

## Youth News...

It's that wonderful time when an old year passes and the new one comes roaring in with promise of new friends, new games, new times of laughter, and a new growth in faith! We at the Square hope that you can make the church your home away from home, a place where you can just be you!

If you have any questions, concerns or fashion tips then please contact Caitlin, Director of Youth Ministry. We hope to see you out and about in 2009!

Email:

[cbelanger@wsquare.ca](mailto:cbelanger@wsquare.ca)

Phone:

(905) 634-1849 ext.15)

## What we're about

- Relationship and community!
- Fun and exciting programs!
- Culturally relevant ministry!
- Lasting memories and moments!

**"God is with you  
wherever you go."  
Joshua 1:9**

## Youth at Wellington Square... Ready, Set, Go!

**Edge...** Sunday nights from 7-9pm for High Schoolers! Play games, chat about life and searching for answers!

**Rockpile...** Calling all grade 7 and 8ers! Slide on down most Wednesday nights from 7:00 -8:30 p.m. to join us for games, laughter and good times.

## Mexico Mission 2010...

March Break 2010 we are sending down 22 teens and 7 leaders to Ensenada, Mexico to build two houses with YUGO Ministries. If you would be interested in finding out how to support your fellow teens with donations, fundraising, prayers, laughs, etc. then please get in touch!

## Thought...

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." (Matthew 6:33-34)

## Compassion...

Caring enough to do something about someone else's need.

## Praise God ...

JOY: "I give You praise, O Lord, because you have granted me eternal blessings and made me glad with the joy of your presence."

FORGIVING: "I want to bless You with praise, Father, because you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love."

## Wisdom...

Finding out what you should do and doing it.

"And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him." (Luke 2:40)



WINTER 2010  
Children's Ministry @ Wellington Square United Church

## From My Heart to Yours...♥

The women's group I co-lead has been studying the book of Philippians this past fall. You'd think with only four chapters it would be easy to sip through. When unpacking scripture God reveals truth. Healing can occur, a light bulb can go off in your head and accountability for how you behave and act can be offered. This is all good and needed.

I'm sooooo grateful for this group. Even though I'm one of the leaders... I'm constantly challenged and inspired by their wisdom and encouragement. Small Group Ministry is more than joining a group. It's a chance to share life with one another seeking God's will together. An opportunity to challenge and pray for each other in good times and bad. I love being a part of their lives and look forward to it everytime.

I love sharing life with children. When a child begins to understand God's love for him/her... the faith seed has been planted. In order for a plant to grow and nourish and bear fruit, it needs love, care, food and water. Jesus said in John 6:48 "I am the Bread of life"; in John 14:6 "I am the way, the truth and the life"; in John 4:10 Jesus says "He would bring living water that could forever quench a person's thirst for God." Jesus is the Messiah. Jesus is the way. John 3:16... "For God so loved the world that He gave His only son, that whoever believes in Him would not die, but have eternal life." All we need is Jesus.

Our Children's Ministry team work hard at welcoming and valuing children and focussing on providing a fun, safe and friendly place where we learn how much Jesus loves us. GraceLand is a large group, however, we're very intentional on creating small groups within our large group to boost exploration and engagement in God's word. We provide mid-week ministries where kids can further connect with one another and build on friendships. Our Faith at Home events offer opportunities for the whole family to strengthen their faith in Christ and our JAM events are just a whole lot of fun. We also encourage mission and outreach projects throughout the year.

One cannot help but get excited about a child's faith. It is an honor and a delight to serve in kid's ministry and be a part of their faith journey. Proverbs 22:6 says, teach your children the ways of the LORD and when they are older they will remain upon it.

My hope and prayer is that you will continue to find joy and peace in Christ and that if you're not already sharing your life with us at Wellington Square United Church...you would consider doing so. You're needed here. Not just in 2010 but till Jesus comes again.

Bless you, **Heather Mackey**  
[hmackey@wsquare.ca](mailto:hmackey@wsquare.ca) • 905-634-1849 Ext. 21

## GraceLand Quote

"I can do all things through Christ." ~ Philippians 4:13

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### ★ Boys Sports Night ★

**Tuesdays 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. • Gym**  
For boys ages 5 to 8 that want to hang out with dads and have fun playing games.

### ★ GraceLand Dancers ★

**Sundays 10:30 - 11:15 • Room 5**  
Ages 4 and up can "get down" to the hip & happenin' sounds of today's worship music.

### ★ GraceLand Puppet/ Drama Team ★

**Sundays 10:30 • Room 1**  
Grade 6 & up. Come try your creative hand in this ministry.

### ★ GraceNotes ★

**Mondays 5:00 p.m. • Room 5**  
Choir for JK to Grade 3.

**"With God, all things are possible."  
Matthew 19:26**

# Parents Connections

## Parent 411

### Faith at Home Events 2010

Jan. 24 - Prayer (Toddler & Preschool)

Feb. 21 - Bibles (Grades 2 & 3)

Mar. 28 - The Big 10 (Grade 1)

May 7 - Music, Media & Me (Grades 4-7)

## God Speaks to Kids

When you start to pray, invite the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts and prayers. Then spend a few minutes waiting in silence and listening to what God has to say.

