

## *Fall 2011*

Dear UCP Parents,

Welcome to University Carillon Preschool! We hope your child's learning experiences here will be happy, wholesome ones. Our mission is to create a Christian environment that inspires children to develop inner discipline, self-assurance, a love for learning, and to know their Savior, Jesus Christ.

UCP is licensed and meets all requirements of the Florida Department of Children and Families. We are accredited with United Methodist Association of Preschools (UMAP). Our school is open to children of any race, color, religion and national or ethnic origin. UCP is covered under the church umbrella insurance policy for liability coverage only.

UCP will strive to give your child the loving care and guidance that children need in their formative years. We will provide Christian enrichment through reading readiness, math and science experiences, art, music, movement and socialization. Our goal is to help children become more aware of God's presence and greatness by weaving Christian principles into the total school curriculum.

University Carillon Preschool is not only for your child but for YOU also. As parents you are cordially invited to visit us, ask questions and make suggestions. The best assurance for the success of your child's experiences is the close cooperation of parents and staff. We encourage you to become involved in your child's school experiences by sharing your time and talents with our program. Your cooperation and participation will bring many benefits and provide for an eventful and enriching year for all of us.

My office is always open to you. Please drop in to say hello and feel free to share any praises, encouragement or concerns you may have. Please call 407-359-2629 x150 if you need to arrange a special time to talk.

All For Him,

*Janet Edwards*

Janet Edwards

## University Carillon Advisory Council 2011-2012

UCP is a ministry of University Carillon United Methodist Church and is overseen with advice and guidance from the Preschool Council, consisting of a member from Staff Parish, Finance and Trustees Committees, the Director of the Preschool and parent representatives/members at large (members of UCUMC).

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>
Chairperson:	Amy Lester (6/12)
Staff/Parish Committee Representative:	Bruce Kavenagh (12/11)
UCUMC Member At Large	
Operations	Michele Byington
	Perry Dunn (6/11)
Member at Large:	Julie LaMotta (6/12)
Member at Large:	Greg Kacer (6/12)
Member at Large:	
Member at Large:	

### **Our Teachers:**

- Are Christians.
- Are required to have the 45 hour state child care courses in Early Childhood Education.
- Are fingerprinted and background checked by local, state and federal agencies.
- Are certified in child First Aid and CPR
- Have ten hours yearly of continuing education in Early Childhood Education.

### **Our Office Staff:**

<b>Janet Edwards</b>	Director	(407) 359-2629x150 <a href="mailto:janetedwards@ucumc.net">janetedwards@ucumc.net</a>
<b>Christa Macheske</b>	Registrar	(407) 359-2629x151 <a href="mailto:christamacheske@ucumc.net">christamacheske@ucumc.net</a>
<b>Jennifer Herr</b>	Program Coordinator/ Office Assistant	(407) 359-2629x153 <a href="mailto:jenniferherr@ucumc.net">jenniferherr@ucumc.net</a>

## IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

We recognize how important it is to keep parents actively involved in the education of their children. As a result, we provide several ways for parents and staff to communicate and we strive to provide parents with many opportunities to actively participate in their children's program:

- Open House – Our Center will hold open house before the first day of school.
- Monthly school wide calendar of activities.
- Monthly newsletter keeps you informed of current events. The newsletter is printed and can also be accessed at [www.ucpkids.org](http://www.ucpkids.org).
- Special notices alert you to changes or new activities and are sent home with your child - watch for them!
- Preschool Parent Conferences - Formal conferences are held for all students in the beginning and at the end of the year. Parents or teachers may ask for additional conferences at any time.
- Parent Participation - We encourage and rely on the extra help of parents to provide children with a variety of special fun and educational activities throughout the year, such as Pumpkin Patch, VPK Thanksgiving Program, Gingerbread Night, Winter Wonderland, Mud and Water Days, 3's Noah's Ark program, Mother's Day Teas, Muffins with Mom and Dad-n-Me. **Parents may sign up to help at any of these activities during the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of school at the volunteer table near the Preschool Office.**
- Individual notes from the office or teacher are carried home by the child.

