

The SPICE Award Highlights

The Spice Award is for **S**pecial **P**rograms & **I**nnovative **C**hristian **E**ducation

Presbytery's Christian Education & Stewardship Development Committee gathered innovative Christian education ideas to share and presented an award to a deserving congregation at the September 17, 2011 LEADERSHIP SCHOOL. These Innovative Ideas were submitted:

Laurinburg Presbyterian has been doing Blessing of the Backpacks for the last few years. At the beginning of the service teachers, professors and students bring their backpacks, briefcases, etc. and place them on the chancel steps.

The entire congregation participates in a litany to "set them aside" in a special way for the new year of study and learning. The program date always coincides with the opening of public schools – this year it's Sunday, August 28. (The idea came to them from a church in South Carolina, so it's not original!)

This year the project falls under Deacon's Local Mission and the Mission Committee. The congregation is being challenged to provide backpacks for students at North Laurinburg School, a school we partner with in the community. So, we'll be blessing our own children and teachers and reaching out the this particular school to help their children be ready for a new school year. Plans are also in the works to organize tutoring teams to help with learning needs at North Laurinburg School.

This practice forms a connection in the hearts and minds of our children – a tie with their church family and their life away from church. Adding the provision of school supplies for our partner school, grows them in stewardship and service.

Bill Hill, chair of Mission Committee, 7840 Dogwood Drive, Laurinburg, NC 28352

baphill@roadrunner.com 910- 276-7871

Bethesda Presbyterian, Aberdeen, NC

Our annual "**Bible Bowl**" is a tradition at Bethesda and is held on teacher appreciation/graduate recognition Sunday each year. Breakfast was served at 9am and at 9:45am, we recognized our Sunday school teachers and presented them with a small gift of appreciation.

Our "Bible Bowl" followed, which is a friendly Bible trivia game between the middle school and high school youth in a question and answer format for points. The winner keeps the trophy in their Sunday school room for the year. Usually, it involves our youth and a few other adult volunteers and a few members of the congregation. This year, our C.E. committee decided to make it an "Intergenerational Bible Bowl". We invited all of the adult Sunday school classes and everyone in the congregation to join in. If someone was not in a S.S. class, they were invited to join one. The middle school and high school youth were asked questions but had "life lines" if they didn't know the answer...much like the game show "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire". For example, they had cards they could use that said..."Ask the Seekers Class", "Ask the Jesse Wimberly Class", "Ask the Upper Room Class", "Ask the Young Adults Class". We had questions for the youth that they had reviewed and studied but we also had questions from our "Year of the Bible" program that they hadn't seen. If the youth were unable to answer a question, they asked an adult class for a possible answer, which stimulated discussion on certain questions.

Program Goals:

- Stimulate interest in scripture.
- Provide an opportunity for spiritual growth of the student through study of scripture.
- Relate scripture to our "everyday" lives.

- Develop positive attitudes toward learning.
- Provide an opportunity for the youth to partner with the entire congregation to strengthen and nurture faith and intergenerational relationships.
- Incorporate the study of scripture in our Sunday school classes into an intergenerational event which promotes fun, fellowship and nurturing of the entire congregation.

How has the program had a positive effect on the faith formation of your congregation, community and/or world?

We had a great turnout (more than we've ever had at our Bible Bowl) and everyone was able to participate. We didn't forget about our pre-school through 5th grade kids. They sat as a group and were asked questions intermittently throughout the Bible Bowl. We were excited when some of them knew the answers that the middle school and high school youth didn't know. We may use them as a "life line" next year. The reports from the congregation were positive. Below is an email from our 4-5th grade S.S. teacher, Alice Demastus.

"Kudos to all who made the Bible Bowl wonderful. I loved the format. I loved that it got all of the classes involved and I especially LOVED that my little ones got to answer some questions. They were just bursting to answer!"

This was a very positive and powerful intergenerational faith formation experience for our entire congregation and we will do this again next year. This can also be used as an "outreach" program for those less active in the church.

