



the Parent LINK

Children's Ministry Edition



November 2011

St. Barnabas UMC

5011 W. Pleasant Ridge Rd.

Arlington, TX 76016



POWERSOURCE

ASK GOD:

1. To help you recognize and nurture your children's talents and gifts.
2. To assure each of your children that God has made them special.
3. To show all family members how they can best use their gifts to glorify God.

Be Grateful for God-Given Gifts

God has blessed each of us with traits, talents, and spiritual gifts that make us special. Just as we thank God for our material and physical blessings, we should also offer gratitude for our unique gifts and abilities.

As Thanksgiving approaches, take time to consider which spiritual gifts God has given each of your family members. Observe them as they interact with others and perform tasks. What excites and satisfies your kids? What challenges them or makes them proud? Offer choices and don't compare children's strengths or interests to other people's. Finally, provide varied opportunities for kids to use their gifts and to grow passionate about serving. Evaluate what they like best about each experience and why.

For a biblical primer on spiritual gifts, read passages such as Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31; and Ephesians 4:11-16. Share some of these verses with your children and get their opinions about which gifts they think they have—or would like to develop.

INSIGHTS

- 68% of Christians say they've heard of spiritual gifts.
- The most commonly claimed spiritual gifts are teaching (9%), service (8%), and faith (7%). The least commonly claimed spiritual gifts are leadership (2%) and evangelism (1%).
- Gifts people claim that aren't listed in Bible passages about spiritual gifts include singing, patience, happiness, creativity, and health.

(Barna Research Group)



“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. ...Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 4:10-11)

Instead of burying our talents (see Matthew 25:14-30), we should be grateful for them and use them to serve God and other people.

TEACHABLE MOMENTS

1. Variety Is the Spice of Life—During family outings at museums, concerts, and sporting events, discuss the wide range of talents that people have. Emphasize that all gifts are special—and that the world would be boring if everyone excelled in the same areas.

2. Use 'Em or Lose 'Em—After you help children identify their talents and spiritual gifts, help them put them into practice. Especially watch for ways kids can apply their gifts at church, such as singing in a children’s choir, helping in the nursery, or preparing goodies for homebound members.



3. Thank the Giver—During prayer times, encourage children to thank God not only for their physical blessings but also for their spiritual gifts. Ask God for wisdom to use the gifts in ways that honor him.

Start a conversation about gifts and gratitude by asking these questions:

1. What special talents and abilities do you think God has given you? How do you thank God for those gifts?
2. What are some ways you can praise God by using your talents?
3. How can you express gratitude for other people’s talents—and encourage them to use their gifts wisely?

FAMILY EXPERIENCE

Try these fun activities to express gratitude for the gifts God has given each of your family members.

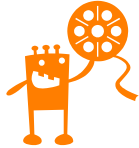
• **Grateful Game**— Play a game of Hot Potato with a twist. Sit in a circle, play praise music, and pass around a gourd or other Thanksgiving decoration. Pause the music at varying intervals. When the music stops, the person with the object must say one talent or gift he or she is thankful for. Play until everyone has several chances to thank God, the giver of all good things.

To add more challenge, throw the object across the circle instead of passing it. This adds an element of surprise because people won’t know if they’ll have the object when the music stops. For even more excitement, use three or four objects rotating in assigned directions. Players will have to stay sharp—and think of even more gifts for which to be grateful.

• **Amazing Bodies**—Have each family member draw a gingerbread-cookie-type person and draw arrows from different parts of the body to the outer rim of the paper. Say: “From the head, write words or draw pictures that describe what you like to learn about. From the hands, things you like to do. From the feet, places you like to go. From the stomach, things you like to eat, and so on.” Read aloud Psalm 139:14.



Form a circle and link arms. Have family members say in unison, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made!" Then have everyone raise their hands and close in a prayer of thanks for the wonderful bodies God has given us.



MEDIA MADNESS



MOVIES

Movie: *The Muppets*

Genre: Family comedy

Rating: PG (for some mild rude humor)



Cast: Jason Segel, Amy Adams, Kermit the Frog, Miss Piggy

Synopsis: The beloved Muppets reunite—and recruit some fans—to save their old theater from oil tycoon Tex Richman.

Our Take: Parents who grew up with the Muppets will enjoy introducing their children to these colorful characters. Some humor will likely be over young viewers' heads; for example, Animal is now at an anger-management rehab center for celebrities.