Here are some ways God may speak to you:

- Sometimes God shows you what He wants you to pray by putting someone's name in your mind, or maybe you'll get a strong feeling about a certain person.
- God may bring a picture of a person you can help.
- God may direct your prayers by bringing a bible verse to your mind.

Remember, God wants you to listen and to obey so that He can use you to do great things for Him.

## Memory verse ...

*"We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him."*

Romans 8:28

**Bottom Line:** Whatever happens, remember what Jesus did for you.

Hope is believing that something good can come out of something bad.

### Explore these questions:

- What do you think are some of the most powerful things God has done?

## Leader's corner... Prayer Prints

Trace the hand of each child onto a separate sheet of paper. Invite kids to sign their names inside their handprint and to add any prayer request they have. As you collect the handprints, promise to pray for each child. Let kids know that as you pray for them, you'll be placing your hand over theirs!



### Kid Quote:

*A preschool teacher told her class that God is always with us and we can call upon him any time. One boy quickly raised his hand and asked, "What's God's phone number?"*

## Prayer... Prayer is talking and listening to God.

Prayer can change:

- You
- Your relationship with God
- Your relationship with others
- Your circumstances

Talk about it.. Talking to God changes things.

- What kinds of things does God want you to talk to Him about?
- What do you do if God seems slow in answering your prayers?

## "I Love..." Bookmarks

For Valentine's Day, create a handmade bookmark that expresses qualities you love about your child. Cut a 2x8-inch strip of card stock and print your child's name at the top. Then list five or six sentiments that describe your child, such as "I appreciate when you help me with the dishes" or "I love your hugs" on the strip. Affirm the child's faith in at least one sentiment, such as, "You worship God with your whole heart" or "I appreciate how you always pray for others."



Give the bookmark to your child on Valentine's Day as a constant reminder that you think the world of him or her.

# God's Word in Action in Graceland...

What we are learning....

### January 2010

#### Theme: God 1st

◆ **Focus:** For kids to understand how to put God first in their lives with everything! Exodus 20:3

◆ **Focus:** For kids to understand how to give to God 1st! Matthew 6:2

◆ **Focus:** For kids to understand that by putting God first with everything includes not just listening to His word but by doing what it says. James 1:22

### February 2010

#### Theme: People Jesus Met

◆ **Focus:** We all need to keep growing in and seeking God's truth – coming to GraceLand (church) each week is an important part of that growth. Luke 2:39-42, 47

◆ **Focus:** John the Baptist. Mark 1:4-11

◆ **Focus:** Jesus Calling His Disciples. Matthew 4:18-22

◆ **Focus:** Jesus heals a paralytic...don't let anything stop you from bringing all your problems to Jesus, he heals us inside and forgives us. Mark 2:1-5

**Pick up your Faith at Home activity sheets in Graceland for your whole family to talk about around the dinner table!**

## God Time

Kindness is showing others they are valuable by how you treat them, yet sometimes we treat our most valuable people the worst! Since your family will still love you – even when your behaviour stinks – you might be able to get away with being unkind. But God wants you to choose to show your family that you really value them.

Cut a heart shape out of a piece of red paper. Do something kind for your mom and give her the heart. Tell her to "pass it on" the heart and the act of kindness and how many times the heart passes through your family in a week!

**Thank God for His kindness to you.**

# What's Up....

### Thursday, January 28th,

SALT students, leaders, parents will be coordinating and preparing a hot meal for Kerr St. Mission. Interested? Contact Heather Mackey hmackey@wsquare.ca or Lisa Lunski-Wood at lialunski@sympatico.ca.



## We have a seat saved for you.

You won't want to miss this coming attraction!

### GraceLand Leadership Development Event Saturday, February 20, 2010

**8:15 a.m. - Breakfast served by SALT class**

**8:30 a.m. - 12:00 Noon**

*We can't do it alone but we can do it together, with God's help. Come join us for this exciting event.*

**We've got a seat reserved for you.**

RSVP - Heather Mackey 905-634-1849 Ext. 21  
Email: hmackey@wsquare.ca

*Let us know if you will need child care.*

## JAM (Jesus and Me)

Friday, April 23, 2010 • 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

## WS's Got Talent

Get your act together to entertain your friends. Singers, dancers, musicians, hidden talent, comics, etc. ... We encourage ALL!!

Kids and families can sign up to share their talent (individual or group). Watch GraceLand's bulletin board for more info.

Children ages 6 & under MUST be accompanied by an adult.

### Come and SHINE in the spotlight and then....

Create a Fun-Sundae

Bring a toonie to create a super-yummy ice cream sundae.

Mmmmmm! Yummy! **Bring a friend and your family!!!!**