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All children enrolled in UCP must have the following forms on file:

- Medical Examination Certificate that attests the child is in good health or that any known medical conditions are under control (yellow form from your Pediatrician).
- Current immunizations appropriate for child's age (blue form from your Pediatrician).
- Enrollment Form (front and back)
  - ✓ "Know Your Child's Daycare Center" Pamphlet
  - ✓ Disciplinary Practices
  - ✓ Morning Snack/Special Lunch Agreement
  - ✓ H1N1 Virus Info
- Notarized Emergency Medical Release Form
- Agreement/Authorization Form

*Your child's record is available upon request.*

**All fees are non-refundable and are due at time of registration.**

**Registration Fee** for 2s, 3s, and Non-VPK 4s: (Includes UCP t-shirt) \$100.00

**Material Fee** (Includes Bible Lunch):

Non-VPK 4s and 3s/3 days \$130.00

2s/3s, 2 days \$100.00

**Tuition:**

**Four-Year-Old Program**

<u>Class Days</u>	<u>Mo. Installment</u>	<u>Class Size</u>
Non VPK, T/Th/F	330.00	10/12/16
VPK, T/Th/F	0.00	10/12/16

**Three-Year-Old Program**

<u>Class Days</u>	<u>Mo. Installment</u>	<u>Class Size</u>
2 days – M/W	215.00	10/12/16
2 days – T/Th	230.00	10
3 days – M/W/F	315.00	10-11

**Two-Year Old Program**

<u>Class Days</u>	<u>Mo. Installment</u>	<u>Class Size</u>
2 days – M/W	215.00	10
2 days – T/Th	230.00	10

- **Tuition is prorated over 10 months.**
- **Class times are 9:00 am – 2:00 pm.**
- **Wednesdays – Early Release at 1:30 pm.**
- **All students must be the class age by 09/01/11.**
- **Two staff per classroom.**
- **Children may not be concurrently enrolled in two UCP classes.**
- **UCP accepts children of any race, color, religion and national or ethnic origin.**

**Payment Policies:**

University Carillon Preschool is a self-supporting, non-profit program.

The monthly payment is based on actual cost per child, per year and divided into ten (10) equal payments regardless of number of attendance days in each month. There will be no change in monthly payments for school holidays, extended absences or vacations, or weather related cancellations.

A discount of 10% is offered for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> child of the same family enrolled in either program (VPK excluded). The material fee and registration fee must be paid in full for each child.

**All parents are expected to comply with the following payment policies:**

- The monthly payment is due the first day of each month. There will be no statements or reminder calls. Your grace period is up to the 8<sup>th</sup> of the month. There will be a \$10 late fee assessed for three days after your tuition is late. **If tuition is not paid by the 11<sup>th</sup>, your child may not be admitted back to class until tuition is paid.** Suggestions: tuition may be paid the last week of the previous month, or you may do on-line banking and have a check cut on the first of every month for tuition.
- All payments should be made in the form of a personal check payable to UCP. Tuition checks should be placed in the tuition box located in the preschool office in the Education Building or mailed in. Children or teachers are not responsible for checks. There is a \$30.00 returned check policy.

## Payment Policies (continued):

- Cash payments must be handed directly to one of the office staff. A receipt will be issued.
- The school reserves the right to request withdrawal of a child if the monthly payment is not paid when due.
- It is requested that you notify the Director in writing two weeks prior to withdrawal from the program.
- University Carillon Preschool has entered into a contract with the State of Florida to provide free pre-kindergarten education to all enrolled 4-year-old students. Parents of VPK students have also entered into an agreement with the State to receive free pre-kindergarten services. If parents do not abide by the terms of their agreement, they are responsible to pay University Carillon Preschool the standard Pre-K tuition fees, which for the year 2011-2012 are \$330 per month for T/Th/F, and to abide by the tuition policies as stated in the Parent Handbook.
- Enrollments are accepted until the class limit is reached. Once in-house registration is completed (currently enrolled children and siblings), names from the waiting list are notified to fill any remaining class openings. The waiting list priority is children of church members first, previous UCP families next, and then non-member children.
- University Carillon Preschool generally follows the school calendar for Seminole County schools.

### **The Best Play Dough Ever!**

Stir together:                    2 cups all-purpose flour  
    1-cup salt  
    1 Tbsp. Plus 1 Tsp. cream of tartar

Add to the above:                2 cups of water  
    2 Tbsp. of oil  
    Food coloring to make vivid color

Mix above on medium heat until dough pulls away from sides of pan. Turn out onto board and knead to get lumps out. Store in airtight container.

\*This recipe can be doubled.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

UCP reserves the right to cancel school should a health/safety or weather emergency arise. We follow Seminole County Public Schools in cases of public emergencies.

