

August 1, 2014

Dear Old South Families,

Welcome back---or rather, **welcome home!**---to another year of joyful learning, exploring, and growing together in God's love. We will be launching into those fun and formative activities like "Missionopoly," Thanksgiving Baskets, Youth Groups, and acolytes, as well as some exciting new opportunities for children and youth, including the new "Old South Movie Studio." And, of course, we will continue to offer Sunday School classes and BBC (Bible Breakfast Club) teen discussion groups on Sunday mornings.

In this packet, you'll find:

- * an overview of all our programs
- * a calendar of events (September through December)
- * a registration form for participation in church events and programs

Throughout the year, you can learn more about all our youth activities via a weekly e-mail newsletter "*Old South Kids This Week*." (If you're not already receiving this newsletter, please contact me at jgunther@beeline-online.net.) In addition, we give monthly updates in the online church newsletter, *Telstar*, and regularly post news and photos on Old South's Facebook page.

Programs for Youth and Children at Old South

Sunday School and Chapel Time

Each Sunday, from September through mid-June, classes are offered to children from pre-school age through grade six. Our classes are held during the worship service, after the "Time with Children" with Pastor Alexis (approximately 9:45 am). We use a curriculum called **Shine**, which will lead us through the Old Testament in the fall, through Advent for the Christmas season, then progress to the New Testament in the winter and spring.

On the first Sunday of each month, we break from the routine for "Sunday Kids' Games." All children are invited to join us at 9:30 in the Chapel. We play games--including the trivia game "Missionopoly"--and listen to interactive stories. Later in the morning, we join the congregation upstairs in the sanctuary to participate in our monthly sharing of Communion.

Sunday School classes will begin on **September 14th**.

Bible Breakfast Club

Teens in grades 7 through 9 are invited to join us three Sundays each month in an informal discussion group, complete with hot beverages and light breakfast fare. This fall, we'll be taking a closer look at some less-familiar figures in the Old Testament, and exploring how these stories relate to our lives in the 21st century.

Post-Confirmation Forum

For students in grades 10 - 12, who have completed our Confirmation program, we offer a once-a-month discussion forum for, well, anything and everything! We will be inviting members of the congregation to join us in dialogue about faith, current events, and topics of your choosing. Stay tuned for more details!

Nursery

For infants and toddlers, we offer a clean, well-equipped Nursery with a paid staff member, Kiya Seigle, who has been background checked for safety. Parents may stay with their children in the Nursery or to sign them into the care of our staff.

Senior and Middler Youth Groups

Youth group programs offer a chance to “live out” what we are called to do as Christians. In years past, we have assisted the local food pantry, wrapped presents for Operation Santa, made nourishing soups for the Warming Center, and sponsored an Easter Party for area children. This year, we plan to place an emphasis on support to the local homeless shelter. In addition, we’ll be scheduling intermittent “Faith & Cinema” nights, during which we will combine thought-provoking films with pizza and good conversation.

God’s Kitchen Crew

It’s back! This popular program returns to Old South with games, snacks, and mission work, too! Once each month, children in grades 2 through 5 are invited to join us after school for an afternoon in the church kitchen and Vestry. We’ll gather at 3:00 pm to bake delicious cookies for the monthly Community Lunch (cookies will be frozen until needed). Then, as the cookies cool, it’s all games and crafts until 4:45 pm. *In general, we’ll meet on the first Tuesday of each month (except for September, when we’ll meet on the 9th).*

Acolyte Program

Children in grades 3 through 6 are invited to serve as acolytes, bringing God’s light into our sanctuary at the start of each worship service. We will offer an acolyte training session in September during the Sunday School hour. Throughout the year, children can sign up to participate via the “*Old South Kids This Week*” e-mail newsletter.

Old South Movie Studio

New this fall! Here’s your chance to be a Hollywood star! Once a month our pre-K through 6th graders are invited to learn the stories of our faith by acting out and filming Old Testament stories. With costumes, backdrops, and highly unusual props, we’ll create a collection of short films, then weave them together to produce a masterpiece, which will premier next May.

