

June 2010

Clifton Springs United
Methodist Church
Sunday's Cool
News



theParentLink

Children's Ministry Edition

Grow Kids' Faith This Summer

The warm, relaxing summer months are perfect for reconnecting as a family. They're also ideal for helping your children stay connected to God and boosting their faith in him.

For starters, participate in faith-building opportunities available in your community. These include vacation Bible school, church camps, outdoor worship, mission projects, and more. But realize that faith growth can occur in unstructured, day-to-day settings, too. By talking to your children often about God—and your relationship with him—you model faith in action for young Christians.

Use these ideas as a springboard for summer faith growth:

Take it all in. Admire God's handiwork as you travel and sight-see. Acknowledge and thank our Creator. Use simple object lessons; for example, draw a line of chalk in front of some ants and notice that most of them won't cross it. Then talk about what it means to follow and obey God.

Take out the "trash." Together, clean up a park or street. Then discuss what God wants us to fill our minds and hearts with (see Philippians 4:8).

Take it outside. For variety, conduct your family devotions outside in the shade. Use a book-club format to go through a book of the Bible or a children's Bible storybook. Encourage questions and have children put themselves in the people's shoes. Then apply the lessons to situations we face each day as we walk with God.



PowerSource

Ask God:

1. To bless your summer months with fun, rest, and faith growth.
2. To work in your children's hearts and give them the desire to know God more.
3. To safeguard your family members physically and spiritually this summer.

Parenting Insights

Never underestimate the power of family faith conversations. They're critical for children's spiritual development. So often, though, we feel ill-equipped to openly discuss matters of faith. Remember the handy acronym **ALOT** to help you tackle any topic from a faith-based perspective.

- **Ask**—Find out how your child feels about the situation or topic.
- **Listen**—Listen actively, without interrupting, while your child responds.
- **Open**—Open your heart—and your Bible, if you need to.
- **Talk**—Talk about your thoughts and feelings on the subject—and how they're shaped by God's Word. Then also talk to God in prayer about the issue.

Summertime Stats

As you nurture your children's faith this summer, also keep tabs on their physical and mental well-being.

- More than 10% of children between the ages of 6 and 12 care for themselves during the summer months, without supervision. If you can't afford outside child care, arrange to swap baby-sitting with a trusted friend.
- Most kids lose an average of two months of learning during the summer. Keep them growing mentally by participating in your local library's summer reading program.

OpenTheBook

**"Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see."
Hebrews 11:1**

When we believe in God and trust his promises, we can be certain of his work in our lives—and of spending eternal life with him in heaven.

Teachable Moments

- 1. Fruits of Faith**—Pass around a basket of fruit. Have each person select a fruit that represents a character trait; then have that person share who their fruit represents and why. This is a great way to affirm the faith traits you see in one another.
- 2. Faith Stretchers**—Give each person a rubber band, and talk about how it feels when your faith is stretched. Have each person stretch their rubber band to show how stretched their faith has been lately—a little or a lot.
- 3. Faith Quilt**—Create a quilt-type mural to signify your family's commitment to faith in God. Brainstorm ways you serve God and new ways you can honor him in your home. Write or draw these ideas on squares of white card stock, and tape them to a wall. Add to your mural all summer long.



"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**

When you hit the road or just kick back with your children this summer, encourage them to open up about life and faith by asking these discussion-starting questions:

1. What dreams and plans do you have for the summer? What goals should our family set for the next couple of months?
2. When you think about your priorities, where does faith come in? How can people tell how important your faith is to you?
3. How strong would you say your faith is right now? What are some ways we can trust God more?
4. Which of God's promises means the most to you now, and why?

Family Experience: God's Wonderful World

Learn about God's creation—and our role in it—by doing these summertime activities together.

- **Shine**—To make your own "planetariums," place oatmeal containers on scrap wood to protect floors. Help kids use a hammer and nail to gently punch holes in the bottoms of the containers. Turn out the lights. Put flashlights inside the containers and enjoy the light show on a ceiling or wall.
- **Grow**—Plant seeds close enough to the sides of clear plastic cups to be visible. Care for the seeds by giving them water and sunlight. After about a week, roots will be visible.



Say: "Stars are large balls of gas that produce color, heat, and light. A star changes over time, but it takes millions—even billions—of years to live out its life span. The eye can typically see 2,000 stars on a clear night." Then ask: "What would night be like without stars?" Read aloud Matthew 5:14-16. Ask: "Why do you think God wants us to be lights on earth? How can you shine for God?"

Read aloud 1 Corinthians 3:7. Ask: "How did your seed form roots? What role did you, the potting soil, and the water play? What role did God play? Could the plant have sprouted without God?" Talk about ways we rely on God for our spiritual and physical growth. Close in prayer, thanking God for making all things possible.



High Seas Expedition Vacation Bible School

August 22nd - 26th 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Sunday - Thursday Ages 2- 6th Grade

Don't miss out on The Bible Voyage or Ship Rec Games or Goodies from the Galley, Clipper Ship Crafts and Sail Away Cinema with our famous Chadder Chipmunk.

If you would like to help teach please contact Lorrie asap 462-7192 or revspence@juno.com. Thanks!!



Sunday'sCool Break

Our Sunday'sCool will celebrate the year-end with a brief program on **Sunday, June 6th at the 11:00 a.m.** service. We pray that you all will come and participate. There is Sunday'sCool that day. Classes will resume in September with a new exciting program. Living Inside Out. It's like VBS for Sunday'sCool. The kids will love it.

HELP NEEDED

In the fall we are changing over part of our Sunday'sCool program to a large group/small group process. It will be VERY exciting for the kids. However, to facilitate this we need a crew every week to set up and take down props and walls in one room. If this is something you are willing to help with please see Lorrie asap 462-7192 or revspence@juno.com. Please help us keep our programs lively and new.



Culture & Trends

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

- Smart phones have become handy baby-sitting tools for on-the-go parents. For \$1.99, the iStoryTime iPhone app will "read" a story to young listeners.
- The number of children with a food allergy has increased by 18%. One in every 25 kids is susceptible to allergic reactions from such ingredients as nuts, eggs, milk, and wheat.

(U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)



Quick Stats

- 85% of parents believe they have the primary responsibility for their children's moral and spiritual development.

(Transforming Children Into Spiritual Champions by George Barna)

- The number of day camps in the U.S. has grown by nearly 90% in the past 20 years. More than half of camps now include community-service programs.

(acacamps.org)

June 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
					Sulphur	Springs Festival & Parade
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:45 Sunday'sCool 11:00 Celebration						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Baptism			UPK Graduation	HeadStart Graduation	UPK Graduation Annual Conference	Upper NY Conference in Effect
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			
				July 6 th Summer Lunch Program	August 9 Food Distribution	Aug 22 nd - 26 th VBS

Summer Camp Registration Is Underway! If you have already signed up for camp, please let Lorrie know so you get a portion of the campership money available.

Casowasco Open House June 13 --Aldersgate Open House June 12th



Congratulations to the Confirmation Class of 2010 - we welcome you as new members of Clifton Springs United Methodist Church - God bless you in your commitment to your church family. Ashley Arnold, Danielle Arnold, Collin Bowman, Dean Brickle, Karalee Brickle,

Kristina Cicero, Hunter De Jonge, Caitlyn Doyle, Christopher Goodman, Sarah Haley, Audra Linsner, Thomas Mueller, Gordon Paul MacCammon, Allison Nudd, Kierra Ranger, Siri Riccione, Joshua Smith, Clarise Trautman