Tracey Call bethesdayouthdirector@windstream.net
Bethesda Presbyterian Youth & C.E. Coordinator
1002 N Sandhills Blvd., Aberdeen, NC 28315, (910)944-1319 (Church office)

WEPC on Wednesdays (WOW!) of West End Presbyterian Church , West End, NC

Submitted by: Rachel Copeland 5276 Seven Lakes West West End, NC 27376 (910) 673-1185 Rcopeland1231@gmail.com

Program Overview: Engaging Nurturing Creative Fun

These are all words that participants, parents, and volunteers have used to describe the activities of the WOW! program. WOW! is an ongoing children's faith formation program offered each Wednesday afternoon from 3:00-5:00. We welcome all children of the West End community that are in Kindergarten through fifth grade. Free transportation, via the church van, is provided from West End Elementary School immediately after school. The children enjoy stations that include recreation, games, arts and crafts, music, and healthy snacks; all with a weekly Biblical theme to help nurture each and every child who participates. Trained adult volunteers guide the children through each week's FaithWeaver story and on to the next station.

History:

As West End Presbyterian Church enters its 100th year, WOW! will celebrate its twentieth year of existence. Thanks to the enthusiasm of two former WEPC staff members, the afterschool program was started in 1992 primarily as a music ministry. Under the direction of Norma Walter, the children rehearsed songs, played the hand bells, and performed two musicals each year. Through the songs and narrative of these performances, young children could easily relate their personal stories to scripture and

began to understand more about faith, church, and their relationship with God. "Callin' All Angels" December 2000

Longtime WEPC pastor, Reverend Dudley Crawford, taught the young people that it is our Christian duty to serve others. Early WOW! groups visited an area nursing home once a month to present musical programs, play games, or just visit with residents who were in need of some of the joy that children readily emanate.

Positive Impacts on the Faith Formation of Our Congregation:

The nursing home mission project laid a foundation for these young people who have eagerly pursued mission opportunities locally, regionally, and globally. As I write, seventeen of our youth and adults are

Mexico.jpg Mexico4.jpg in Chetumal, Mexico building and improving facilities at our sister church and leading activities for neighborhood children. This is WEPC's eighth trip to Chetumal since forming this partnership. Each trip has included several WOW! graduates who were taught early to recognize and use their God-given talents and gifts to serve His people.

IXOYE Presbyterian Church Chetumal, Mexico Emily Kline & Charlotte McDonald improve the grounds at IXOYE Presbyterian June 2009

To demonstrate the positive effects of the WOW! program on our congregation, I give the example of lifelong WEPC member Page Auman Brown. After living in Greensboro and Southern Pines as a young adult, Mrs. Brown returned to West End and the church of her childhood. She now serves as a Sunday school teacher to the 3-5 year old children and is a newly appointed deacon. Mrs. Brown reflects on her experiences with WOW!.

Participating in WOW! as an elementary school student helped me realize what it means to be a Christian. As a youth leader, I found that I enjoyed mentoring the younger children and watching as they began to understand God's love for them. Throughout childhood my faith grew because of many wise and caring Christian adults who welcomed me into God's family. WOW! has been a blessing to the entire church because it connects multiple generations who can grow in faith together.

WOW! Today:

Together with associate pastor Chip Pope and many faithful volunteers, music director Jennifer Thomas-Danis led 18 energetic children through the WOW! program for the 2010-2011 school year. In October, these children began preparing for their Christmas musical "Christmas Hang-ups" by Dennis and Nan Allen. Their hard work was evident as they delighted the audience with perfectly delivered lines, first-rate musical numbers, and beautiful handmade sets and costumes created by parents and members of the congregation.

"Christmas Hang-Ups" December 2010

Throughout the year WOW! Children demonstrated gratitude by preparing and sending cards to people of the church who are important to them. This spring each child created a self-portrait that depicts how the children see themselves. Their creations are on display in the main hallway of the church to remind church members that children are a vital part of God's family and highly visible in our congregation.

Mrs. Thomas-Danis strives to provide "an exciting weekly afterschool opportunity that the kids look forward to-where they can learn more about their faith, where they feel comfortable sharing their faith and asking questions, and where they can do all of that in a fun, nurturing atmosphere. I would like to see them be more open to new experiences and how they might, through words and actions, see how important faith is in their own lives and interactions with others while at the same time bringing others to church, to the faith, who might not otherwise get to experience the love of Christ."