UCP reserves the right to send a child home if determined by the teacher or Director to present a health hazard in the class. Please notify the school if your child develops a communicable disease. If a child becomes ill during school hours, the child will be separated from the class until a parent can be contacted and the child picked up.

**Allergies** - If your child has persistent allergies, a doctor's note stating that the child's condition is NOT contagious is required.

**Illness** - The health and safety of your child is our primary concern. We rely on parental cooperation to help prevent the spreading of communicable disease throughout the preschool program. If you are planning on keeping your child home because of an illness please call the Preschool Office to let us know. As a health precaution, we will be keeping a log of illnesses throughout the year. For the safety of others, if your child displays one or more of the following symptoms, please keep him/her at home:

- A fever of 99.5 or higher in the **last 24 hours**
- A cold that is less than three days old
- Heavy nasal discharge
- A constant, nagging cough
- If child is fussy, cranky and generally not him/herself
- If child has nausea, vomiting and refuses breakfast
- A rash on face or body
- Any signs of diarrhea
- Unusual tiredness (necessary rest may prevent illness)
- Any symptoms of possible communicable disease, sniffles, reddened eyes, sore throat, headache, and abdominal pain plus fever.



If your child develops any of these symptoms while at school, s/he will be immediately isolated and a parent will be notified for pick up. **For this reason it is critical that you notify us if you have a change in telephone numbers.** At that time, an accident/illness form will be filled out, signed by the teacher, and the child will be permitted back to school **NO EARLIER THAN 24 HOURS** from the occurrence. If the physician has prescribed medication, the child may not come back to school until medication has been administered for at least 24 hours. It is not possible to keep a child inside during outside playtime as all teachers are needed for outside supervision. If your child is not well enough to go outside, please keep him/her home to rest. We will be very stringent on matters of health and safety and appreciate your cooperation in all matters of this nature.

**UCP Staff will at NO time or for any reason be allowed to administer medication (prescription and/or over the counter medications). This includes cough medicine, Tylenol, or any other over-the-counter medication.** Due to safety concerns, NO medications can be stored in a child's back pack or lunch box.

UCP has a "No Nit" policy regarding lice, which is in accordance with Seminole County Public Schools. We require all students who have had head lice to be checked by teacher/staff prior to returning to the classroom so re-transmission cannot occur. If a third occurrence is noted by the teacher/staff, a physician's note for re-admittance is required for returning to class.

**Lock Down Policy:** When a lock down is necessary, there will be no access in or out of the Main, Education or EpiCenter buildings. All outer doors will be locked. Teachers are to remain in the classrooms with their children. Doors to the classrooms will be locked. If a situation occurs in which it is necessary to leave the classrooms, tornado drill procedures will be followed – teachers will take children to the restrooms and remain there until the situation becomes safe. Those in the EpiCenter for P.E. must remain there until the situation becomes safe. **DO NOT** arrive on site to pick up your child during a lock down, as no one will be allowed to enter or leave the buildings.



### **In the Event of an Accident:**

Plan 1 - If your child has a minor accident, staff will take whatever action is necessary to comfort the child, such as wash the wound, apply a bandage and give a hug.

Plan 2 — If the child has an accident that produces an injury requiring professional medical care (such as large bumps, head injuries, uncontrollable nosebleeds, cuts that may require stitches, or possible fractures), the parent, guardian or parental designated emergency person will be called immediately.

Plan 3 - In emergency situations, 911 will be called.

### **Hurricane/Tornado/Fire Drill**

Procedures are relayed to teachers and acted upon when necessary. We conduct monthly fire/emergency drills. Instructions and procedures are posted in each classroom.

### **Emergency Closing Plan**

Should a decision need to be made to close the school (for example in case of impending hurricane) we will follow suit with whatever Seminole County Schools decide.

Each individual class has a clipboard with a class roster that contains each student's name and **all** contact numbers and signage for pick-up.