Music, Art and More

As in years past, we offer opportunities for children and teens to participate in several music programs. All children up to grade 8 have a role in the annual **Christmas Pageant**, and many help provide music, too. In addition, throughout the school year, we encourage our children and youth to offer music selections as part of the Sunday worship service. Look for details in upcoming issues of “*Old South Kids This Week*” e-mail newsletter.

High School Mission Trip to Boston

We plan to return to Boston in March to serve the homeless population through Ecclesia Ministries’ CityReach program. Last year’s trip was a powerful opportunity to better understand our role in serving individuals who are struggling to obtain food, shelter, and safety. To participate, students will need to commit to fundraising activities and other preparations prior to the trip. Students in grades 9 - 12 are encouraged to join us.

As always, we encourage you to send us your comments, questions, and suggestions regarding Old South childrens’ programs. You may contact me, Jodie Gunther, director of programs for children and youth, at home (778-8515) or by email (jgunther@beeline-online.net). You can also contact Rina Bardo, chair of the Christian Education Committee, or Amanda Hilton and Karri McCarthy, Sunday School Superintendents; the church office phone number is 778-0424. Your feedback will enable us to prepare programs that help our children experience the love of God---and share this love with others.

Best Wishes,

Jodie Gunther

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2014--FALL SEMESTER

Sunday, September 7

Welcome Home Sunday

Tues., September 9

God's Kitchen Crew 3:00 pm

Sunday, September 14

9:45 am Sunday School (acolyte training for grades 3 - 6), BBC (gr. 7 - 9)

10:45 am Old South Movie Studio (pre-k through 6)

Sunday, September 21

9: 45 am Sunday School, BBC (gr. 7 -9)

11:00 am Senior High Youth Group (gr. 10 - 12)

Sunday, September 28

9:45 am Sunday School, BBC (gr. 7 - 9)

11: 00 am Middler Youth Group (gr. 6 - 9)

Sunday, October 5--Communion Sunday

9: 30 am SKiT (Sunday Kids' Theater in Chapel)

9:30 am Post-Confirmation Forum

10:45 am Old South Movie Studio (pre-k through 6)

Tues., October 7

God's Kitchen Crew 3:00 pm

Sunday, October 12

9: 45 am Sunday School, BBC (gr. 7 -9)

no after-church youth activities this day

Sunday, October 19

9: 45 am Sunday School, BBC (gr. 7 -9)

11:00 am Senior High Youth Group (gr 10 - 12)

Sunday, October 26

9:45 am Sunday School, BBC (gr. 7 - 9)

11: 00 am Middler Youth Group (gr. 6 - 9)

Sunday, November 2--Communion Sunday

9: 30 am SKiT (Sunday Kids' Theater in Chapel)

9:30 am Post-Confirmation Forum

10:45 am Old South Movie Studio (pre-k through 6)

Tuesday, November 4

God's Kitchen Crew 3:00 pm

Sunday, November 9

9: 45 am Sunday School, BBC (gr. 7 -9)

11:00 am Senior High Youth Group

Sunday, November 16

9:45 am Sunday School, BBC (gr. 7 - 9)

11: 00 am Middler Youth Group (gr. 6 - 9)

Sunday, November 23

Thanksgiving Basket Sunday--Mission event for grades pre-k through 9

Sunday, November 30

no children and youth programs this day

Tuesday, December 2

God's Kitchen Crew 3:00 pm

Sunday, December 7 --Communion

9: 30 am SKiT (Sunday Kids' Theater in Chapel)

9:30 am Post-Confirmation Forum

10:45 am Old South Movie Studio (pre-k through 6)

Sunday, December 14

9:45 am-- pageant rehearsal for pre-K through 6, BBC (gr. 7 - 9)

11:00 am --combined Middler and Senior Youth Group

Saturday, December 20

9:00 am-- pageant dress rehearsal, with hot chocolate and doughnuts

Sunday, December 21

PAGEANT SUNDAY