



Children & Families Ministry Newsletter

Children in our Worship?

My vision is that churches will welcome children in Jesus' name, with a mature understanding that children are welcome in the kingdom of heaven and belong in our communities of faith.

Some of the indicators I look for in churches are:

- that children are welcomed and spiritually nurtured in our congregations;
- that the presence of children in worship is valued and encouraged;
- that their parents are supported and encouraged as they bring up their children;
- that churches reach out to families and children in their local communities with the good news of Jesus' love.

The bit that many churches seem to struggle with is how to value and encourage the presence of children in worship.

I often think of Jesus' amazing words in Matthew 21.15-16, where he is quoting Psalm 8.2 in response to the indignation of the Jewish leaders in reaction to the children noisily praising Jesus in the temple. Whenever someone is telling me why having children in church every Sunday wouldn't work in their parish, I quietly wonder what

The bit that many churches seem to struggle with is how to value and encourage the presence of children in worship.

Jesus would say.

I like this quote from childrenatworship.org: "Children belong in church, and if the design of the worship doesn't serve them, as full members of the community,

then we need to change our liturgies so that they do. It is not only possible, but desirable, to develop worship which works for the entire community. People have jokingly referred to our children as the 'canaries' of worship. If the children are bored in church, then chances are, the adults are bored as well."



Without being as radical as adopting the "Messy Church" approach for the main Sunday service, with some thought, good will, imagination and some good resources to get you started, it is possible to include and engage children and adults together in our corporate worship. Some of the ways that we can open our worship to children include:

- being willing to make our worship a little less formal and more multi-sensory;
- finding ways of incorporating times of movement and interaction into our liturgy;
- creating opportunities for children to participate in the tasks of worship alongside the grown-ups;
- being willing to share the responsibility of helping the children participate (not just expecting their parents to keep them quiet).

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Anglican Diocese of Melbourne

Children & Families Ministry Newsletter

Term 2 2010

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Kindergarten Connections

When I began at St Augustine's in Mont Albert North, I knew nothing about kindergartens or how they interacted with the church. I was unsure of my role as president. What's more, the kindergarten felt the same about me.

Two years on, we have a sound working relationship that has opened a number of doors for both the church and the kindergarten. We refer to what takes place on the property as "Team St Augustine's". By this short statement, we announce to the community that while different events take place here during the week, they are all linked together under one heading: *St Augustine's*.

This relationship with the kindergarten has come about through the clarification of role and vision. We include the kindergarten in our vision planning because it is a key stakeholder occupying buildings on the church property. When we began to pray and plan for our future, we shared our vision with the kindergarten committee and when we begin to develop our vision, we will have a kindergarten representative working with us.

We are planning to modify a section of the church building, which will alter the landscape alongside the church building. We see this as an

opportunity to extend the kindergarten outdoor playground. In the future, we have a larger vision to redevelop our hall into an education centre that includes upgraded facilities for the kindergarten, children's library, home-work club as well as office space, coffee lounge and hall facilities.

In addition, our playgroups feed into the kindergarten. I meet with the playgroup families every week and also lead the mainly music program. As these families progress into the kindergarten phase of education, we have a connection with both children and parents.

The Mont Albert North workforce is predominantly professionals, associates and business people. In view of this, I have taken additional studies in business management and leadership to become familiar with their lives and language, and to display a standard for the church they can understand and respect.

Our Mission Statement at St Augustine's is "Loving God and Neighbour". Our Mission is to our community, which is becoming younger in age as new families move into the region. These families be-



The Mont Albert community has new families moving into the local area.

long to the generations the church has not been able to successfully reach. Through our relationship with the kindergarten, we are able to

engage with these families at an entry level. The children know me as the man who works in the church next door who talks to God. A number of the families are relieved to find a priest who wears jeans and a t-shirt and plays

rock n roll on an electric guitar. Another group are relieved to find that I'm a normal human being...

I often remind myself of the old saying: "Be careful how you live. You may be the only Bible some people will ever read." I hope and pray that through our relationship with the kindergarten, the families that connect and attend are getting to know Christ through *our* lives until the day comes when they may know him directly.

