

## January is Creation Corner Month!

Creation Corner was founded in January of 2000. In that month, a committee of church members met with a prospective director to work on plans for re-opening a preschool at Christ Church. The new preschool would have a focus in the arts, with a core curriculum of music, art, creative movement and Christian values.

Names for the school were considered, by-laws for the board and the staff were written, and a township meeting was attended so that all zoning issues were addressed for the times. The playground was re-structured for new safety laws, and flyers were hung in public spaces as the plans were put into place.

Free Play Days were held for prospective students, and eventually, a group of parents signed on with our first students. From January to June, 2 teachers were hired for a playgroup offering social time, arts & crafts, storytime, and basic learning for children aged 2 to 5.

Beginning in September, Creation Corner officially began its academic run with 7 students, 4 teachers and an assistant ready to take on a 3-day schedule. Since that time, we have seen as many as 35 students walk the church halls on a daily basis! Three of the original staff members, including Kathie McGinn, Cindy Santo, and Marybeth Neyhard are still teaching weekly.

Creation Corner has provided a great service to the community, through the ministry of Christ Church. Together, we will continue working to develop new and better programs into the future.

We appreciate the support and prayer of our church and school communities as we proceed and do our best to make a difference in the lives of our children and our families.

**During the month of January, we invite church members to visit Creation Corner any morning from 9:30 to 11am. You are welcome to just sit and watch, or to interact with the children! We want you to know what YOUR preschool is doing. Come and visit — we'd love to see you!**

### Requests for the New Year:

- **Umbrella stand for the church lobby! Got an old ceramic cylinder that will work? Just bring it in!**
- *Parents who have time to re-organize the school library. Please contact Marybeth or Alyce to arrange a time.*
- **Attention to details! Please watch the calendar for upcoming, important dates. Are your forms and fees up to date? Please be sure to read notices & emails sent out.**
- *Lots of prayers, as we continue to do our best at CC!*

### In This Issue

*2012 is off to a great start! Children are back at work and play, doing what they do best... asking questions, making beautiful artwork, making wonderful messes, singing, dancing, and learning about their world. Teachers are also doing what they do best... planning, helping, learning, having fun, sometimes even being silly, caring, and being wonderful role models for their students. As we move into this new year, we look toward a bright future, filled with awe and wonder in our world, hoping to learn and grow together. We appreciate your help. Start by reading on and finding out what's going on at Creation Corner in the upcoming days and weeks! We look forward to seeing you soon!*

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

- **Mon. Jan. 16—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. School closed.**
- **Weds. Jan. 25 — Pajama Day and Teddy Bear Parade. See p. 4 for more info.**
- **Weds. Feb. 15 — Valentine's Parties in the classrooms. Photo Day! Look your best in pink and red!**
- **Feb. 17 to 20 — School closed for Presidents' Weekend. School reopens on Tues., Feb. 21st.**
- **Weds. Feb. 22 — Ash Wednesday. Annual Parents' Meeting & Coffee at 9:15 in the church library. Sign up this week for parent-teacher conferences.**
- **Weds. Feb. 29 — Leap Day!**

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creationcorner@  
christumcbroomall.org

We're on the web!

www.christumcbroomall.org

**Staff at Creation Corner:**

Marybeth Neyhard: Director; Music  
Nora Breitmayer: Preschool Teacher  
Jamie Haslett: TA  
Kathie McGinn: PS Teacher  
Denise McTaggart: TLC; TA  
Cindy Santo: Art; PS Teacher  
Sue Shaw: Faith-Based Instruction  
Susan Ulu: TLC & Child Care; TA

**Board of Creation Corner:**

Jesse Coale, Pastor  
Marybeth Neyhard, Director  
Carole Fay  
Tricia Dyal  
Nancy Hilden  
Alyce Scafidi

**Parent Board of Creation Corner:**

Alyce Scafidi, Liaison to the Board  
Fund Raising Chair: position open!  
Advertising: position open!  
Please volunteer your services.

