

The Open Door Witness

November 2011

Phone: (701) 222-3004

www.mccabeumc.com/opendoor

Email: opendoor@btinet.net



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From the Director

The big excitement this new school year is the inclusion of the teaching curriculum, *My Father's*



World from A to Z. I had been looking for a way to more completely integrate all subjects using a solid biblical foundation. We start by traveling through a 10-day adventure to the beginning when God created the

earth. Then we continue to explore many of the wonders that God created such as the sun, moon, dinosaurs, rocks, horses, elephants, butterflies, and vegetables.

Science, Math, the Bible, Art, Children's Literature, Creative Thinking, Reading, and Handwriting are integrated into the 26 themes with each representing a letter of the alphabet. However, our course of study does not use the "Letter of the

Week" in ABC order. Instead, we introduce the letters/shapes in handwriting readiness based on the difficulty of the strokes. Therefore we start out with L, F, E, H, T, I, U and square and rectangle shapes (vertical and horizontal). Then we move on to circle-shaped letters C, O, Q, G, S and J. Next, big and little curve letters - D, P, and B - are taught, followed by diagonals - letters R, K, A, V, M, and N with triangle and diamond shapes. Last, we work on letters W, X, Y, and Z.

Following is an example of how various content and skill areas are integrated for the letter "f" which we recently completed. The children learned information about frogs and constructed the life stages of the frog (egg, tadpole, frog with tail, adult frog). Next, the children listened to the story "Tale of a Tadpole" (following), which provided the basis for a good discussion. (continued on page 7)

Kezia Schnabel Joins Staff

The Open Door welcomes Kezia Schnabel as its teacher's assistant. Kezia received her Bachelor of Science degree in Human Development and Family Science from NDSU in May of this year. She began work on August 22.



Kezia describes herself as having a passion for working with children, and she has considerable experience working in this area. This includes helping

with church activities and working at Crystal Springs Camp for the last four summers, as well as completing various field experiences during her university training. Kezia is eager to apply this experience as a staff member at the Open Door. She is most excited about teaching daily Bible lessons and looks forward to sharing Bible stories with the children. Her other duties include teaching the computer classes and helping the children with daily activities with special attention to the three year old group.

Kezia is the daughter of Pastor Perry Schnabel who is the pastor at Calvary United Methodist Church in Bismarck, ND. She is a member of Calvary UMC. As a pastor's daughter she has lived various places including Eureka, SD, Steele, ND, and Bismarck. Kezia graduated from Steele-Dawson High School in 2007.

Welcome, and best wishes to you, Kezia.

Transitions

In August, Assistant Director LeAnn Lindteigen resigned her position at the Open Door Community Center to become the Director of Operations at Crystal Springs Camp. We were sad to see LeAnn leave, but wish her all the best in this new opportunity to serve children and youth.

Carie Eman, who planned and prepared lunches and snacks and assisted as an instructional aide at the Open Door, left us in September. Carie worked for us in collaboration with Experience Works, and is currently employed at the Waterford in Bismarck. We wish Carie well in her new position.

Library Volunteer Needed

The Open Door is in need of one or more volunteers to update our library's database. The work entails entering several fields of information on each of our library books using Access software. The work is not difficult but will require time and attention to detail. The work would be at the Open Door Community Center. If you are interested, please contact Jolene at 222-3004.



Volunteer Hours

During the second quarter of 2011, 550 hours of time were volunteered in activities that support the Open Door. For the third quarter of 2011, 563 hours were contributed.

Our sincerest "thank you" to all the Very Important People who so generously share their time and talents to enrich the lives of Open Door children and their families.

Summer Day Camp

In response to requests from parents, the 2011 Summer Day Camp at the Open Door was expanded from 10 weeks to 12 weeks to provide



Watching otters at the Bismarck Zoo

more continuous services from school year through the summer to fall. In 2010, the Day Camp was extended to 10 weeks, two weeks longer than it had traditionally been offered. Staffing and building maintenance continued to be a struggle for the summer programming but we were blessed with volunteers and substitutes to complete the mission. We extend a special thank you to Jordan Puhalla, Jerry and Linda Suko, and Marvia Boettcher for taking care of the children this summer.

