

THE PRESTON JUNIOR PILGRIM

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

"God is love." 1 John 4:8

THIS MORNING on the way into church, my mind was engaged thinking about what I would write for my newsletter article this morning. I stopped at Dunkin' Donuts like I do almost every morning to get a reduced fat blueberry muffin. The woman there was telling me about 4 new muffins coming out that will have half the calories and she was thinking about me and next week when they start baking them she was going to give me some small ones to sample. I said to her, "you're always so good to me and I appreciate it." She replied, "I love you!" I was quite taken back and thought about it all the way to church.

SOME OF MY THOUGHTS: *Wow, how could this be, she doesn't even know me.*
How surprised I was about how this small act of kindness changed my day.
How good it feels when someone values us and our opinion.

THEN I THOUGHT about our Nursery 3 & 4's in Sunday School and how two children will raise their hand to wear a big heart around their neck and point to a large picture and will say the Class Goal (4's) that is printed above, but bears repeating: *"God is love."* It is written in their hearts at a young impressionable age!

IT DAWNED ON ME that God knows everything about us, even the number of hairs on our heads (Matthew 10:30), knows that we sometimes fall short on His best plan for us and **GOD** loves us more than we can imagine! When we err, God is a loving Father waiting for us to return to Him! Sometimes I wonder why we worry and fret with this **Blessed Assurance**...when we feel weak, to remember with God who is strong, we are strong. Let us remember daily to walk close with Thee.

IF THE WOMAN at the donut shop changed my day with three little words, "I love you", I wondered how much better each moment of the day could be for each of us if we had **Just A Closer Walk With Thee**. As Christians it should always be our goal to do just that. God is there for us 24/7. It doesn't get much better than that!

May the **SON**shine through me,

Sandy Dudek

P.S. Please take a few minutes today? Read 1 John 4:7-21

I hope it lifts up your day as it did mine!

MAY BIBLE VERSES

Students Nursery 3-Grade 2

“When I am afraid, I will trust in you.” (Psalm 56:3)

Students Grades 3-12:

“I can do everything through him who gives me strength.” Philippians 4:13

PLEASE ENCOURAGE students to learn these verses. To qualify for an award at the end of the year, verses must be correctly recited by the end of each month to a Bible Memory Verse Coordinator assigned by Mrs. Dudek. **The May verse needs to be recited by May 6th to allow time for those receiving a Bible Memory Verses award.** Nursery 3 & 4 students say their verse to the teacher and she will mark them off.

AN OPENING has become available for the youth mission trip July 22-27th. A youth entering grade 9 in the fall or finishing high school this spring who is registered and active in the Sunday School is eligible to attend. This trip is to the Adirondack Mountains in New York. For further details, please speak to the Giulianos or Sandy Dudek. If a teen has never been on the mission trip before, this could be a life changing experience.

AN INVITATION

YOU are cordially invited to attend “**CHILDREN’S DAY**” at Preston Veterans Memorial School

**MAY 20, 2012
10:30 A.M.**

Children of the Sunday School will present their Class Goals and other presentations. Bibles will be presented. This should last one hour.

About 11:45 A.M. the ALL CHURCH picnic will begin.
(Thank you Men’s Group/High School Class)

PARKNG will be in the church parking lot. Food will be served in the pavilion (sunshine) or the Sunday School Hall (rain). Hamburgers, hot dogs, beverages and cake will be provided by The Board of Religious Education. Beans and salad will also be served. There is no cost, **but please sign the sheet on the Information Center bulletin board** so we might plan accordingly.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

A BIG THANK YOU to **Heather Eighme** who did a meaningful presentation to all the children on *Earth Day*, April 22nd. Not only was it an effective presentation, but she brought flowers for each child to plant as well.

THANK YOU to **Cheryl** and **Jerry Giuliano** and the **Sr. Pilgrim Fellowship** for hosting the Easter Egg Hunt. The children had an awesome time on Palm Sunday. We thank the Board of Religious

Education for funding this event. Our youth served deli sandwiches with sides at the semi-annual meeting that were so much appreciated. The profit of \$208.00 benefited the youth mission trip.

THE JUNIOR PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP served as waiters and waitresses at the recent Chicken Pot Pie supper. Tickets were also purchased out of their treasury for them to eat supporting a church fund raiser supper from their lasagna supper earnings. What great things are being taught to our children.

WHO'S GRADUATING?...Please let the church office know so we may send them out a congratulatory letter on behalf of their church.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL... "Adventures on Promise Island"...Where kids discover God's lifesaving love! It is scheduled for July 16-20th from 9-11:30 a.m. Many adult and teen volunteers are still needed to teach, serve as aides, serve snacks and help with crafts. Call the church office to volunteer. Sandy Dudek and Judy Ladegard will be directing it.

WHAT A PRIVILEGE *it has been for me to teach the children another year. They are awesome kids with much to offer. I know, they who carry Christ, in their heart will be a blessing to a world so in need of Christ's love. My prayer is that they will be at summer worship whenever possible. A Children's message will be prepared for them.*

With love and friendship, *Sandy Dudek, D.R.E.*