



**March 2010**

Ms. Liz

Director of Children's Ministry

## Guide Children's Media Choices

With the explosion of technology now available, it seems like children are always plugged in, zoned out, or wired for sound. They spend less time outside, have shorter attention spans, and are exposed to online dangers such as pornography. On the positive side, technology has expanded children's knowledge and opportunities. They learn teamwork, problem-solving, and communication skills. Technology has also boosted activism among today's young people.

Although children may seem like "experts" when it comes to technology and new media, parents are still responsible for supervising what their kids are exposed to—and for how long. Two keys are moderation and interaction. These tips can help you limit and monitor what your kids see and hear:



**Strategically set up your equipment and schedules.** Keep televisions out of children's bedrooms, and place the computer in an accessible family area. Make media time contingent on the completion of chores and homework. Plan alternate activities, including physical ones.

**Establish digital-free zones.** Agree on days and times (such as dinner, family night, Sundays, etc.) when no one—including adults—is allowed to check e-mail or use any form of media.

**Watch and listen to TV shows, movies, and music together.** Talk about the issues that come up. Tie them into faith and provide a biblical worldview for children to consider as they use technology.

### What's Up in Our Wired World?

- The average young American spends nearly every waking minute in front of an electronic device. Kids ages 8 to 18 spend more than 7.5 hours a day using computers or smart phones or watching TV. And because they multitask, they pack almost 11 hours of media content into that time.

(Kaiser Family Foundation)

- 87% of parents play video games with their kids at least occasionally.

(Yahoo! Shine)

- 20% of young people admit they've engaged in "sexting"—emailing or receiving nude photos or videos.

(Associated Press-MTV)



### Ask God:

1. For wisdom as you oversee your children's media "diet."
2. To help your kids make good decisions about technology.
3. To show you ways to use technology in positive, family-building ways.

### Parenting Insights

In *Children's Ministry Magazine*, online expert Tracy Carpenter explores some ways that technology is impacting young hearts and minds.

1. **Shifting relationships—**Although kids still belong to social groups, the emphasis is no longer on face-to-face gatherings. Preteens, wired for relationships, now think in terms of their "audience" rather than their peer group.
2. **Trying on identities—**Children express their developing personalities through social-networking sites and online role-playing. Preteens, emulating "cool," may try to outdo one another with suggestive images.
3. **Providing "TMI"—**Young people still forming judgment and boundaries are sharing too much private information in very public ways.

## OpenTheBook

**"Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in. ...Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit."**

**Revelation 3:20, 22**

God may not be able to IM or text us, but he wants a relationship that goes beyond weekly worship. God is available 24/7 and—best of all—no special device is needed to talk to him!

### Teachable Moments

#### 1. **The Wired Word—**

Challenge children to think how the Bible would be different if technology had existed in Jesus' time. How would a Twitter version of your favorite Scripture verse read? How would you describe one of Jesus' miracles to a friend via text message? If Jesus had a TV ad campaign, what would it look and sound like?



#### 2. **Tech Commandments—**

When you're establishing rules for media usage, involve children in the decisions. Ask them what "commandments" God might have set for online behavior and how we interact with others using technology. What would he have made off-limits, and what would he have encouraged? What age requirements or time constraints might he have established, and why?



**"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**

**Open the lines of communication about media and technology by asking your children these discussion-starting questions:**

1. How does technology make life easier for you? How does it make life harder or more complicated?
2. What's a good number of hours to spend in front of electronic devices each day? How can you tell when you've overdone it?
3. What's your favorite way to use technology, and how would you cope without it?
4. What are some ways we can honor God with our media habits?