Revd Tim Waghorn, St Augustine's, Mont Albert North

These families belong to the generations the church has not been able to successfully reach.

Children in our Worship? - from front page

It is **not too hard** to include and cater for children. Churches that have made a deliberate choice to do so find that it enriches the whole worshipping community so much they wonder why it took so long to try it.

Do the words of Jesus in the temple give you cause to ponder what

he might be saying to your church about the place of children in your worshipping community? I would love to have a conversation with you about where your church is on this journey.

Dorothy Hughes

(See back page for contact details)



"From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise."

Saturday 31 July
9am - 4pm

overflow

A children, youth and families training event

Program

- 9.00am Registration & Resource Viewing
 9.30am Introduction & Keynote - Dave Tolputt (SU State Director)
 10.05am Electives Session 1
 • Taking context seriously (C1) • i-pods, i-phones, i-tunes...i-worship (W1) 
 • Faith, families, kids and school (E1) • Managing change successfully (L1)
 • Using the Bible and prayer (P1) 
 11.20am Morning Tea
 11.45am Electives Session 2
 • Enculturated faith formation (C2) • Worship and disciple-making (W2)
 • Engaging faith in secondary schools (E2) 
 • Telling Bible stories well (P2) 
 • Responding healthily to conflict (L2)
 1.00pm Lunch
 1.45pm Electives Session 3
 • Issues, challenges and responses (C3) 
 • Multi-Age & Messier Church (W3) 
 • Faith worth sharing (E3) 
 • Self-care/Avoiding burnout (L3)
 • Managing tricky behaviours (P3)
 3.00pm Afternoon Tea
 3.15pm Reflection & Wrap Up
 3.45pm Finish  More suitable for
Emerging Leaders

Venue: Centre for Theology & Ministry 1 Morrison Close, Parkville
Melway ref: 2B D3

Time: 9am - 4pm

Date: Saturday 31 July 2010

Cost: **Adult Leaders**
if registered as
 - an individual by Fri July 21 \$40
 - a group of 5 or more Adults by Fri July 21 \$35 p/person
 - an individual after Fri July 21 \$50

Emerging Leaders (aged 12-18) \$10
 NB. One FREE Emerging Leader registration is available per paid Adult Leader registration

Who: For all people engaged in ministry with children, youth and families
- including ministers and church leaders

Your registration by 21 July 2010 would be appreciated

For More Information: Children and Families Ministry or Youth Ministry
Ph: 03 9340 8815 Email: info@ctm.uca.edu.au
Website: <http://ctm.uca.edu.au>

Overflowing with inspiration, ideas and resources for your ministry with Children & Families and Youth & Young Adults. **Overflow** is focused on five streams: *Cross Cultural Ministry, Worship, Evangelism, Leadership and Practical Skills.*

Overflow offers something for anyone – including ministers/pastors, worship leaders, ministry leaders and program leaders – involved in ministry with Children & Families and Youth & Young Adults. This year, for the first time, there will also be electives intentionally accessible to **Emerging Leaders** (look for ). An **Emerging Leader** is someone who is aged 12-18.

At **Overflow** you will have the opportunity to:

- ... purchase great resources
- ... be engaged and inspired by our speaker **Dave Tolputt** (State Director of Scripture Union)
- ... connect and network with others serving Children & Families and Youth & Young Adults
- ... choose 3 out of a range of 15 electives. Presenters include **Di Appleby** (ACCESS Ministries), **Beth Barnett** (Baptist Union of Victoria), **Chris Bairstow** (Doncaster East Uniting), **Jenny Byrnes** (Director of the Centre for Theology and Ministry), **Phil Day** (SU, Children & Families Specialist), **Rod Dungan** (School Chaplain), **Age Greenwood** (Young Adult Discipleship Educator), **Drew Hanna** (UCA Youth Ministry), **Don Ikitolagi** (Director of Cross-Cultural Mission, UC), **Naomi Swindon** (Scripture Union Victoria) and **Robin Yang** (Korean Church of Melbourne).