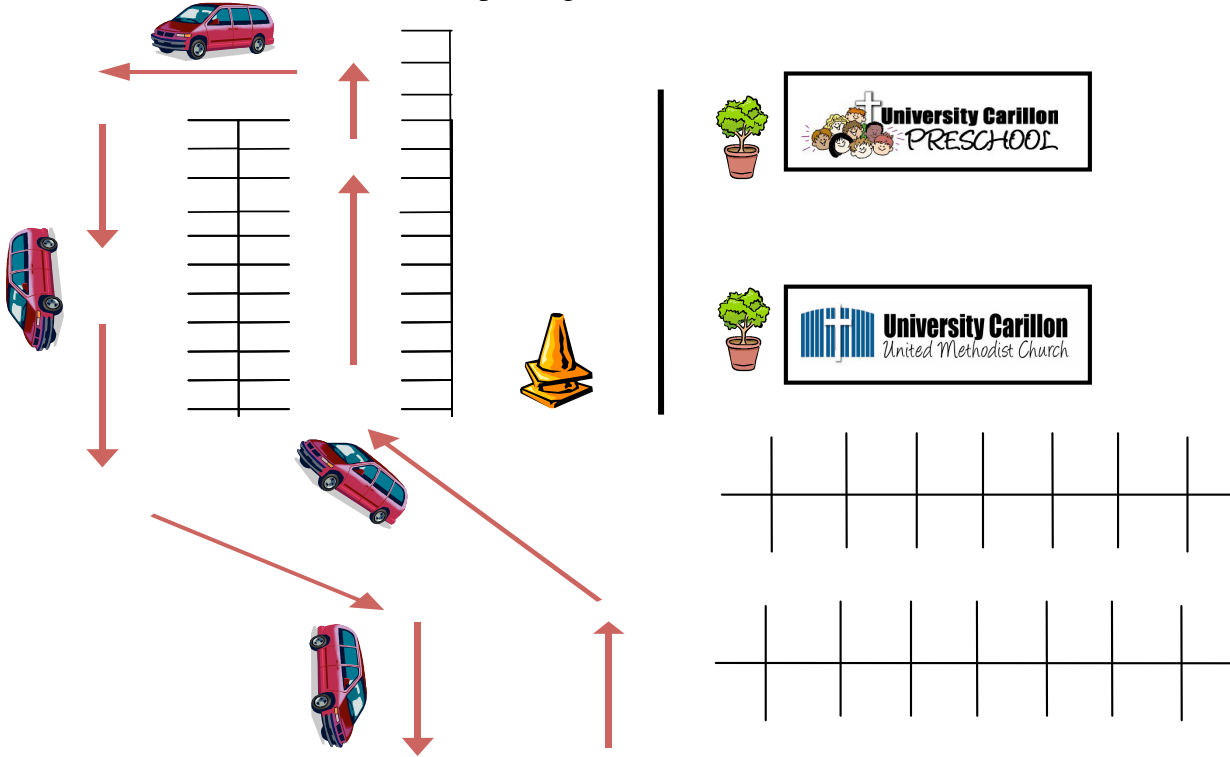
When the decision is made by the Director to close, she will contact each lead teacher, who will then go to the nearest phone available to call each child's parent in her class. All support teachers remain with the children.

A statement will be given to the teacher to be repeated to the parent explaining the situation and to assure them of the safety of their child.

Children will be grouped by age for a more organized pick up with appropriate signing for visibility.

**ARRIVAL:**

If your child’s class is in the Main Building (Room numbers M102, M103, M104 & M105) please park in the front parking lot. If your child’s class is in the Educational Building (E101, E102, E103, E104, E105, E106), please park in the middle parking lot. At no time may you stop or park in the fire lane. Please watch for children as you are entering and leaving the parking lots. Please note the traffic flow arrows in the parking lot.



- Please park, then walk your child to the classroom and sign him/her in.
- Parents must submit to the office on the Security Release Form any person/s who will be authorized to transport their child after school. Updates can be made at any time to your child's file.
- **NO CHILD WILL BE RELEASED TO ANYONE OTHER THAN A PARENT OR AUTHORIZED SUBSTITUTE.**
- If someone other than a parent is picking up your child, please notify your teacher. The person must be on security release form. A driver's license is required as identification.
- If your child arrives early, s/he may play on the playground *under your supervision*.
- **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR CHILD UNATTENDED AT ANY TIME.**

**VPK Tardiness and Absences:**

Due to the expectations of kindergarten readiness as specified in the VPK standards and the belief that excessive absences affect learning, a child enrolled in the VPK program at University Carillon Preschool should not be absent more than ten days (reflecting three 3-day weeks plus one day) per school year. **A written explanation of any absences should be given to the office on the day of the child’s return to school.** If a child is absent due to extraordinary circumstances, written documentation provided by the child’s parent or guardian which describes the reason for the absence must be given to the office immediately.