Themes for the summer included: Summer, Here We Come; Farm and Ranch, Fun in the Sun; VBS; Me!; Old and Dusty Things from the Past; Sandy Beaches; On Your Mark, Get Set, Go!; Discover Something New; Water Fun; and Going Buggy. Learning to play horseshoes with Grandpa Kenneth was really fun.



Stirring homemade ice cream

The children made a baseball hat paperweight for Father's Day, made and ate homemade ice cream, and cooled off on

the water slide. Track and Field Day was hard work

but the children enjoyed getting the ribbons for their efforts. The science experiences were a lot of fun even though some didn't work out like we thought they would. The last week we all went "buggy" learning about and creating all kinds of bugs. All the field trips were especially enjoyable for the children.

Vacation Bible School was conducted by volunteers from Century Baptist Church during the week of June 20-24. Events that the children most enjoyed during that time were making bubble prints and body bubbles, building spy glasses, playing Blind-man's Bluff, creating slime, and getting wet in Rain Alley. During a field trip to Calvary United Methodist, Pastor Perry Schnabel showed us special areas, religious symbols, and articles of the church, bringing special meaning to attending church.

We offer a very special thank you to members of Mandan UMC, Legacy UMC and Calvary UMC as well as Jerry Suko for providing lunch for the



Enjoying the water slide

children during the six weeks that the Myhre School lunch program was not available. Some members stayed to prepare the meal and spend time with the children. A surprise treat was having Happy Meals from McDonald's delivered one day. We are grateful for the support that provided this essential part of our summer program.



Experiencing the old school house at Buckstop Junction

Open Door Hosts Barbecue for Families

On September 27 the Board of Directors and staff hosted a barbecue for parents and families at the Open Door. About 50 parents, children, volunteers, board members, and grandparents attended. The weather was beautiful, allowing the children to use the playground.



Families enjoy the food and fellowship

The menu consisted of grilled hamburgers, oriental salad, baked beans, chips, grapes, trail mix, kuchen bars, and pink lemonade. Jerry Suko grilled and organized the special night. Other board members Linda Suko, Carol Desper, Phil Sjursen, and Marilyn Johnson also helped with preparation and set-up.

Many positive comments were received concerning the event. Parents appreciated meeting other parents as well as persons who are part of the Open Door. And they enjoyed not having to cook for one night! Overall, the event was a success.

Open Door Wish List

The preschool classroom uses lots of equipment and supplies. Here is a list of some items that we would be grateful to receive. If you have questions about specific items, please contact Jolene at 222-3004. Thank you.

Prisms (for science center)
Stethoscope (that works)
Abacus
Chalkboards (10 small – 5" x 7")
Dry eraser markers

Child-size toothbrushes (22)
Watercolors
Plastic stencils (not alphabet)
Washable markers
Puzzles (20-24, or 35 pieces)
Finger paint paper
Thermal laminating pouches (9" x 11.4")
Plastic baskets (13" x 10"; no lids needed)
Clear (transparent) contact paper
Copier paper (8.5" x 11" sheets)
Stamps

Open Door Gets New Roof

This summer saw the replacement of Open Door's well-worn roof. McCabe UMC of Bismarck contracted with a local business to complete the work. Given the amount of rain and wind experienced by Bismarck this summer, the repair was very much needed. The staff and the Open Door family appreciate the security it provides.



A Note from Jolene

I have heard many positive comments about the beautifully and professionally created newsletters since Jerry and Jean Newborg have taken over the production of this very informative and supportive voice of the Open Door. I believe this will be their sixth edition and want to let everyone know who is behind this creative endeavor. Jean is a former Open Door Board member and past Board chair who continues to involve herself at the OD. Jerry is retired from the Heritage Center in Bismarck. Together they created the new look of our newsletter. Please know all your efforts are *much* appreciated.

Trees Replaced

This summer six assorted varieties of maple trees, each 6 – 10 feet, were given to the Open Door to replace some of those removed from the property in the last several years. Five trees were contributed by S & B Landscaping and Sheryl Fines in memory of Bruce Balliet who passed away last spring. Mr. Balliet was the grandfather of Tucker Unrath, one of Open Door's preschool children. In addition, Jerry and Linda Suko donated a tree for the playground area.

S & B Landscaping planted the trees according to the landscaping plan developed to address the loss of many dead trees that have had to be removed due to disease and damage.

Our sincerest thank you to S & B Landscaping, Sheryl Fines, and Jerry and Linda Suko for a living memorial that adds beauty and enjoyment to the community.

