



CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWSLETTER

November 5, 2024

A Blessing For Election Day

by Kate Bowler

I am sending love to all today and throughout this week as we hold so many things at one time. Words don't often fail me but perhaps in an effort to keep it simple, I am reminded of our Greatest Command to love God, love our neighbor, and love ourselves. I thought I would also share this blessing from the one and only **Kate Bowler**:

We stand at the edge
of so much opportunity,
so much unknown.
Bless us in our anxiety and fear,
in our hope and dread.
When it's easier
to reach for cynicism
or be weighed down with contempt,
keep our hearts *soft*.
When we're tempted
to stick our heads in the sand
or minimize people's concerns
(or our own),
keep us awake to reality.
May we have enough kindness
to remember
we belong to one another.
Enough hope
to stir us into action.
And enough courage
to meet whatever
this day brings.

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

There are SO MANY great photos to share from this past weekend's Presbytery Middle School Retreat. We had an awesome time at Calvin Center with other middle school groups across the metro Atlanta area. This group deepened their



own friendships, explored what it means to live into the Greatest Commandment and enjoyed energizers, glow stick parties, s'mores and MORE. Thank you to Naomi and Rachael for supporting the chaperoning!!

THIS SUNDAY, 11/10

We have a full day on Sunday, including the baptism of Leland & Quin! Pay attention to your What to Expect email coming your way later this week.

- 8:30am - Breakfast Ministry for families ([sign-up here](#))
- 9:15am - Doughnuts!
- 9:30am - Choir with Kelly & Karen
- 10:00am - Sunday School for all ages
- 10:45am - Pick-up from Sunday School and transition to worship
- 11:00am - Worship with baptism of Leland and Quin!
- 4:30pm - Youth Group at the Ashe's!



BREAKFAST MINISTRY THIS WEEK!

I really appreciate how y'all show up for this key ministry of Central on Sunday morning. This is our week to serve and [here is the Sign-Up Genius!](#) Let me know if you have any questions and a huge thank you to the Hackshaws for their donation of eggs!

NURSERY RE-OPENING!

We are relaunching our nursery on Sunday, November 10th to be open during children and youth activities and worship.

We invite you to drop off any toys or wall art that you think would be appropriate for this space in the youth suite! We're looking for toys for infants (3 months) through preschoolers (4 years).

Come check it out on the Sunday School hall...and stay tuned for all of the updates on the amazing team that will be staffing the nursery week to week.



Also support us in spreading the word to your networks that this is something Central offers! **We are doing this as an act of welcome and inclusivity!**



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT TIME: We need you!

It is true that it is already that time to start our work on this year's Christmas Pageant scheduled for Sunday, December 22nd! We are so grateful to **Vanessa Hunter** and **Dane Jefferson** for co-directing this beautiful Central tradition.

Here is the rehearsal schedule and an **INTEREST FORM** to fill out! Please complete as soon as you can so we can start putting the pieces together of this joyful proclamation.

- 11/17: Choir + Christmas Pageant Kick-Off (Parent meeting during Sunday School)
- 11/24: Rehearsal during Sunday School
- 12/1: Choir + Rehearsal during Sunday School
- 12/8: Choir + Rehearsal during Sunday School + after congregational lunch
- 12/15: Rehearsal during Sunday School + DRESS REHEARSAL after worship
- 12/22: 9am call time, run-through and pageant!

ALL CHILDREN & YOUTH ARE INVITED & ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE!

YOUTH TRIPS ANNOUNCED



We're excited to have our youth trips planned for 2025!

We're also looking forward to teaming up with our friends at Trinity Presbyterian for our summer opportunities.

Additionally, if you are interested in chaperoning, please let me know!

Our MLK Weekend Trip (for 8th graders +):

This is a Central-only trip, 1/18 - 1/20: we will start in Montgomery, AL and visit the Equal Justice Initiative and the National Memorial for Peace & Justice. We will stay on 1/18 at Immanuel Presbyterian in Montgomery. On Sunday, 1/19, we'll head to Birmingham for a

tour and service opportunity before spending the night at Living River Retreat Center to relax and debrief our experience. We'll return to Atlanta the afternoon of 1/20. *We will be using youth Sunday School time as an opportunity to prep for this experience.*

Summer Opportunities with Trinity Presbyterian:

- June 1-7- **Montreat Youth Conference** for rising 9th grade - graduating 12th graders
- June 22-28 - Middle & High School Service & Learning Trip to Appalachia (most likely Swannanoa and Asheville)
- July 10-13 - **Massanetta Springs Middle School Conference** for rising 6th graders - rising 8th graders

Please respond and let me know what trips pique your youths' interest! I will be working on pricing in the coming weeks but please know that cost is never a barrier to interest and participation.



WORSHIP LEADERSHIP IN 2024-25

Please take a look at the following dates and roles for all Sundays:

1. Serve as a lector for one of the dates held for a child or youth to read scripture. [Sign-up HERE](#).
2. Process in with a partner with communion elements on communion Sundays. [Sign-up HERE](#).
3. Contact [Thom](#) if you're interested in playing a prelude or postlude for worship. We ask for a one month heads up for this!



GROUP ME(s): PLEASE JOIN

In lieu of many, many text threads, I would like to move us to GroupMe for our children and youth communications. I have created **THREE** groups and ask that you read carefully about my recommendations on who joins what. **The first step is to download the [GroupMe app](#) and create an account if you don't have one.** Then, use these links to join or help your youth join the below groups:

1. **For youth and youth advisors:** keeping up with one another and sharing information (**most important for YOUTH to join this one**) - **YOUTH ON THIS EMAIL, please join!**
2. **For ALL families of children and youth:** sharing information and connecting about events and logistics (**ALL parents of all ages in this one**)

3. **For YOUTH families and advisors:** logistics and keeping up with one another for youth activities (**YOUTH parents in this one, YOUTH optional**)



CALENDAR!

Save this [DIGITAL GOOGLE](#) calendar for ease of updating.

I will be updating the above calendar more regularly and filling in breaks, etc. This calendar should also let you copy events to your own calendar. Let me know if you have any questions or issues accessing!

Key dates:

- 11/9: Blessing of the Animals
- 11/10: Children & Youth host Breakfast Ministry
- 11/10: Youth group at the Ashe family home

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