### **Family Experience: Say What?**

**Encourage your family members to stay in constant communication with God by using these experiences from Group's *Hands-On Bible*:**

- **Listen Up—**Read aloud Exodus 19:1-9, 16-25. Say: "God spoke to Moses in a powerful voice. But most people would never say they've heard God speaking aloud." Brainstorm ways God speaks to us today; for example, through the Bible, through other Christians, to our hearts. Read aloud John 16:13-15. Have family members each take a Bible to a place where they can be alone. Say: "Pray about school, home, a problem—anything! Open your Bible and read. Ask God to help you hear what he wants you to say." After 10 minutes, share your experiences. Say: "Sometimes God will speak to you loud and clear. Sometimes you won't even know God said anything until later. But God is talking. Just keep listening!"
- **"Excuse Me..."—**Talk about ways we get other people's attention these days and how it feels to fail to "connect" with someone. Then play this game to help you start thinking about God's voice. Have family members each think up a line from a movie or TV show. Then take turns saying the line using the same voice the character has. See who can guess the movie or show, as well as the character. Then ask: "How did you recognize the voices and programs?" Read 1 Samuel 3:1-10. Ask: "Why did it take Samuel awhile to figure out who was talking? What are some ways God gets our attention? How can we recognize God's voice?"





## What's Playing at the Movies

**Movie:** *Alice in Wonderland* (March 5)

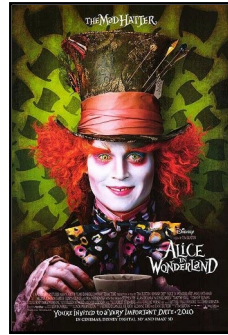
**Genre:** Fantasy/adventure

**Rating:** Not yet rated

**Cast:** Mia Wasikowska, Johnny Depp, Anne Hathaway

**Synopsis:** In director Tim Burton's sequel to Lewis Carroll's stories, 19-year-old Alice revisits Wonderland and reunites with her childhood friends. They need her help to overthrow the evil Red Queen and the Jabberwock dragon. As Alice discovers her voice, she becomes an empowered heroine—evident through how she grows in size throughout the film.

**Discussion Questions:** What are the best things about being a child? What are you most looking forward to about growing up, and why? Read 1 Samuel 17:32-50. Think of a time when you've felt like David. What kind of "giants" have you faced? Where do you get power and strength?



## What Music Is Releasing

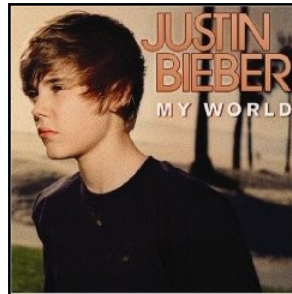
**Artist:** Justin Bieber

**Album:** *My World*

**Artist Info:** Bieber, an R&B phenom who just turned 16, was named one of the hottest stars of 2009. A self-taught musician from Canada, Bieber gained fame through YouTube. He's the first artist to have four singles from a debut album reach *Billboard's* Top 40 before the album's release. Bieber also sings the first line in the new "We Are the World" video.

**Summary:** The first part of Bieber's debut album, *My World*, released in November. The hit single "One Time" features guest vocals from hip-hop star Usher. In "One Less Lonely Girl," Bieber sings: "I'm gonna put you first, I'll show you what you're worth if you let me inside your world."

**Discussion Questions:** Where does your "worth" come from? What are some situations that make you feel lonely? Read aloud Hebrews 13:5b. How can God's promise of never abandoning you change your life?



## What Games Are Out

Title	Content	Rating & Platform
<i>Playmobil Pirates</i>	This adventure game features 70 tricky missions on 16 islands. Players have to sink enemy soldiers and rescue a mermaid.	E; Nintendo DS
<i>Fast Food Panic</i>	Players step behind the grill to cook for a room of hungry customers. Much of the gameplay is a high-speed juggling act.	E; Wii, Nintendo DS
<i>Lunar: Silver Star Harmony</i>	Young Alex dreams of becoming the next Dragonmaster. In his adventures, the entire world is at stake.	T; PlayStation Portable

**RATINGS:** 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:

- Parents are toning down children's birthday parties, due to the recession. Instead of hosting lavish events, more parents are letting their kids choose a special outing or meal. (msnbc.com)
- Children are more likely to get bullied when they struggle with nonverbal communication, reading nonverbal cues, and coming up with options for resolving social conflict, researchers say. (livescience.com)

## Quick Stats

- Children as young as 3 have negative bias against older people. Preschoolers who aren't biased have regular contact with senior citizens. (University of Alberta)