Tree History at Open Door

In this article, Jerry Suko, who is a McCabe Trustee, a member of the Open Door Board of Directors, and with his wife, Linda, is a Volunteer Extraordinaire, provides a brief history of the trees on our property and insight into the value of the Open Door's well maintained property.

When the Open Door was first opened, the visionaries who thought of putting together this beautiful ministry for the community also considered the benefits for the children of having trees at various locations on the property to shade the playground and building.

Those trees were mostly of the Chinese Elm variety and they have now grown to the end of their life cycle. In the past two years we have removed 11 trees of various sizes through the help of volunteers from our sponsoring churches. Over the course of the past several years we have removed 32 trees that have either become a safety hazard due to the dropping of dead branches, or were marked by the city forester as diseased and had to be removed.

This year volunteers from McCabe also removed 32 tree stumps that had been left from the various stages of tree removal throughout the last few years.

We are now down to seven remaining trees of the Chinese Elm variety that will also meet the fate of the chain saws of volunteers in the future. We continue to monitor these remaining trees for unsafe conditions and will remove them as necessary.

While all this tree news seems bad we also have some good news. We had five new trees donated to us this year and they have been planted at various strategic locations throughout the Open Door grounds. Linda and I purchased another and also planted that on the Open Door grounds.

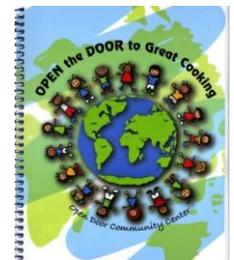
The McCabe trustees and the Open Door Board of Directors would like to thank all those who have given their time and talents and donations to continue to meet the Open Door mission and keep our property looking good and make it a shining star in that area of our community.

Just recently I was approached by an elderly gentleman while working outside at Open Door. He thanked me for helping to keep the grounds looking good as he said it gives pride to that whole area of the city to see us take such good care of the property.

I was also approached by another Native American man and told how important our presence is in this part of the city due to all the drugs and crime their young people are exposed to.

Cookbook

Are you looking for a perfect holiday gift? The *Open the Door to Great Cooking* cookbook would be a great choice. The cost is \$15. Contact Jolene at 701-222-3004 for information or go to our webpage at www.mccabeumc.com/opendoor/book.html.



Gifts

The Open Door has been blessed by the many thoughtful people who support our mission with their prayers, presence, gifts, and services. These enrich our program and services and help us to maintain our day to day operation. Thank you very much for remembering us so generously.



The following persons and church groups contributed monetary gifts for unspecified purposes to the Open Door in memory or in honor of a loved one, or as a donation for general use.

Marvia Boettcher, Bismarck, ND
Laurence and Shirley Buchholz, Bismarck, ND
Myrtrice Ecklund, Wilton, ND
Jay and Alfhild Ehrmantraut, Bismarck, ND
In memory of Carol Hipple and Josephine Biffle
Gerald and Jean Newborg, Bismarck, ND
In memory of Carol Hipple and
Nancy Joy Sjursen
Ralph and Harriet Sjursen, Erie, ND
In memory of their daughter Nancy Joy Sjursen
Kenneth and June Skuza, Bismarck, ND
In memory of Josephine Biffle
Dick and Pat Unkenholz, Prescott, AZ
Michele Unrath, Bismarck, ND
Gift cards for produce from Royce's Market
Peggy Zerface, Lisbon, ND

Ashley UMC, Ashley, ND
Amelia Bailey Memorial Church of Moffit, ND
Cleveland UMC, Cleveland, ND
Faulkton UMC, Faulkton, SD
Linton UMC, Linton, ND
McCabe Tuesday Workshop, Bismarck, ND
In memory of Josephine Biffle
McCabe UMW, Bismarck, ND
Milnor UMC

Souper Savers Provide Laptop Computer

In our May 2011 newsletter, Director Jolene indicated that 4000 Campbell's soup labels were still needed to order a new laptop computer. That number – and more – have been collected in the interim, and Jolene will soon be redeeming **68,850** labels for the computer. The extra labels will be redeemed for software programs. These will be helpful additions to the staff and children at the center.

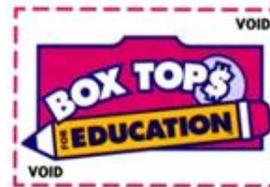


Congratulations and a really big "thank you" to all the super individuals and church groups that have faithfully clipped and submitted Campbell's soup labels to the Open Door over a very long time.