Registration form

Name _____

Free **Emerging Leader** name (If applicable) _____

Congregation (inc Denomination) _____

CRE Team (if applicable) _____

Address _____
P/code _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Emerging Leader Email: _____

Dietary Requirements: _____

Emerging Leader Dietary Requirements: _____

Please select your electives:

	Adult Leader choice	Emerging Leader choice
Workshop 1:	_____	_____
Workshop 2:	_____	_____
Workshop 3:	_____	_____

Payment Details

I am registering as Adult Leader price **Emerging Leader** price
 Adult + one free **Emerging Leader**

I enclose \$ _____

I am paying by: cheque money order
 (payable to: Uniting Church in Australia)
 credit card (Mastercard, Visa)

Name on card _____

Card no _____ / _____ / _____ / _____

Expiry date ____ / ____ Signature: _____

Your registration by 21 July 2010 would be appreciated
 Overflow Training Day, Centre for Theology & Ministry, 1 Morrison Close, Parkville,
 3052 Fax: 03 9340 8805

Online registration preferred <http://overflow2010.goregister.com.au>

Workshop Choices

CROSS CULTURAL MINISTRY

Exploring some of the issues, challenges and possibilities of cross cultural ministry, these electives provide the opportunity to engage with those immersed in this vital area of ministry.

- **C1 Taking context seriously**
Naomi Swindon (SU, Youth Specialist)
- **C2 Enculturated faith formation**
Rod Dungan (School Chaplain)
- **C3 Issues, challenges and responses**
Robin Yang (Korean Church of Melbourne) & Don Ikitolagi (Director of Cross-Cultural Mission, UC)

WORSHIP

Encouraging participants to think more carefully about the shaping of worship, these electives provide ideas, resources and practical tips for helping all ages worship.

- **W1 i-pods, i-phones, i-tunes... i-worship**
Drew Hanna (UC Youth Ministry)
- **W2 Worship and disciple-making**
Beth Barnett (Baptist Union of Vic)
- **W3 Multi-Age and Messier Church**
Chris Bairstow (Doncaster East Uniting)

EVANGELISM

Allowing participants to reflect on faith-sharing, faith-listening and faith-exploring in the school, home and other contexts, these electives challenge, provoke and encourage good practice.

- **E1 Faith, families, kids and school**
Phil Day (SU Children & Families Specialist)
- **E2 Engaging faith in secondary schools**
Naomi Swindon (SU Youth Specialist)
- **E3 Faith worth sharing**
Age Greenwood (UC Young Adult Ministry)

LEADERSHIP

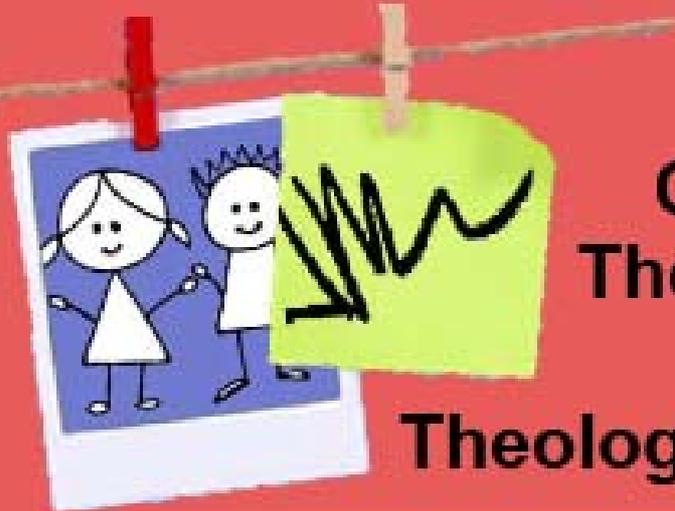
Exposing participants to principles and practices that will enhance their ability to lead, these electives assist leaders of any experience level in the development of sustainable, effective leadership.

