

Covenant of Caring and Sharing

“We now engage upon our part to perform those things needful that the good will and love of God be not hidden from our children, but rather that they may be made evident; that our children may grow in the love and nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Do you, the members of this church, as of the whole church of Christ...receive this child into your love and care...?”

Overview

The words above reflect, in part, the covenant we own together at each baptism we celebrate in our meetinghouse. The Christian Education Committee of our congregation is working faithfully to provide our adults with specific ways to honor that covenant. Our goal is to offer our children an inspiring, loving, joyful and consistent environment in which to learn about God, Jesus Christ, the Bible, and the Spirit that unites us as a congregation. We seek a fair balance of shared responsibilities for adults, and an environment for our children that provides as much continuity as possible. We believe there is value in our children and their teachers getting to know each other over the course of several weeks. To accomplish that, over the course of a Sunday school year, necessitates a renewed commitment by us all – parents, grandparents, high school youth assistants, and adult mentors.

We understand that in times of illness or family distress our care for one another is paramount and that supportive flexibility is essential. We also know that, at times, the best thing we can do to care for our children is to free their parents for an hour so they might heal, grieve, reflect, and/or spiritually renew during our worship service. Though parents are central to our baptismal covenant, we need the entire congregation to model Christian community and love for our children. To accomplish that, the Christian Education Committee has created a Covenant of Caring and Sharing

Our Part

Through the Committee and our Director of Children's Ministries, Nikki Foster, we pledge to support our volunteer teachers with care, ideas, creativity, curriculum interpretation, prayer and gratitude. Nikki Foster is available in person or by phone/email to provide a resource of support and ideas on an individual basis. Nikki will encourage and support your individual style and gifts in the classroom. She offers insight and guidance in all areas of lesson preparation: bible understanding and sharing that with the children, arranging classroom time, lesson order - to name just a few. She is here to answer questions, meet with teachers, and generally help to make the teaching experience rewarding and joyful for teacher and children alike. Furthermore, we are working to make CDs of the worship service available to our teachers so that they may enjoy the message and music of any given Sunday.

What We Need From You...Specifically

We need *you*. We need you to share your love, your joy, and your time. We need specific covenants of time and a commitment to support our Christian education program. Most important, our children need you and the unique gifts you offer. The Sunday school year is composed of 5 semesters, each lasting 8 Sundays. We seek to maximize continuity for our children and manage any one teacher's commitment over the course of the year.

After prayerful consideration we invite you to join us in achieving our highest priority which is:

- Your Commitment to TEACH EIGHT (8) SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES during the upcoming program year (September '09 – May '10) in as consecutive a manner as is possible.

Our covenant may also be lived in the following ways:

- Volunteer to deliver items to the Redding Pantry for a 3 month period
- Volunteer to help with the wireless computer hookup
- Special resource people for art, music, photography, etc.
- Assist Nikki Foster with special projects

Sunday School Schedule 2009-2010:

Semester 1: September 13- November 1

Semester 2: November 8- December 27 (December 27 – One Room Sunday School)

Semester 3: January 3- February 21

Semester 4: February 28- April 18 (Easter, April 18 – One Room Sunday School)

Summer One Room Sunday School 2009:

June 14 - September 6

On behalf of our children and all of us at First Church, thank you for honoring our mutual covenant by enriching the faith journeys of God's little ones.

The Covenant: Volunteer Copy

I pledge to honor our covenant in Christ by:

I will teach for eight (8) Sundays during the ___ Semester(s) in Grades ___.

I will assist in a class room for eight (8) Sundays during the ___ Semester in Grades ___.

I will substitute when possible ___, Lower grades___, Upper grades ___.

I will teach TWO (2) Summer One Room Sunday School Sessions ___ Date(s)_____.

I will assist in the Summer One Room Sunday School ___. Date(s)_____.

I will be a Youth Assistant ___, Lower grades___ Upper elementary___.

I will volunteer to deliver items to the Redding Pantry for a 3 month period ___. I will volunteer to help with the wireless computer hookup ___. I will be a Special resource person for art, music ___, I will assist Nikki Foster with special projects ___.

Other ways I will help _____

Signed, _____

The Covenant: Volunteer Church Copy

I pledge to honor our covenant in Christ by:

I will teach for eight (8) Sundays during the ___ Semester(s) in Grades ___.

I will assist in a class room for eight (8) Sundays during the ___ Semester in Grades ___.

I will substitute when possible ___, Lower grades___, Upper grades ___.

I will teach TWO (2) Summer One Room Sunday School Sessions ___. Date(s)_____.

I will assist in the Summer One Room Sunday School ___. Date(s)_____.

I will be a Youth Assistant ___, Lower grades___ Upper elementary___.

I will volunteer to deliver items to the Redding Pantry for a 3 month period ___.

I will volunteer to help with the wireless computer hookup ___.

I will be a Special resource person for art, music ___,

I will assist Nikki Foster with special projects ___.

Other ways I will help _____

Signed, _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please return to Nikki Foster, OR Email her your information: Nikki@FirstChurchRedding.org