During the last six months the Oakes UMC, Oakes, ND, Legacy UMC, Bismarck, ND, and McCabe UMC, Bismarck, have contributed Campbell's soup labels to the Open Door.

Savings Programs Offer Resources

The Open Door participates in two savings programs that offer cash resources. Through the Box



Tops for Education Program, the Open Door redeems box tops for cash that is used to buy instructional materials and supplies. During the last six months, Valerie Stading, Eagan, MN; Justin Puhalla, Bismarck, ND; and Legacy UMC, Bismarck, ND, contributed box tops.

The UPC barcode from the 2000 Our Family grocery items can be redeemed by the Open Door as well. The \$25 we receive for each bundle of 500 UPC bar-codes can be used for any need we have. See a listing of products and stores at <http://www.ourfamilyfoods.com/locator/results.asp>.

Director's Message (continued from page 1)

God gave frogs wonderful, long tongues. When they sit still, they can curl their tongues up in their mouth. And they wait so patiently for an insect. When an insect flies close, the frog quickly flips out his long tongue and catches the insect. God made frogs so they know just when to keep their tongues very quiet and still in their mouths. AND they know when to flip them out and catch their suppers. They know how to use their tongues just right. They use their tongues wisely.

God gave us tongues too. Of course, we don't use them to catch insects, do we? We use them to eat and we use them to talk. God wants us to use our tongues wisely, too. Sometimes we keep our tongues very, very quiet in our mouths and not say anything, as when teacher says, "No talking" or when we are mad at others and feel like saying mean things to them. We want to be careful that mean words or lies don't sneak out of our mouths. Sometimes we use our tongues for good things, too, to say kind and truthful things. Sometimes we need to keep our tongues quiet and sometimes we need to use them wisely.

Finally, we concluded the lesson by singing the song "Oh, Be Careful Little Tongue What You Say" and read the Bible verse Proverbs 21:23 "He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from trouble."

So far we have learned four lessons: Letter L - leaf. I will love and grow in Jesus. Letter F - frog. I use my tongue wisely. Letter E - elephant. I will remember what God has done for me. Letter H - horse. I obey right away.

The children as well as myself are enjoying the lessons. They have a solid biblical foundation that focuses on the wonders that God created. The theme-based units integrate all subjects. Beginning reading is developed through children's literature, incorporating different learning styles. The activities challenge strong learners yet nurture younger children. The instructions are clear but allow for flexible and personal changes to be incorporated. I really feel it provides an environment where both children

and teacher enjoy learning together. I am very excited to find out what else we can learn about in *My Father's World from A to Z*.

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the water."

Psalm 24:1-2

Jolene Stading Puhalla, Director

SPURS Halloween Party



Throughout the school year, SPURS, a service organization from the University of Mary, sponsors holiday parties for Open Door children. On October 19, SPURS will be on hand to play games, do crafts, sing sounds, tell stories, distribute treats, and provide fun Halloween activities with the preschoolers.

ers.

Thank you, SPURS and advisor Sister Gerard, for sharing your time and enthusiasm with the Open Door!

Newsletter Notes

The Witness newsletter is edited and produced by Jerry and Jean Newborg, Bismarck. McCabe UMC provides copier services. Marilyn Johnson along with several volunteers coordinates collating and mailing. Pastor Gary Walters electronically posts the newsletter on the McCabe UMC website from Rapid City, SD.

To receive notice when newsletters are available online, contact Jolene. The newsletter will get to you faster, it will be in color, and you can increase font size, if needed. And it will save us printing and postage, and your letter carrier will appreciate the lighter load.

Comments or questions concerning this newsletter should be directed to Jolene Puhalla at 701-222-3004 or opendoor@btinet.net.



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Open Door Community Center Mission

Through the Open Door Community Center, children and families receive Christian-based education and support services, enriching them to become responsible members of their families and community.

2011 Board of Directors and Staff

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Linda Suko, Chair
Carrol Burchinal
Carol Desper
Jim Unkenholz
Phil Sjursen
Jerry Suko

Legacy UMC

Pastor Kermit Culver
Marilyn Johnson
Julianna Benning

Calvary UMC

Pastor Perry Schnabel
Martin Ketterling

Mandan UMC

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