- **L1 Managing change successfully**
David Tolputt (SU State Director)
- **L2 Responding healthily to conflict**
Jenny Byrnes (Executive Director, Centre for Theology and Ministry)
- **L3 Self-care/Avoiding burnout**
Jenny Byrnes (Executive Director, Centre for Theology and Ministry)

PRACTICAL SKILLS

Modelling creative ideas for those involved in ministry with Children and Families, these electives will introduce fantastic ideas for the CRE, congregational, after-school, holiday program and Playgroup contexts.

- **P1 Using the Bible and prayer**
Di Appleby (ACCESS Ministries)
- **P2 Telling Bible stories well**
Phil Day (SU Children & Families Specialist)
- **P3 Managing tricky behaviours**
Beth Barnett (Baptist Union of Vic)



Child Theology, Theology of Child and Theologies of Children

The Victorian Children's Ministry Network invites you to an evening with Dr. Keith White – co-founder and current chairperson of the international Child Theology Movement.

Child Theology, Theology of Child and Theologies of Children

Date: Tuesday June 22, 2010

Time: 7.30pm – 9.30pm

Venue: SDA Centre, 141 Central Road, Nunawading

Cost: Suggested donation \$10 payable at door

For catering purposes, your RSVP by June 18 would be appreciated.

With the growing interest in theology and children across the globe, this will be a fantastic opportunity to engage with one of the world's foremost advocates and teachers working with this particular aspect of theology.

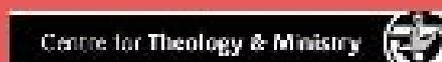
Other events that are part of Keith's visit that you would be most welcome to attend include

Wednesday June 23

10am – 12.30pm Children, Theology, Aid and Development

2pm – 4.30pm Child Theology and Religious Education

Call 9340 8815 or email explore@ctm.uca.edu.au to find out more and/or register for any of these events.



Germ warfare for playgroups - hints for infection control

As we head towards winter, the season of coughs and sniffles, this is a good time to think about how we can minimise the spread of colds and influenza. Young children are notoriously adept at sharing their germs, which is a concern for playgroups and other activities where children are present, not least because there may be another swine flu outbreak over the coming months.



Cuddly toys are important for baby play, but must be washed between sessions

The [Australian Government Health Emergency website](#)* (which gives information and advice about swine flu - H1N1 virus) suggests five simple ways of limiting the spread of any form of influenza:

1. Cover your mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough
2. Wash your hands
3. Don't share personal items
4. Clean surfaces
5. Avoid close contact with others if

you are unwell with flu
Translating this advice to the playgroup context:

1. Provide a box of tissues, a bin lined with a plastic bag for easy disposal of used tissues and a pump-action bottle of alcohol hand wash. Help the children practise how to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue, and remind the adults to be good role models.
2. Encourage frequent hand washing with soap and running water, and provide disposable paper towels. Build hand washing into the playgroup routine - before eating snacks, after messy activities such as painting, playdough, and sandpit.
3. If you have babies at playgroup, decide whether families will bring their own soft toys or if you will share playgroup toys that are washed after each session. Children should eat and drink from their own

food and drink containers, not from a shared plate of fruit, for example.

4. Wipe down hard surfaces (table tops, play equipment such as slides and cubby houses and especially door handles and other traffic areas), with water and detergent before and after sessions.

5. Insist that families stay away if they or their child are unwell. Do not allow families to bring older children to playgroup if they have been kept home from school because they are unwell.

In summary, taking care with personal hygiene and staying home if you are feeling unwell should mean that we can all get on with enjoying our normal activities - including socialising at playgroup and other parish activities.

(*The web address for this site is: <http://www.healthemergency.gov.au/internet/healthemergency/publishing.nsf/Content/protecting>)

Sizzling sausages—building bridges

Just thought you might be interested in how our sausage sizzle at Bunnings in Hawthorn went on Saturday May 1. It was suggested to our playgroup committee that we could do a fundraiser for playgroup by holding a sausage sizzle at Bunnings.