- About 1.3 million children under the age of 18 live with their grandparents. (healthychildren.org)

# March 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			<b>KM2</b> 5:00—5:45 PM Portable #2  <b>MP Kids</b> 6:00—7:00 PM Portable #3  <b>Zone 56</b> 6:30—8:00 PM Portable #6			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<b>SS</b> 10:00 AM  <b>Communion</b> 11:15 AM			<b>KM2</b> 5:00—5:45 PM Portable #2  <b>Zone 56</b> 6:30—8:00 PM Portable #6			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<b>No Services</b> <b>Great Day of Service</b>			<b>KM2</b> 5:00—5:45 PM Portable #2  <b>Zone 56</b> 6:30—8:00 PM Portable #6			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<b>SS</b> 10:00 AM <b>CC</b> 11:15 AM	-		<b>KM2</b> 5:00—5:45 PM Portable #2  <b>Zone 56</b> 6:30—8:00 PM Portable #6			
28	29	30	31			
<b>SS</b> 10:00 AM <b>CC</b> 11:15 AM			<b>KM2</b> 5:00—5:45 PM Portable #2  <b>Zone 56</b> 6:30—8:00 PM Portable #6			

**SS= Sunday School**

**CC= Children's Church:** Children's Ministry after the children's sermon for children 4 years to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

**KM2:** Music ministry for 1<sup>st</sup> thru 4<sup>th</sup> graders

**Zone 56:** Ministry for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT AUMC

<b>March 4</b>	Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting, 7 pm
<b>March 6</b>	Family Spirituality Conference FUMC Keller 10am-2pm
<b>March 7</b>	Registration Deadline for Created by God
<b>March 25-27</b>	Created by God, human sexuality course for 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> graders
<b>March 28</b>	Palm Sunday, Children Palm Processional at 11:15 service
<b>April 1</b>	Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 pm
<b>April 2</b>	Good Friday Service 7:00 pm
<b>April 3</b>	Family Easter Service 5:30 pm Easter Egg Hunt following
<b>April 4</b>	Easter Sunday
<b>June 21-25</b>	Vacation Bible School 2010



### Don't Miss this Opportunity! *Created by God*

March 25-27

As the UMC North Texas Annual Conference writes, "We realize we live in a society that influences our decisions and values. Our choice is not whether we will be educated about our sexuality, but in what environment that education will take place." No matter how sheltered we would like them to be, our children are constantly receiving messages from society about sexuality. *Created by God* provides a safe, loving environment for our students to feel free to ask caring adult leaders questions as they learn that puberty and sexuality are part of God's plan.

*Created by God* is a human sexuality course for fifth and sixth graders, presented from a Christian view point. The goal of this course is not only to help our young people become more knowledgeable about their physical bodies, but more importantly, to open up the lines of communication between parents and their children on this extremely important issue.

Our weekend will be led again by Deana Ferguson, a United Methodist Church *Created by God* certified instructor. **Registration deadline is March 7th.** Our minimum is 12 students and our maximum is 30. The cost is \$40, payable to AUMC. As always, scholarships are available if needed.



Vacation  
Bible  
School



Planning Meeting

**March 4 at 7pm**

Take one small step for VBS and one giant leap for our children's ministry by joining us in preparation for our 2010 Vacation Bible School.

Meet us in Portable 3 as we begin mapping out our galactic adventure. We have areas of service for any skill set imaginable, so please help us make this important ministry a reality for our community!

faithworx

**Great Day of Service  
March 14**

Reminder: We will not have Sunday School or Worship March 14. We will offer many service projects out in the community, as well as here at the church for our members and visitors. If you have not signed up for a project, you may do so this Sunday, March 7, or come to church on March 14 willing to work!

Don't Go to Church,  
**Be the Church!**



## EASTER EGG HUNT

April, 3rd after 5:30 Children's Service

How can you help?

Bring 4 Dozen filled plastic eggs by March 28  
(candy/food must be pre-packaged)

Help on April 3rd

Contact Liz to let her know how you can help!



This ministry for 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders includes Sunday school and week-day 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 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grader be sure they come get in the ZONE!