MUSIC

Artist: Jamie Grace

Album: *One Song at a Time*



Artist Info: This 19-year-old singer and songwriter from Atlanta is the newest addition to Toby Mac's Christian music label. She's a featured artist and speaker on Women of Faith's Revolve Tour. Grace also is studying children's ministry. She was diagnosed with Tourette syndrome at age 11.

Summary: Grace's sound is a combination of pop, folk, and hip-hop. In her first single, "Hold Me," Grace sings about loving God "more than the words in my brain can express."

Our Take: Preteens (and their parents) will enjoy Grace's refreshing sound and heartfelt lyrics about relating to God.



CULTURE & TRENDS

- Competitive carpooling is a hot topic in some neighborhoods. Status-conscious parents are racing to fill their minivans and SUVs with kids they want their children to be seen with. (*USA Today*)
- Professor Sheri L. Parks says the hit TV show *Modern Family*, which satirizes family dynamics and relationships, "sets the expectation that nothing is sacred or even sincere" about families. (*washingtonpost.com*)

GAMES & SITES

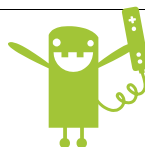
Title	Content	Rating & Platform
<i>Tetris Axis</i>	This new release of the classic shape-stacking game contains more than 20 game modes, including marathon, fever, and tower climber.	E; Nintendo 3DS
<i>Kirby's Return to Dreamland</i>	The popular character returns with some new abilities. Players help Kirby rebuild an alien spaceship so the aliens can return to their home planet.	E10+; Wii
<i>BAM! Body and Mind</i> www.bam.gov	At this free site, kids learn about eating well, exercising, handling stress, and more. Content includes games, virtual tours, and a fitness calendar.	Geared toward kids ages 9-13

QUICK STATS

- 85% of American parents feel it's important to tell their kids they're smart (*parenting.com*)
- 69% of families have moved to a new home at least once in their children's lifetime. When choosing a new home, 61% of parents say a safe neighborhood is most important. One-third of children want their own bedrooms, 27% wish for a neighborhood with kids their age, and 25% want a big backyard. (*Denver Post*)



This page is designed to help educate parents and isn't meant to endorse any movie, music, or product. Our prayer is that you'll make informed decisions about what your children watch, listen to, and wear.



November



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 SLAM JAM MPKids and GLOW 6:00 to 7:30 pm	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 SLAM JAM 1 st -6 th Grade 6:00 to 7:30 pm	10	11	12 Parent Night Out 6 - 9 pm Register at www.sbumc.org
13 OCC Shoeboxes due Confirmation Paperwork Due	14 	15	16 "Financial Peace" Preview 6 to 6:30 pm SLAM JAM 1 st -6 th Grade 6:00 to 7:30 nm	17	18	19 Route 56 Saturday Night Fellowship 6-8 pm. \$3
20 Church Thanksgiving Meal 12:00 noon	21	22	23 Church Office Closed NO EVE CLASSES	24 Thanksgiving	25 Church Office Closed	26
27	28	29	30 SLAM JAM 1 st -6 th Grade 6:00 to 7:30 pm			

Operation Christmas Child

St. Barnabas UMC would like to invite your family to participate in our annual shoebox mission project for Operation Christmas Child. More than 6 million children felt the joy of receiving a Christmas present last year as Samaritan's Purse distributed gift-filled shoeboxes in about 95 countries wrecked by war, poverty, and disaster. This was made possible by the millions of individuals, churches, and groups that prepared the boxes. Operation Christmas Child does

much more than just deliver shoeboxes. It reaches children and families with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Countless lives are changed. We need your help in touching more lives in this next year. For more information, you may pick up a brochure from the bulletin board outside E111 or in the atrium. Help us bring Christ to children around the world this Christmas!

Shoeboxes are due in the atrium by November 13th.

Mission Possible Kids (1st-6th Graders)

MPKids November meeting is November 2 at 6 pm. We are having an Operation Christmas Child shoebox packing party. What do I bring to the meeting? A 4 x 6 or smaller picture of yourself and your shoebox items in a sack. Need some ideas? Go to the OCC website and click on how to pack a shoebox. <http://www.samaritanspurse.org/index.php/occ>

Parent Night Out – November 12th 6 to 9 pm

Need a night out? Register your kids for Parent Night Out. Go to www.sbumc.org to register online. \$15 for first child. \$10 each child after that. Payment must be received before PNO. **No money taken at the door.** Drop off payment outside E111 before November 11. Contact Krista Robison for questions at kkbnce@sbcglobal.net.