I was really interested from the perspective of building bridges between playgroup parents and church members as well as doing something in the community. So we did it.

It was a fantastic experience of

community. We had a broad cross section of volunteers from church (from both 8am and 10am services)



Cooking sausages together in the Bunnings tent was amazing as church and non-church people met each other and collectively cooked sausages and served

and lots of dads and mums from playgroup. The buzz

the public.

This activity was a great time of fellowship. I highly recommend it to everyone. As a bonus we raised over \$1,600 profit that will go directly to resourcing Little Seeds playgroup with materials and equipment. God blessed our socks off!

Clare Tomasov is the Children & Families Minister at St John's Camberwell. She is willing to answer questions about how to organize a Bunnings sausage sizzle, and can be contacted through the parish office.

2nd Semester at Ridley Melbourne

Ridley Melbourne is offering a Children's Ministry subject in Semester Two: Issues in Children's Ministry (DM421/DM621).

Develop a greater understanding of contemporary issues in ministry with children, with a focus on church-based children's ministry, and gain skills for church-based children and families ministry. There is also the opportunity to be supervised in a children's ministry placement.

The lecturer is Beth Barnett, who is currently the Children & Families Ministries Facilitator for Bap-

tist Union of Victoria, and has recently released Party On Together, a multi-age worship resource. She will draw on her years of experience as a children & families minister, teacher and trainer.

The subject runs from 20 July to 26 October 2010, on Tuesday afternoons.

For more information or to register, go to www.ridley.edu.au or call the office on 92074800.



Gain skills for church-based children & families ministry

Children's Sunday Workbook

The Children's Sunday Workbook is prepared each week by Revd Kenneth Lay, vicar of St Andrew's, Aberfeldie, and Pastoral Chaplain at Overnewton Anglican Community College, Taylors Lakes.

The booklets contain prayers, colouring activities and puzzles, and follow the Australian Lectionary readings.

They can be downloaded from the [Melbourne Anglican](http://www.melbourne.anglican.org.au) website (follow the link on the Children & Families page) as a PDF which has been formatted to print or photocopy back-to-back as an A5 booklet.

They are designed for children to work with during Sunday worship, or parents or grandparents may

enjoy using them with primary-aged children through the week.

The booklets contain prayers, colouring activities and puzzles, and follow the Australian Lectionary readings.

Food for the soul

"I have put my words in your mouth and covered you with the shadow of my hand - I who set the heavens in place, who laid the foundations of the earth, and who say to Zion, 'You are my people.' " Isaiah 51.16

This verse is spoken to God's people, who are in exile, in a place where they think things will never

get better, where they feel that God has abandoned them—and that they deserve their punishment.

Isaiah 51 reminds his people, reminds us, that the LORD Almighty, who created and controls the uni-

verse, is also the God who comforts his people, who covers us with the shadow of his hand, and who loves us because we are his people.





Why join Christian Playgroup Network?

Playgroups are a major part of the life of the church. Every week hundreds of mums, dads, grandparents and carers from all walks of life take part in a Playgroup in a local Church. Many of these parents and carers are not Christians and may have never even heard the Gospel message, while others have become disconnected from Jesus over the years although they may still believe that God exists.

If the primary purpose of your Playgroup is to be a 'connection point' for these groups in your community to

allow them to hear the gospel, accept Jesus and become part of the family of your church - then this won't happen by accident. You need to be intentional about having a purpose for your playgroup ministry.

The Christian Playgroup Network serves the local church through encouraging, supporting and equipping those involved in Playgroup ministry to their local community.

The benefits of membership include:

- Discounted training for Playgroup leaders and teams
- Discounted Playgroup Victoria membership
- Regular newsletters full of great articles and Christian Playgroup

information to encourage and inspire!

- Opportunities to link with other Christian playgroup leaders
- Sharing of helpful & relevant Christian playgroup information and resources
- Access to the members-only sections of the CPN website
- Assistance in promoting and advocating Playgroups as part of your church outreach

As the current President of Christian Playgroup Network, I would be more than happy to talk to you about membership and how CPN can serve you and your playgroup ministry.