### **All Students:**

**Punctuality is expected.** School starts at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 2:00 p.m. A child enrolled in the VPK program at University Carillon Preschool may not be more than ten minutes tardy, and may not be withdrawn from school more than ten minutes early. **Your child will be marked absent and must be signed in/out at the office if arriving 10 minutes late or leaving 10 minutes early.** Entering the classroom late or exiting early causes disruption in the schedule and to other students.

A daily rate will be charged for any absences over ten for the entire school year *except in cases of emergency or preplanned situations – please discuss with the Director.* Any drop off after 9:10 am is considered a tardy.

**Late Pick Up:** There will be a \$5.00 fee charged for every ten (10) minutes for pick-up after 2:10 pm and after 1:40 pm on Wednesdays (*except in cases of emergency – please discuss with the Director*) Please be prepared to pay cash at the time of the late pick-up.

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### **DISCIPLINE:**

We live in a world of cause and effect. In order for all of us to live and work in harmony, there must be rules. Ultimate discipline comes from within, not because of external rewards or punishments. Children need help in developing a sense of responsibility and inner discipline. This is an important part of teaching, both in the home and at school.

We provide reasonable, age appropriate rules and logical consequences for breaking those rules. Our techniques are positive approaches to problem solving, redirection, and, if necessary, a supervised time apart from the situation. We use consistent clear rules and daily routines. All children are treated with respect and dignity at all times.

**In the event of continued disruptive behavior** such as biting, excessive hitting or pinching, the following steps are taken:

1. Each incident is documented in the child's record noting the date, circumstances leading up to the incident and disciplinary action taken.
2. Both families are notified in writing.

After three incidents viewed to be unusual and unprovoked, the child is on probation and will be removed from the program if another incident occurs. Our goal is to help children learn to behave within acceptable limits, learn self-control, and maintain a safe and secure environment for all children in the program.

Corporal punishment or the withholding of food or drink is against our discipline guidelines. Please let your teacher or the Director know if there is a home situation, major change, or problem that may affect your child's behavior. Communication is a vital part in providing a positive atmosphere for all the children in our program.

## **ODDS AND ENDS:**

**Dress** — Children should come to school dressed to work, play, paint, experiment, and have fun. Their clothes should be comfortable, easy to button, snap and zip to allow independence in toileting. Children play outside each day with the exception of rainy days. Please provide a sweater or jacket as the classrooms can be cool during the day. Shoes should be closed-toe and rubber-soled. **Sandals, boots and Crocs are not allowed** as they are dangerous on the playground and during PE.

All children need an entire change of clothes (shirt, pants or shorts, sweater or sweatshirt, socks and underwear) to be kept in a ziploc bag placed in a back pack and changed with the seasons. All articles of clothing brought to school should be clearly marked with the child's name. Young children must have an adequate supply of diapers provided. 3-year-olds are required to be pretty well potty-trained upon entering our program. .

**Photographs & Videos of Your Child** - Photographs and videos of classes and individual children may be taken periodically to use for special programs/website/newsletters. **If you do not want your child to be videotaped or photographed, please notify the preschool office at the beginning of the year.**

**Preschool Chapel** – Children in all of our classes meet weekly in Sanctuary to hear a brief Christian message which includes praise and worship singing, Bible verse, recitation and Bible story review. Classes also participate in prayer in the small Chapel near the Sanctuary for a more reverent, spiritual experience.

**Daytime Events/Siblings** – Because of limited space, we will only be providing childcare during select daytime events for volunteers. For events outside the classroom, if there is no other option, infants and toddlers may come if they stay in a stroller. Please use this as a last resort as it would limit our available space if everyone brought a stroller. Due to DCF regulations, no siblings are allowed in classrooms.

**Birthdays** – Special recognition of your child's birthday may be planned with the teachers. Simplicity is considered important. You may send a special snack, such as cookies, cupcakes or other simple treats. Party invitations and gifts should be kept out of school.

**School Parties** — Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine's Day, Easter and End of the Year will all be celebrated in the individual classrooms usually during snack time. Parents may be asked to provide refreshments for these special days.

**Toys from Home** - We ask that you leave your child's toys at home or in the car. However, if your child has a book, CD, or video that s/he would like to share or that correlates with the day's lesson, we would appreciate this being shared. Please check with your teacher first.