Parents, we cannot do this ministry without you! Please contact Liz Edwards to sign up as a Zone 56 helper. 940-464-1333 or [liz@argyleumc.org](mailto:liz@argyleumc.org)



Our Mission Possible Kids and Zone 56 joined hands with tens of thousands of other children around the world to share the vision and dedication to empower communities through education in remote areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Our students have raised \$1275.64, and still counting on their Pennies for Peace campaign to broaden their cultural horizons and become members of a global family dedicated to peace.



Our awesome Mission Possible Agents are having their monthly meeting on **March 3rd from 6-7 pm** in Mission Possible Headquarters, aka Portable #3. We will be making valentines for our troops & collect pennies for our Pennies for Peace outreach project. Learn more about our Pennies for Peace project later on in this month's Parent Link. All kids in grades 1-4 are invited to join us as we help change the world. For more information contact Beth Ward at 940-725-0291 or [cbem@verizon.net](mailto:cbem@verizon.net)

### VBS 2010

### Galactic Blast

*A Cosmic Adventure Praising God!*



Be prepared to blast off **June 21-25** for our out-of-this-world 2010 Vacation Bible School! Through daily missions, our space cadets will see space like never before, gain a new perspective on our planet Earth, and learn easy "green" earth tips they can practice at home. This cosmic combination of faith and fun is all about helping our cadets connect with our awesome God. Mark your calendars as we count down to this important ministry for our church and community!

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH March SCHEDULE

### SUMMER CAMP

The Methodist Church offers several great summer camps for kids completing grades 3-5. The camps are at Bridgeport Camp and Conference Center, located on over 200 beautiful acres just 40 miles west of Denton. Children's camps offered this year are: **July 17-21; July 22-26; July 27-31, and August 9-13.** There is a children's music camp **June 8-12** and a special needs camp for children ages 9-14, **June 8-12.** Cost is \$259. *Please note that these camps fill up fast.*

To register and for more information see [www.bridgeportcamp.com](http://www.bridgeportcamp.com)



	<b>11:15 Service</b>
March 7	Communion
March 14	Great Day of Service No Children's Church
March 21	Alicia and Mike Norwood
March 28	Jennifer & Tommy DiVecchia

## Holy Week Schedule

### Palm Sunday, March 28

Children will enter the sanctuary waving palms at the beginning of the 11:15 service.

### Maundy Thursday, April 1

Service at 7pm, childcare provided.

### Good Friday, April 2

Service at 7pm, childcare provided.

### Family Service & Egg Hunt April 3, 5:30 pm

Hear Sunday's Easter message in a family-friendly format and stay for the AUMC Annual Easter Egg Hunt!

### Easter Sunday, April 4

Services at

7:00 am  
8:30 am  
10:00 am  
11:15 am

## Generation Next Campaign

In March, children will be learning about our capital campaign for phase two—a Children's and Youth building. On March 7, the children will receive a container they can decorate and take home so they can begin collecting for their new building. We want them



to be excited about this new phase and for them to help make it possible.



**The boxes are to be returned during the worship services on Commitment Sunday, April 25.**

# March

at AUMC

## Rotation Schedule March 7– March 28, 2010

	K	1st and 2nd	3rd	4th
<b>March 7</b>	Movie 108	Movie 108	Drama 106	Computer 100
<b>March 14</b>	Great Day of Service	Great Day of Service	Great Day of Service	Great Day of Service
<b>March 21</b>	Cooking 105	Computer 100	Movie 108	Drama 106
<b>March 28</b>	Art 100	Drama 106	Computer 100	Movie 108
<b>April 4</b>	No Rotation Easter	No Rotation Easter	No Rotation Easter	No Rotation Easter

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, Kristy Johnston; 1<sup>st</sup> grade, Dona & Bill Perkins; 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Jo Ellen Bergstrom; 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, Kathy Wright & Tammra Allison; 4<sup>th</sup> 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; Cooking & Art, Jennifer Lillis & Cheryl Lavelle; Zone 56, Portable 6, Tom & Pam Keenan, Julie Sheridan, portable 6.

## Memory Verse

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

John 3:16

