

## CHILDREN: THE CHURCH OF TODAY AND TOMORROW

Dear Friend:

During the past 4-6 weeks I am happy to report that we have been seeing pre-school children back in our church on a regular basis. You may not have seen them because they are receiving a great Christian education in room 104 during the church service. We have had anywhere from 2-4 kids at a time (plus on occasion, an additional 6.5 yr. old granddaughter of the pastor. They want no accolades, but Greg and Ruth Eller are doing a great job of Bible lessons, art and crafts, and other activities. I testify from personal knowledge these kids are learning! This being said, please, please, let Ruth know you will volunteer, perhaps just once-per-month. It is as simple as this: no volunteers, parents will go elsewhere.

Are children a priority to us? I hope so, let's show it. This Sunday's speaker is Pastor Josh Slone. We had lunch a week ago and he pointed out something: anytime Jesus saw or spoke about children he put a high priority on them and spoke about them in relation to the Kingdom. You have heard the phrase: "The children are the church of tomorrow". I believe that, but I also believe the phrase is incomplete, I believe we should say: "The children are the church of tomorrow AND today". Obviously, if we do not pay enough attention to the children today, if we don't involve them in things today, they will not be here (at our church) tomorrow.

Pastor Josh and I grew-up in the same church (but 25+ yrs. apart). Our church had children doing special things during the church service. I know Franklin Church has too in the past as well. What my home church did that a lot of churches do not is involve young people in regular ministry all the time. Pastor Josh and I were both called to the ministry while still in our youth. Children are the church of today. This Sunday, Pastor Josh will bring the morning message, entitled: "Little Feet, Big Impact". I am looking forward to hearing him - hope to see you Sunday! (Matthew 18:1-2)

In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Mike

Prayer: Donna Clickenger (Rehab, Country View of Sunbury Room 503. 14961 N. Old 3C Sunbury, Ohio 43074), Bonnie Boone (shut-in of the month), Cao and Tang Lee (in China until Aug-Sept), Tom Thompson Family