Route 56 News – November 19th, 6:00 to 8:00 pm (Cost \$3 cash)

Last month Route 56 was an off-site event. We had a blast playing whirlyball and lasertag! Our November Route 56 Saturday night fellowship will be here at St. Barnabas. We will eat pizza, play games, and have a great time! Invite a 5th or 6th grade friend and join us for a night of fun!

Route 56 Sunday morning lessons – We just finished a unit on School Days that discussed topics of **Acceptance** - Bottom Line: Accept everyone and reject no one. Bible: Matthew 8:1-4; **Popularity** - Bottom Line: Make the right choice, not the popular one. Bible: Daniel 1, 3 & 6; **Friendship** - Bottom Line: Be a loyal friend and choose loyal friends. Bible: 1 Samuel 19 & 20; and **Appearance** - Bible Passage: Psalm 139: 13-16, 1 Samuel 16:7. Our current lessons through November are "What is the Bible All About?" - Why should I believe what the Bible says? The Bible has something to say to me? Isn't the Bible about old people? Is it worth it to learn the Bible? How do I learn more about the Bible?

Attention 4th and 5th Graders... Save the Date for a Super Fun, Awesome Time at SuperStart Live! February 3 & 4

The nation's BIGGEST Christian Preteen event designed to amplify the call to be a kingdom worker is coming to Arlington, TX! <http://www.ciy.com/superstart>. Registration will be available in December and January with a deadline of January 13. Cost is \$35 for the most awesome weekend ever! Why isn't my 6th grader invited? All 6th graders in confirmation will be on their confirmation retreat that weekend. However, we don't want our 4th and 5th graders to miss out, so Anissa Hartrick will be organizing the trip to the event. We will need chaperones and drivers. More about registration to follow in next month's newsletter. Check it out on the web!

"Financial Peace University" – Preview November 16, 6pm

It is finally here at St. B..."Financial Peace University." Financial stress is a major disruption in many couples' lives. Financial peace seems to be an unattainable goal. But *F. P. University* offers a way out of that stress with practical lessons on eliminating debt, building wealth, giving like never before, and much, much more! It's not just for those who know they need help living within their means but for couples who would like to have a better insight into a peace filled life. Kay and John Petersen are AMAZING leaders and offer experienced leadership to guide you through this life changing course. The classes will take place on Sunday evenings

from 6:00 - 8:00 pm beginning January 8. Childcare will be provided. For more information, plan to attend the **free preview**; Wednesday, November 16th 6:00PM in the sanctuary. Sign ups will begin at the preview and will continue to be available on the church website. For more information contact Decee Horton, 817-483-1667 or decee@sbumc.org or Kay Petersen 817-600-2639. **DO NOT MISS OUT ON THIS AWESOME SEMINAR!** Come check it out November 16. <http://www.daveramsey.com/fpu/home/>

Children's Christmas Eve Nativity Play

We have a Children's Christmas Eve service for children and their families at 5:30 pm. This service is led by the children and includes a nativity play. There are some large speaking parts, minimal speaking parts, and some non-speaking parts. If your child is interested in a part for Christmas Eve, please come by my office (E111) and write down their top three choices or e-mail them to me. The parts are listed on the bulletin board outside E111. Remember that your child must be able to attend the 5:30 service on Christmas Eve AND attend some rehearsals on Sunday afternoons and some Wednesday evening. I will also need some adult or older youth help with rehearsals, staging, costumes, etc... Let me know if you are interested.

6th Grade Confirmation Paperwork Due November 13

We held our parent / student confirmation meeting Sunday, October 23. If you did not attend the meeting, you should have received a packet in the mail. Please let me know if you have any questions. All of the white paperwork is due to me on November 13. You may leave it in the box outside my office E111 or hand it directly to me.

SAVE THE DATE! Children's Christmas Celebration 12/9/11

Let the kids come to our Christmas Celebration Pajama Party while you do some shopping. Friday, December 9 from 6 to 9 pm. This year....The Amazing Mark Winters magic act, crafts, music, games, Santa, food, and more!!

Teachers / Nursery Workers Needed

I am still looking for teachers to help with the children's ministry area. The three and four year old class still needs a teacher. The Boardwalk Sunday school area for 1st - 4th graders needs teachers willing to teach 3 weeks out of a 6 week rotation. Nursery Workers needed! If you are interested in some part time work as a sitter for our St. Barnabas nursery, please contact Krista Robison or Cathy Smith. We are looking for people available on Sunday mornings and other possible evening or afternoon times during the week. Must be 18 years of age or older.