Dorothy Hughes

Some useful websites

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/>

Great ideas and starting points for kids talks or lessons. Search by the bible passage or topic. Also has extension materials such as colouring and puzzle pages for many of the topics.

<http://www.biblegateway.com/>

A free service for reading and re-searching Scripture online—all in the language or translation of your

choice! They provide advanced tools you can use to search the Bible by keywords or verse, as well as other tools to enhance your study of the Bible.

<http://www.textweek.com/>

A virtual study desk for students, teachers and preachers. Click on a date to find direct links to a wide variety of contemporary and historical resources for study & liturgy for

each lectionary week, or check out the Scripture Index to locate links to study resources relating to specific passages. Artwork indexed by Biblical theme can be found in the Art Concordance. And check out the Movie Concordance for lists of movies indexed by spiritual theme.

From resource by Samantha White, produced for BOOST training day.

Must-read book for Children's Ministry

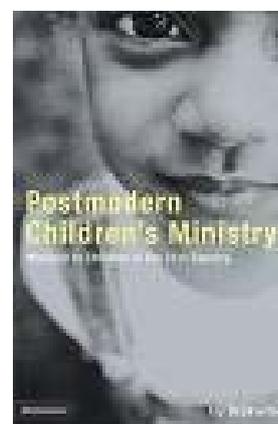
Postmodern Children's Ministry by Ivy Beckwith

No longer considered 'church day care', children's ministry has taken its rightful place as an essential and skilled ministry in any church wishing to grow and create a strong foundation for future generations. Yet many have lost their way in this ministry, through a lack of understanding about the world as it is for our

children and youth. Beckwith examines the impact of postmodernism on the church and offers ideas and strategies to keep today's children engaged and God-centred.

From "Five highly recommended books for Children and Families Ministry",

http://ctm.uca.edu.au/sites/default/files/Top_Five_CM_Books.pdf



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Children don't grow in status and importance in the eyes of God as they grow up. Being an adult doesn't make us more able to please God, or even better able to serve God. Children are precious to God just because they are children.

For information and support in your ministry with children and their families (including support for Playgroups) contact:

Dorothy Hughes

***Children & Families Ministry Facilitator
Playgroup Ministry Coordinator***

Get refreshed, get inspired

It is this time of the year I tend to find myself sighing a little as I realise how the past few months have flown by, and yet there is still a long way to go until the end of the year—will I have the energy and the enthusiasm to last the distance?

This is a good time to plan a little bit of refreshment and inspiration for yourself and for your team. If you haven't been to a Children & Families Ministry training event so far in 2010, then don't despair because there are still some dates on the calendar, and one of them could be just right for you. There is no doubt that one of the best ways to increase your energy for ministry is to spend some time with others who have a similar passion and interest. And honing your knowledge and skills is good for your development but is also great for the families and children that you are serving.

22 & 23 June **"Child Theology" Seminars**

31 July **Overflow** Centre for Theology & Ministry, Parkville

20 July - 26 October **Issues in Children's Ministry** Ridley Melbourne

14 August **Creative Children's Ministry Seminar** OAC Ministries

25-27 August **kidshaper** AOG

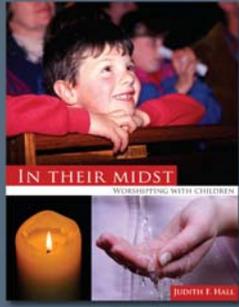
9 October **SU Training Day**

17-19 October **Next Generation Conference** Children's Ministry Network

6 November **Playgroup training event** Christian Playgroup Network

For more information on these events, visit the [Training Calendar](#) in the Children & Families pages of the Melbourne Anglican website or call or email (see contact details above).

B BROUGHTON PUBLISHING



*In their Midst:
worshipping
with children*
by Judith F. Hall

\$39.95

Resources for a church embedded
in worship and prayer

www.broughtonpublishing.com.au

Watch out for **In their Midst**, due for publication in August