**Individual Photos** — Full color individual portraits will be taken in September and black and white photos in the Spring. VPK will have Graduation pictures taken in their cap and gown in April. Purchase of any photos is optional.

**Graduation** — Each VPK child will receive a Certificate of Completion for the school year. VPK classes will have a ceremony of recognition when they graduate from UCP.

**Lunch** — Please pack non-perishable healthful food items for your child's lunch labeled with his/her name. Finger foods, peeled and easy to eat, are appropriate. There is limited refrigerator space for perishable items. **Due to allergy concerns, please notify the teacher if your child's lunch contains peanut butter.**

**Fundraiser** — Square 1 Art will be our one school-wide fundraiser of the year.

## **Share-a-Snack Program**

Parents are asked to provide nutritious snacks for your child's class during the school year. Your child's teacher will note on the monthly calendar whose turn it is to bring the snack. The school will provide drinks, cups and napkins. Please provide snacks that do not require refrigeration or special preparation.

Your child's teacher will give the special snack basket to you when it is your turn to provide the snack on the day before your Share-a-Snack day. Please place food items in a Ziploc bag or appropriate box before putting it in the basket (there is less mess this way) and send it with your child to school. You need not go to a lot of trouble making special treats, but we do ask that you be conscious of the nutritious value of the snack item (i.e. low sugar). Fresh fruit, small carrots, raisins, pretzels, graham crackers, or regular crackers are fine.

If you know in advance that you will be unable to provide a snack on the day you are scheduled, please arrange with another parent in the class to switch days with you. In cases of emergencies or illnesses, the school has extra snacks on hand.

**\*\*Allergies are becoming more prominent in our preschoolers. A notice will be provided with the snack basket to keep you informed of the allergy concerns for your child's class. Please avoid those particular items should an allergy exist.**

**Bible Story Lunch** — UCP provides pizza for our students seven times a year (no Aug., Dec. or May) on a monthly basis. Cost of Bible Lunch is included in the material fee. All children should wear their Preschool Shirt on this day.

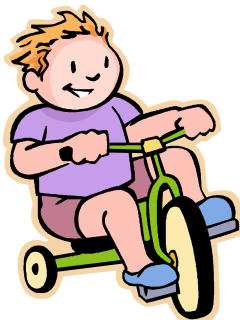
**Holidays** —In general, we follow the calendar of Seminole County Public Schools throughout the year. However, there may be occasions when our calendars differ. Please check the UCP calendar in the handbook and pay close attention to the UCP newsletters.

**Messages** —The teachers cannot accept verbal messages from children. Please send written notes.

**Potty Procedures** – Children must be potty-trained to be enrolled in the 3 and 4-year old classes.

**Playground** - Parents, students and siblings are welcome to use our playgrounds before and after school. Parents find this to be a good time to socialize with other parents. However, we ask that the following guidelines be met: A parent or guardian must be present to supervise at all times; children are never to be left unattended; children should be monitored while playing on climbing equipment. They should not be climbing up on the playhouses or other playground equipment that were not designed for climbing. Playground will be closed at 3:00.

Due to Florida State regulations, only students enrolled at UCP may be on the playgrounds with their classes during the school day.



## OUR PURPOSE AND CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

Young children learn through their play experiences. Small groups, hands-on experiences and multi-sensory materials all help define the educational purpose of our classrooms at UCP. **Our core curricula are Scripture Bites and We Care.** Teachers are free to pull from other resources to enhance their lessons. The following curriculum guidelines help prepare each child for an age appropriate learning experience.

### **Spiritual Development**

Includes Christian worldview, character development, Bible verses and stories, Chapel worship, prayer, caring about others, making good decisions. (*He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them His way.—Psalm 25:9*) Spiritual development of young children cannot be addressed as an afterthought, but should be forefront in every way we serve our children, especially since one's moral and spiritual development begins as early as age two and is generally determined by age nine (Bama, Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions, 2003).