Conclusion:

WOW! has been an integral part of hundreds of children's faith formation. It continues to provide our precious children with an environment of acceptance where they can learn about their faith from empathetic, knowledgeable adults. The successful program is a vital component of WEPC's Christian faith formation initiative.

Connor and Emma Pic.jpg 4th grader Connor Jones and 3rd grader Emma Lewis compete in the wheelbarrow race at the WOW! end-of-year party

GOOD SHEPHERD CENTER—TENNIS SHOES PROJECT CHECKLIST 2010

- CHECK WITH COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIR TO DETERMINE AMOUNT OF MONEY BUDGETED FOR PROJECT.
- DETERMINE FROM GOOD SHEPHERD CENTER THE NUMBER OF SHOES AND SIZES NEEDED. ASK KATRINA
- CALL ULTIMATE SPORTS IN MIAMI AT 305-438-9009 TO DISCUSS ORDER.
(WWW.ALLFOOTWEAR.COM)
 - MEN'S—SIZES 8—13 = 60
 - MEN'S—SIZES 9—15 = 24
 - WOMEN'S SIZES 6 & ONE HALF —11 = 36
 - TOTAL NUMBER OF PAIRS = 120
- HAVE ULTIMATE SPORTS TO CONFIRM ORDER BY E-MAIL.
- PLACE ORDER USUALLY IN AUGUST
- REQUEST CHURCH FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO SEND A CHECK FOR THE TENNIS SHOES TO ULTIMATE SPORTS.
- PURCHASE SOCKS FROM WAL-MART IN EARLY DECEMBER
 - MEN'S SIZES 8—13 = 120 PAIRS
 - MEN'S SIZES 9—15 = 48 PAIRS
 - WOMEN'S 6 & ONE HALF TO 11 = 72 PAIRS : TOTAL NUMBER OF PAIRS = 240
- PURCHASE ASSORTED CANDIES FROM WAL- MART OR COSCO OR SAM'S—USUALLY FOUR OR FIVE BAGS AT APPROX. \$10.00 EACH.
- PURCHASE WRAPPING PAPER, SCOTCH TAPE, LABELING STICKERS IF NEEDED.
- WHEN SHOES ARRIVE, STORE THEM IN FORUM CLASS —BACK CORNER
- OPEN CONTAINER BOXES OF 12 PAIR S OF SHOES ON FRIDAY BEFORE WRAPPING SUNDAY. THERE ARE USUALLY 10 LARGE BOXES WITH 12 PAIRS EACH.

- PLACE TWO PAIRS OF SOCKS AND ASSORTED CANDIES IN EACH SHOE BOX. USUALLY TWO OR THREE CHOCOLATE SMALL PIECES AND 6—8 SMALL PIECES OF HARD CANDY.
 - PLACE ALL BOXES UNDER THE TABLES FOR WRAPPING ON SUNDAY MORNING. PREWRAPPING TIME IS ABOUT 2 HOURS
 - WRAPPING TIME ON SUNDAY MORNING IS ABOUT AN HOUR.
 - PRE-CUT WRAPPING PAPER FOR WOMEN AND MEN –DIFFERENT SIZES. PROVIDE DIFFERT COLOR PAPER FOR WOMEN VS MEN.
 - ASK LADIES AND SOME MEN TO WRAP. SOME MEN CAN KEEP BOXES ON TABLE TO BE WRAPPED AND OTHERS CAN PLACE WRAPPED BOXES IN THE SHIPPING , LARGE BOXES
 - PLACE STICKER ON THE END OF EACH WRAPPED BOX WITH “W” FOR WOMEN AND ”M” FOR MEN PLUS THE SIZE (W-9 OR M-15 AS AN EXAMPLE).
 - PROVIDE COFFEE AND ASK MEMBERS TO BRING A BREAKFAST TREAT.
 - PROVIDE A TABLE CLOTH (GREEN) WITH RED PLATES AND NAPKINS. PURCHASE AT PARTY STORE NEAR TARGET
 - PROVIDE SCOTCH TAPE AND ASK MEMBERS TO BRING SCISSORS..
 - HAVE A DVD OR MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS CAROLS.
 - CALL GOOD SHEPHERD CENTER ON MONDAY AFTER ALL BOXES ARE WRAPPED ON SUNDAY FOR PICK UP AND DELIVERY TO THE GOOD SHEPHERD CENTER.
 - DETERMINE WHAT TIME SHOES WILL BE GIVEN OUT ON CHRISTMAS DAY AND TRY TO HAVE SOMEONE FROM CLASS TO BE PRESENT FOR PICTURES. USUALLY, THIS TAKES PLACE ABOUT 10:00 AM ON CHRISTMAS DAY.
 - CHECK WITH COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIR AND ASK THAT THIS PROJECT STAY IN THE CHURCH BUDGET FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR.
 - TOTAL COSTS FOR 2010= \$1,322.21
 - SHOES----- \$1,016.60
 - SOCKS----- \$214.76
 - CANDY//PAPER-- \$90.85
- SUGGESTED BUDGET FOR 2011== \$1,500.00