**Tell us YOUR stories!**

Submit articles to Marybeth Neyhard by the second Monday of each month. Drop in church mailbox or e-mail: creationcorner@christumcbroomall.org

***“I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed:***

***‘We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal.’... I have a dream today... I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.”***

***~ Martin Luther King, Jr.***

## What I've Learned From Parenting

My children are scattered far and wide, but I'm still learning! Parenting never ends... scary thought, if you're just getting started in this business, isn't it? Things do change, but that's life. ONLY change IS constant.

So, you may be wondering, what could I possibly be learning from my almost-29, 31, and 33 year old children? Well, for starters, to be patient. I thought I had learned that when they were much younger, but I had so much more control back then! I could give them deadlines... “you have 5 minutes to get that trash out to the can or you'll lose 10 minutes of TV tonight”. I could reward them... “if you keep your room clean this week, you can have friends overnight next weekend”. I could make them laugh, especially when they were preschoolers... silly games, silly faces, or pillow fights were perfect for that. None of that works anymore! Reality has taken over and my children now have real lives with real responsibilities. Now it's MY turn to wait until their deadlines are past, and they reward ME with visits or their time, and they make ME laugh with their stories and photos. It's worth the wait, every time.

I have learned to be present. That's a phrase we hear so much, it's almost become cliché. “Be Here Now”, is a book title, but I find myself

saying those words in my head a great deal. Being present, being “in the moment”, being aware, having awareness – all these things point to the same skill which some say takes a lifetime to master. It sounds so easy! But now, when I'm talking with my children on the phone or on Skype, when I have a precious few hours with them in person, or when we have that once a year visit that does not last nearly long enough, I do my best not to multi-task. I work at being present and aware of every word, every gesture, every expression and every nuance of emotion.

I have learned to value time. I've always enjoyed free time, unscheduled time, time outdoors, time away from home. Now, I just value time. When I have just a 3 minute phone call from a very busy mechanical engineer in Florida, I am thankful for that -- not offended that it wasn't 30 minutes. When I have a one hour visit from a working mother with her 2 small children, it is precious -- not a problem that they couldn't stay longer. When I have 5 days out of 365 with a teacher in an Eskimo village who just couldn't stay any longer, I am thankful that I got to see him outside a computer screen!

I have learned to value health. Without good health, I cannot work (it pays for my trips to see my kids and sometimes for them to see me), I

cannot travel (it can be exhausting, especially if you're crossing time zones, hiking in wild and crazy places, or chasing a 2 year old in a park!), I cannot care for my grandchildren (see above), I have no energy (see all of the above!), and I would be spending my time and money in ways which would not make me happy. So, I do my best to eat well and not too much, get enough physical & mental exercise, meditate & pray daily, and sleep sufficiently. I never realized as a younger Mom how important taking care of myself was for my own future. I was so consumed with taking care of the kids that I didn't even give it a thought. It's too late to change some results for me, but I hope I've been a better teacher than example in this department.

Patience, awareness, time, health. In my busyness as a young parent, I really didn't give these things enough attention, even though my children really were the best teachers for each. How do we learn to stop with our own concerns long enough to just appreciate what's right there in front of us? I really don't have any other good answers except “just do it”! It really isn't all that difficult, it doesn't cost us a dime, and it really doesn't take all that much time. *Time*, after all, is what is slipping by without our even seeing it.



Scholastic Book Orders will continue this month. Get your orders in by January 30th. Website orders are preferred, but you can still place paper orders through the office. Be sure to check your arithmetic and make checks out to "Scholastic, Inc." Tuition Envelopes can be used for payment, but check "other" and note "Book Order" on the bottom.