Monthly units include:

Jesus Feeds the 5000, God's Special Book, Good Samaritan, Jesus grows up to do His Father's work, Wise and foolish builders, God made people, God made our World, Pumpkin Parable, The Lost Coin, David the music maker, Prodigal Son, Story of Ruth, Give thanks to the Lord, Jesus is born, Jesus-Name above all names, God's special rules, Joseph's colorful coat, Solomon builds God's house, Daniel and the Lion's den, Jesus' friends follow Him, Jesus loves the little children, God frees His People, Noah's Big Boat, Jesus teaches about the lost sheep, The Sower and the seed, A woman obeyed Elijah, God made all creatures, God made a beautiful garden (Gethsemane), Jesus is alive, Jesus tells us to share, The Good News, Jonah and the big fish, Jesus calms the storm, Young Samuel listens to God's voice

### **Social Interaction**

Playing (free choice of activities), sharing (cooperation and respect for others), working independently and as part of a group, expressing feelings and needs (understanding emotions and asking questions), role playing (imagination and make believe), obeying rules (self-protection and safety). (*Show proper respect to everyone.—1 Peter 2:17*)

### **Physical Development (P.E.)**

Large and small muscle, health and grooming, games and creative movement, perceptual motor skills. (*Be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded.—II Chronicles 15:7*)

### **Reading Readiness**

Visual discrimination, auditory skills, language development, introduction to alphabet, phonemic awareness, shape and color recognition, size relationships, spatial concepts and opposites, creative expression. (*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.—Proverbs 1:7*)

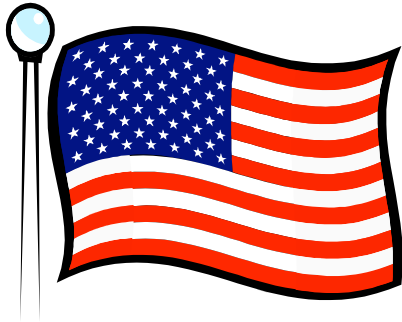
### **Math Readiness**

Sorting, classifying, patterning, graphing, numeral recognition, number sense (*Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise.—Proverbs 19:20*)

### **Social Skills**

We offer many learning activities in each monthly unit to build preschoolers' skills. Hands-on and fun to do, these activities integrate Bible scriptures and stories with math, science, language, cooking, art, guided play, listening, music, writing, drama, gross motor skills, tactile experiences, and more.

**Special Events** - Monthly activities and visitors are scheduled as enrichment to our program. These include Pumpkin Patch, Community Helpers, Thanksgiving Program, Gingerbread Night, Winter Wonderland, Noah's Ark Program, Mud/Water Days, Holy Week, Book Fair and more. More information concerning these events is in your Helping Hands Handbook.



### **Pledge to the American Flag**

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### **Pledge to the Bible**

I pledge allegiance to the Bible, God's Holy Word. I will make it a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. I will hide its word in my heart that I might not sin against God.



## Learning Through Play

At first observation, parents who visit our classrooms may think the children are “just playing”. However, the way children learn best is through play. As children go around and explore all of the different centers, they acquire many skills. With a focus on learning through play, our program provides a loving Christian environment that fosters learning readiness through hands-on experiences. We strive to build every child's self-confidence through developmentally appropriate teaching practices and strategies.



**Language Arts** (books and flannel boards): increases vocabulary growth, develops listening skills, develops reading readiness skills. develops oral language skills, encourages an interest in and respect for books, develops an appreciation of good literature, develops imagination, increases attention span.



**Science:** develops observation and discrimination skills, develops respect for the environment, encourages a child's curiosity.



**Blocks and building materials:** provides practice with social skills, develops gross and fine motor skills, teaches mathematical concepts (shape, size, balance, counting), increases creativity and decision-making skills, develops visual discrimination skills, provides opportunity for role play, increases communication skills and oral vocabulary.



**Housekeeping and dramatic play:** provides an opportunity to role play home experiences, increases social development and communication skills, develops small and large muscle coordination, develops self awareness, develops visual discrimination skills.



**Art:** provides opportunities for creativity and imagination, develops small and large muscle skills, develops color concepts, provides a release of positive and negative feelings, develops reading readiness skills, develops pre-writing skills, encourages an appreciation for the arts.



**Sand and water play:** develops sense awareness, develops concepts involving space, measurement, volume, increases fine and gross motor skills, provides opportunities for problem solving and creative thinking, encourages children to think, reason, question, and experiment.



**Manipulatives:** (puzzles and other fine motor toys): develops small motor muscle coordination, increases social development and communication skills, fosters imagination, teaches mathematical concepts (shapes, sizes, and counting) and provides opportunities for problem solving.



**Large muscle and outdoor play:** develops large muscle coordination, increases social development and communication skills, provides opportunities for sharing, provides opportunities for role play, fosters safety awareness.