PREPARED BY: JOHN MONROE

FORUM CLASS OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES: 2011--2012

PRESIDENT: NANCY MONROE

- RESPONSIBILITIES
 - PROVIDE WELCOME, OPENING COMMENTS, PRAYER
 - RECOGNIZE VISITORS AND /OR GUESTS
 - CONDUCT CLASS BUSINESS AS NEEDED
 - REQUEST COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS
 - INTRODUCE TEACHER/ SPEAKER
 - CONDUCT QUARTERLY CLASS OFFICERS MEETINGPUBLIZE CLASS PURPOSES, ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS
 - COORDINATE AND COMMUNICATE WITH DIRECTOR OF CHRISTAIN EDUCATION AND THE CHAIR OF ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL SUBCOMITTEE.
 - HANDLE CORRESPONDENCE TO AND FROM CLASS
 - ANNOUNCE AND /OR RECOGNIZE JOYS, SORROWS OR CONCERNS

VICE PRESIDENT: DON CHRISTOPHER

- RESPONSIBILITIES
 - PRESIDE WHEN PRESIDENT IS ABSENT WITH SAME RESPONSIBILITIES
 - PREPARE CLASS BULLETIN BOARD
 - PREPARE AND POST CLASS CALENDER OF ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

SECRETARY/TREASURER: TBD

- RESPONSIBILITIES
 - ESTABLISH/MAINTAIN CLASS ROSTER (NAME ADDRESS, PHONE, E-MAIL, BIRTHDAY, ANNIVERSARY)
 - MAINTAIN ATTENDANCE RECORD
 - COLLECT MONIES FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL AND OTHER ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS
 - PROVIDE CLASS MEMBERS WITH A COPY OF CLASS ROSTER

CURRICULUM CHAIRPERSON: JOHN MONROE

- RESPONSIBILITIES
 - DETERMINE CLASS INTEREST FOR TOPICS, FORMAT, ETC
 - REVIEW AND STUDY VARIOUS CURRICULUM RESOURCES
 - RECOMMEND CURRICULUM
 - EVALUATE CLASS TOPICS, TYPES OF TEACHING METHOD, ETC
 - IDENTIFY/RECRUIT TEACHERS AND RECOGNIZE/THANK TEACHERS

SOCIAL CHAIRPERSONS: ROTATE AMONG CLASS MEMBERS

- RESPONSIBILITIES
 - DETERMINE CLASS INTEREST FOR VARIOUS TYPES OF SOCIALS
 - DETERMINE CLASS MEMBERS WHO MAY HAVE AN INTEREST IN HOSTING A SOCIAL
 - SCHEDULE TWO OR MORE SOCIALS A YEAR IN ADVANCE
 - PROMOTE, ENCOURAGE CLASS PARTICIPATION
 - ARRANGE FOR CLASS REFRESHMENTS BEFORE CLASS
 - SEND OUT ANNOUNCEMENT AND/OR INVITATIONS REGARDING SOCIAL EVENTS
 - MAINTAIN RECORD AND/OR SCRAPBOOK OF SOCIALS INCLUDING HOSTS, LOCATION, DATE, NUMBER ATTENDING, ETC.