**Opportunities for Giving at Creation Corner!**

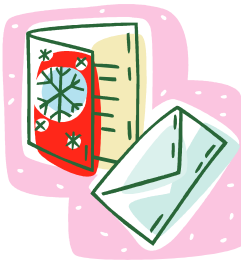
*Donations are being accepted for the Souper Bowl of Caring through Super Bowl Sunday! Canned and non-perishable food items can be brought to school. We thank you for caring and for teaching your children to care for others!*



*We offer condolences to the following Creation Corner Families, who have lost loved ones in 2011. Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you continue into 2012.*

*The Geraghty Family      The Petersen Family  
The Thomas Family      The Hilden Family*

Youth for Truth, the youth group at Christ Church, is collecting Christmas cards. Please put your in a rubber band or envelope and send them to school. Whole cards are fine, but you are welcome to pull off the fronts and just send those as donations. Cards are re-created and recycled as new cards for church family members in the future.



In the month of February, we invite friends to join us for a day at no cost! It's a great way to meet our Creation Corner family, have children play together, and learn about our programs. If you know people who might be interested — friends with children, your children's friends, relatives with children, your children's relatives, or even visitors with children — please give them the option to join us for a day. Complete and return the form on page 5 of this newsletter!



*Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Lord.  
For food and drink and family, Thank you, Lord.*



*Jesus loves me, this I know. For the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong. They are weak but He is strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.*

## WANTED:

Involved parents who enjoy communicating with teachers and other parents to make their children's school even better! Committees



needed: advertising, future events for publicity and development. Please contact Marybeth if you are interested in helping Creation Corner grow and improve!

**Wednesday, January 25**

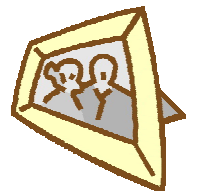
is our annual

### **Pajama Day and Teddy Bear Parade!**

Please come to school in your PJ's, and bring your favorite stuffed friend. We'll have fun in school, march in a parade, and enjoy a very relaxing day indoors. Don't worry — photos will be taken! We look forward to sharing 😊



We hope you received the invitation to visit our Group Room on Snapfish! If you had any trouble viewing the photos, please let Marybeth know. We will do our best to keep the site up to date. Hard copies of photos will be sent home whenever possible for children who appear in photos.



## Help us advertise!

Brochures and postcards are available in the office. Incentive awards are available for any family successfully registering another family. Check out <marplenewtownpatch.com> for our Open House Invitation! Find our Google Ad and write a comment to help us! Tell your friends, family members, neighbors, and acquaintances. We depend on YOU to help us grow into 2013 and beyond!



### Financial Business:

Payments are due on the first Monday of each month. **Please note that after the 10th of each month, a \$10 late fee will be added to your account.**

**Preschool / KE Parents: please note that January is the 5th monthly payment due.** If you have not made 5 previous payments, please resolve this situation now. Late fees will be assessed on late accounts. (There is often confusion at the beginning of the year, with a tuition payment due in August **and** during the first week of school. Please check your records, or ask in the office to be sure. Thank you all for your attention and assistance.

**Final Preschool payments are due in April; final Kindergarten payments are due in May.**

*(TLC Parents: to avoid confusion, your first payment was due in September, and your last payment will be due in May.)*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



My child \_\_\_\_\_ will bring a friend on the following day in

February: \_\_\_\_\_ (Exceptions: February 15, 17, 20)

Friend's Name \_\_\_\_\_.

Parent's Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_.

Emergency Phone Number for Friend's Family \_\_\_\_\_.

Thank you.

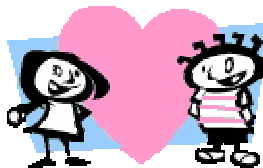
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Creation Corner Parent Signature)

***PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM AT LEAST ONE WEEK BEFORE VISIT!***

Use the above form to bring a friend to school!

We love Friends in February!

Introduce a friend to Creation Corner ... we hope they will enjoy the day with us. No obligations, no cost. Just a day of fun with friends.



Spread the word about your  
good experiences here!