## MAKING THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL MORE COMFORTABLE

- Be very positive about school in your talks with your child. Point out that you are excited about his/her going to school because it will be so much fun. Talk about school as a place where he/she will learn lots of new things. Talk about all the new playmates he/she will meet.
- Become aware of your own concerns and fears about your child's new experience and his/her ability to handle it. If you are experiencing any fears, your child will tend to pick up on them and become scared as well. The best way to deal with your concerns is to remind yourself that your child will be fine—that you picked this school because you know that the staff will take good care of your child and that you will always be welcome to come into the school to talk to and work with the staff at UCP if there are any problems.
- Read some books together about the first day of school. Sharing a book gets your child to talk about his/her feelings and helps prepare him/her for this new experience. These books should be available at your local library. If not, ask the librarian to suggest some others on the subject.
  - 1) A Child Goes to School: A Storybook for Parents and Children Together by Sara Bonnett Stein (Walker)
  - 2) The First Day of School by Majorie Thayer (Children's Book Press)
  - 3) The Berenstain Bears Go to School by S.J. Berenstain ( Random House)
  - 4) Sometimes I Don't like School by Paula Z. Hogan ( Raintree Publishers)
  - 5) Will I Have a Friend? by Miriam Cohen (MacMilan)
- Listen to your child's concerns, answer his/her questions, and reassure him/her that everything will be fine. If he/she expresses fears, do not deny them. Rather, be understanding about them and tell him/her that most people get scared before they try something new. Tell him/her about your own feelings when starting something new.
- On the first day of school, be sure to tell your child when you are leaving and when you will be back to pick him/her up.

With God's love and concern, parents and teachers working together and keeping our eyes focused on our main objective of making the school experiences a fun-filled and positive one, we can provide the best opportunities to our little ones.



# UCP Event Calendar 2011 – 2012

Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.

Proverbs 16:3

August 15 & 16	First Days of School
September 5	No School
September 7 & 8	Bible Lunch
September 14	UCP Angels
September 21 & 22	<b>Mud and Water Days</b>
September 26 –October 7	Parent Teacher Conferences
October 5 & 6	Bible Lunch
October 10 - 13	Teddy Bear Portraits
October 17	No School
October 18	UCP Angels
October 24 & 25	Teddy Bear Portraits Viewing (Clubhouse)
October 26 & 27	<b>Pumpkin Patch</b>
November 2 & 3	Bible Lunch
November 14	UCP Angels
November 18	<b>VPK Thanksgiving Program 6:30-8:30pm</b>
November 21-25	No School – Fall Break
December 7	UCP Angels
December 12 & 13	<b>Gingerbread Night</b>
December 19 – January 2	Christmas Break
January 3 & 4	First days back to school
January 4 & 5	Bible Lunch
January 16	No School
January 17	UCP Angels
January 23	In-House Registration for 2s/3s
January 25 & 26	<b>Winter Wonderland</b>
February 1 & 2	Bible Lunch
February 15 & 16	Voting Booth
February 20	No School
February 22	UCP Angels
February 23	<b>Principal's Talk</b>

March 2	<b>Dad-n-Me</b>
March 5 - 27	Square 1 Art Fundraiser
March 2 - 15	Parent Teacher Conferences
March 7 & 8	Bible Lunch
March 13	UCP Angels
March 16 - 23	Spring Break
April 2 – 5	Holy Week
April 4 & 5	Bible Lunch
April 4 & 5	<b>Christian Parade</b>
April 6	No School
April 16	UCP Angels
April 17, 19, 20	Graduation Pics
April 27	<b>Noah's Ark 3 year old Program 6:30-8:30pm</b>
April 30 – May 4	Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week
May 7 & 8	<b>2's Mother's Day Tea Program (in the morning)</b>
May 9 & 10	<b>3's and 4's Muffins with Mom (in the morning)</b>
May 23	Last Day of School for M/W
May 24	Last Day of School for T/Th & VPK
May 24	<b>VPK Graduation 6:30-8:30pm</b>

\*You will be notified through our parent newsletters of any date changes.

If you would like to sign-up for Helping Hands, please contact Jennifer at the office ([jenniferherr@ucumc.net](mailto:jenniferherr@ucumc.net)) or call (407) 359-2629 x 153. Thank you for all you do. Our parents make our programs a success!