PROJECTS CHAIRPERSONS: GEORGE MIARS AND JOHN MONROE –CO-CHAIRS

- RESPONSIBILITIES
 - DETERMINE CLASS INTEREST FOR PROJECTS
 - DETERMINE CHURCH NEEDS
 - DETERMINE COMMUNITY NEEDS
 - CHOOSE A PROJECT OR PROJECTS
 - EVALUATE PROJECTS
 - MAINTAIN RECORD OF PROJECTS INCLUDING TYPES, # PARTICIPATING, ETC
 - CURRENTLY, CLASS HAS TWO PROJECTS—THE GOOD SHEPHERD CENTER TENNIS SHOE PROJECT AND THE CURB SIDE CAFÉ PROJECT

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON: DOT BISHOP

- RESPONSIBILITIES
 - ESTABLISH A MEMBERSHIP GOAL
 - IDENTIFY/RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS
 - COORDINATE WITH GROWTH COMMITTEE
 - PREPARE/DISTRIBUTE NEW MEMBERSHIP PACKET.
 - PREPARE MEMBERSHIP POSTER CHART
 - EXPLORE AND DEVELOP NEW, DIFFERENT, AND BETTER WAYS FOR ATTRACTING, MAINTAINING AND ACTIVATING NEW MEMBERS.
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SPICE AWARD WINNER:

Community Assisting Learning Language, year round—"CALL"

Community Presbyterian Church, Pinehurst, North Carolina

The purpose of the CALL program is to prepare under-achieving Hispanic children for success in school through weekly tutoring during the school year and during the summer. They attend vacation Bible school; go on field trips such as the NC Zoo, Marbles Museum and Wet 'n' Wild. All of the children this school year have improved in their grade scores. Through the school year we have assisted students with field trips and helping them purchase school items. A major new adventure is tutoring the moms of the children. We have 14 who come to us twice a week for tutoring with Rosetta Stone and individual help. Seven of the moms assisted with vbs this summer.

One of our main goals is for CALL to continue to deepen the relationships between caring people, tutors and teachers. Each week the tutors cannot wait to see what the teacher has written in the "pass-along" folder about their young student. The teacher applauds how the student is progressing with the tasks given to the tutor. There seems to be a stronger connection with teacher, tutor and student. School teachers report that the CALL program has helped raise test scores in writing composition, math and reading again this year and this sometimes promotes the student to an Accelerated Reader group. This year the program has been blessed with some of the most talented tutors we have ever had.

We meet with the parents in April to sign permission slips for our summer adventures. The parents were excited as well as the students. We are going to an amusement park in June and all our children will be with us for vacation Bible school at Community Presbyterian Church. July the children will go to Camp Monroe (Presbyterian). The older children will go to the overnight camp for a week. This is only possible because of the Speer Fund. August is set up to get the students ready to go back to school. We will be together for the day tutoring in reading, writing and math plus providing snacks and the mid-day meal. Our theme this summer is Africa, we will go to the zoo to see the African animals, read books about Africa, draw pictures, write stories and dance like the animals. We started a dance group this past year. It has been a huge success with most of the elementary girls. Three senior high students staff the program and they named it *"Plié with Purpose"*.

The most exciting happening this year is the moms of our students have become students. We are offering ESL classes to 14 moms. The moms of our students are bringing moms from their neighborhood to come and learn English. All of their friends have children who will join the CALL program in a year or so. This has given us the opportunity to help their younger children with English prior to them going to kindergarten. Speer Fund made this possible by helping us expand the program. Several of the moms entered the work force in the last few months and have obtained a job. One mom is volunteering in the classroom of her son because her English language skills have improved so much.

Many faith lessons are being learned: we have redefined who is our neighbor, loving all neighbors no matter the poverty level or lack of basic needs. We are meeting the families where they are and accepting them with love. They regard Community as a safe place where they are shown love, trust and honor. The community of faith supplies the students with backpacks, all their school supplies and a gift card to buy new clothes. We are so blessed to have these wonderful moms and children in our lives.

Blessings to you,

Elizabeth Ann "Betty" Pope,

Director of Discipleship and CALL, Community Presbyterian Church, PO Box 1449, Pinehurst, North Carolina 28374, 910-295-6848