Wii, Nintendo DS |
| <i>Scribblenauts</i> | In this unique puzzle game, players use a vast word library to create and use real-world objects. | E10+; Nintendo DS |
| <i>Uncharted 2: Among Thieves</i> | A hero's quest to discover a lost city unfolds like a summer blockbuster in this treasure-hunting adventure game. | T; PSP3 |

GAME RATINGS KEY: EC=Early Childhood, E=Everyone (ages 6+), E10+ (ages 10+), T=Teen (ages 13+)



Culture & Trends

What's happening right now that may affect your children and family:

- Today's parents keep their children on a tighter "leash" in public but give them more freedom at home, studies show. This may explain why many grandparents complain that their grandkids are out of control. (msnbc.com)
- Interactive toys and video game systems top the list of hot holiday toys. The hardest-to-find toy may be Zhu Zhu Pets and accessories.

Quick Stats

- 72% of preschoolers receive praise from their parents at least three times a day. By grade school, though, the number of kids who get this amount of parental praise drops to 51%. (U.S. Census Bureau)



- 15% of Americans now identify with no religion. Experts predict this group could surpass the largest denominations. (USA Today)

November 2009

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|--------------------------|
| SS 10:00 am 4 th Grade Bible Class 4:00-5:00 pm Portable #6 | | | KM2 5:00-5:45 pm Portable #2 MPKids 6:00-7:30 pm Portable#3 Zone 56 6:30-8:00 pm Portable #6 | | | |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| SS 10:00 am CC 11:15 am 4 th Grade Bible Class 4:00-5:00 pm Portable #6 | | | KM2 5:00-5:45 pm Portable #2 Zone 56 6:30 - 8:00 pm Portable #6 | | | Pure in Heart Conference |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| SS 10:00 am CC 11:15 am | | | KM2 5:00-5:45 pm Portable #2 Zone 56 6:30 - 8:00 pm Portable #6 | | | |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| SS 10:00 am CC 11:15 am Children's Ministry Auction 2009 | | | No Zone 56 Thanksgiving Break | | | |
| 29 | 30 | | | | | |
| SS 10:00 am CC 11:15 am | | | | | | |

SS= Sunday School

CC= Children's Church: Children's Ministry after the children's sermon for children 4 years to 2nd grade

KM2: Music ministry for 1st thru 4th graders

Zone 56: Ministry for 5th and 6th graders

UPCOMING EVENTS AT AUMC

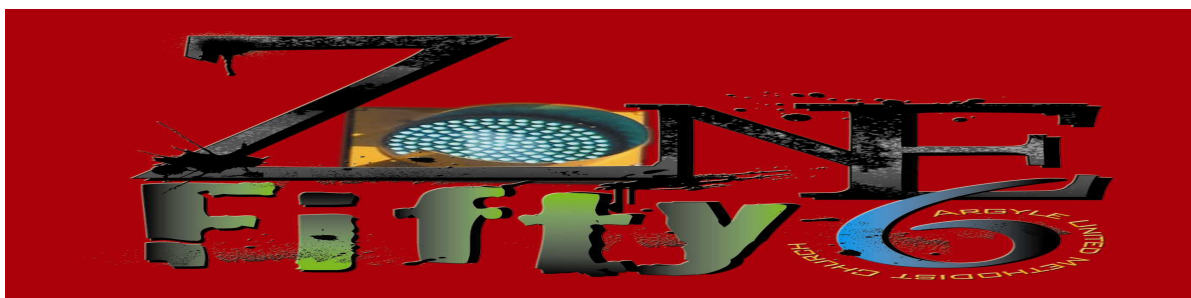
November 1 & 8, 2009 Sundays 4:00-5:00 pm 4th Grade Bible Class in Zone 56 Portable #6

November 14, 2009 Pure in Heart Conference

November 22, 2009 Children's Ministries Auction 2009

December 13, 2009 at all 3 services Watoto Children's Choir

June 21-25, 2010 Vacation Bible School 2010

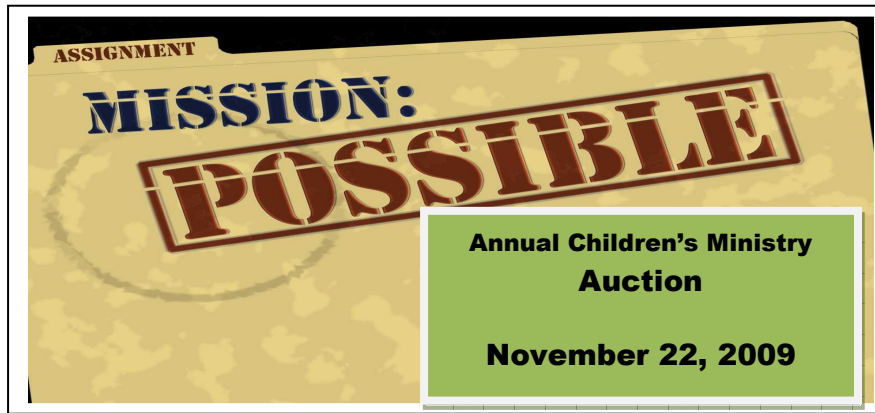


This ministry for 5th & 6th graders includes Sunday school and weekday praise, missions, Bible study, snack supper, & fun. We meet Sunday mornings at 10 am & Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8pm in portable # 6. If you have a 5th or 6th grader be sure they come get in the ZONE! Parents, please contact Liz Edwards to sign up as a Zone 56 helper. 940-464-1333 or liz@argyleumc.org

| ZONE 56 FALL/WINTER SCHEDULE 2009 | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|--|---------------|------------------|
| Date | Event | Lead | Helpers | | Snack Supper | |
| 11/4 | GOD night | Tressa McCabe/ | | | Dana Ratcliff | Kay Graff |
| 11/11 | Make Auction Items | | | | April Pulliam | |
| 11/18 | WOW night | Kelli Stoops | Kelly Little | | Brenda Hagler | Jennifer Fischer |
| 11/25 | No Zone 56 – Thanksgiving Break | | | | | |

CHILDREN'S CHURCH NOVEMBER SCHEDULE

| Date | 11:15 Service CC |
|-------------|----------------------------------------|
| November 1 | Communion |
| November 8 | Latham & Kristin Jones 940-565-0801 |
| November 15 | Kip & Jana McAlister 940-565-9939 |
| November 22 | Jane Ramsey 940-246-0240 |
| November 29 | Kevin & Shari Skaggs 940-455-2308 |



8th Annual

**Children's Ministry Auction
Mission Possible
Sunday November 22, 2009**

Schedule of Events

- 8 am Silent Auction Bidding Opens
- 6 p.m. Mexican Dinner (catered by Cross Timbers Catering)
Dinner Tickets available at the hospitality desk beginning Nov. 1st
- 7 p.m. Live Auction
- 8 p.m. Silent Auction Bidding Closes

Auction & Dinner

Dinner Tickets
\$8 Per Adult
\$4 Children ages 4-12
Children 3 & under are free

**Nursery
&**

**Children's Activities
Provided in children's wing**

Absentee Bidding Available

Cash, Check, Credit Card (AMEX, Discover, Visa, MasterCard)

Just a few items up for bidding this year
Autographed TOBY KEITH Guitar
Piano
Depression Glass
Baskets Galore
Beautiful Handcrafted Items
Autographed Sports Memorabilia
Gift Certificates Galore
Beautiful Jewelry
And much, much, more.....



All kids in grades 1-4 who want to make a difference in the world are invited to be Mission Possible Agent. Our next meeting is **Wednesday, November 4th** from 6:00-7:30 pm in **Portable #3, aka Mission Headquarters**.

Please bring new or clean bandannas and a friend! We will be making Bandanna Buddies for Orphan Outreach to send to orphanages in Russia and Honduras. For more information contact Beth Ward at 940-725-0291 or cbem@verizon.net



In June 2007, we were blessed to have the Watoto Children's Choir from Kampala Uganda as our special Vacation Bible School guests. Watoto means "The Children," and is made up of children who have lost one or both parents to the AIDS epidemic. The choir has toured Canada, the United States, Europe and Australia and has sung in the White House and before the Queen of England.

The Watoto Children's Choir will be at AUMC again on **Sunday, December 13th** at all three services, with their unique blend of native African rhythms, contemporary gospel music and ethnic dance. They have an amazing story to share and a beautiful, inspiring message for us all. You can learn more about the choir and the Watt Children's Home at www.watoto.com

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP: We will need 9 host families, each to house 2 children and 1 adult on **Saturday, December 12th**. This is a unique opportunity for you and your family to visit one on one with children from a different continent and culture! We will also need help providing lunch for the group on Sunday, December 13th after the 11:15 service. Please contact Liz at 464-1333 or liz@argyleumc.org to sign up to help or to get more information.

The Lord is My Shepherd

Psalm 23



November 1-22, 2009
Rotation Sunday School

We continue our study of David as we learn about David's famous Psalm 23. David was the author of this psalm and a shepherd himself. For thousands of years, this scripture passage has provided comfort, peace and guidance to people who are sad, lonely or having a difficult time. We are going to memorize the 23rd Psalm so we too can look to scripture when we need it.

Rotation Schedule

| | K | 1 st & 2 nd | 3 rd | 4 th |
|---------|--------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Nov. 1 | Movie-108 | Games-105 | Drama-106 | Computer-100 |
| Nov. 8 | Games-105 | Movie-108 | Computer-100 | Drama-106 |
| Nov. 15 | Drama-106 | Computer-100 | Movie-108 | Games-105 |
| Nov. 22 | Computer-100 | Drama-106 | Games-105 | Movie-108 |

What we will learn:

God takes care of us like shepherd takes care of sheep.

God is with us even when we are scared.

God's love and kindness are always with us.

God guides us to make good choices

Teachers: Older 2's and 3's (3 by Dec.31, 2009), Rm. 103, Kelly Perritt, Kelly Hawkins & Carly Hawk. Pre-K, Rm 104, Cyne Hindman & Jennifer West. Rotation shepherds: Kindergarten, Nicole Hackett & Kristy Johnston; 1st grade, Dona & Bill Perkins; 2nd grade, Jo Ellen Bergstrom; 3rd grade, Kathy Wright & Tammra Allison; 4th grade, Tracey Portz & Chris Funck. Movie: Darren & Stacie Schnabel, David & Jennifer Bullock, Steve & Shannan Christo, Roger & Sue Santone; Computer, Steve & Mary Betzhold, George & Kelly Dunham, Drama, Harold & Dana Ratcliff, Jeff Bergstrom; Game, Steve & Adrienne Austin, Allen & Bonnie Bundens; Zone 56, Portable 6, Tom & Pam Keenan, Julie Sheridan, Mike Livingston.

**Sunday School is from 10-11am in the Children's Wing
 for older 2's-4th grade. 5th & 6th graders meet in Portable #6.**