

JUNIOR CHURCH REPORT: 2009

"Enfolding in love, let us grow up in every way and in all things into Him who is the Head, Christ." - Ephesians 4:15

The word that sums up Junior Church this year is "growth". And with growth, comes some growing pains. Initially, Denise Kelly and I were not having Holy Spirit inspired visions about where Junior Church was going after our move. We knew that God was leading us to add a 5th and 6th grade class; that was about it. Denise and I were accustomed to waiting on God; and in all His faithfulness, we were being prompted to start venturing out of our JC box.

God prompted Nancy Gottron to become a part of our Junior Church crew. Through God's leading, she opened up our first 5th and 6th grade class in August. It is during second service, and it is God's timing. The class has up to 12 students! In November, God brought us Misty Hoffman. With Nancy's guidance, Misty started up our first service 5th and 6th grade class! Thank you, Nancy and Misty!

Also in November, God lead our hearts to include an inclusion component to Junior Church for any children with disabilities. These services are offered at our 8:15 service. It is kind of funny that I work as an intervention specialist in the public schools but the thought never came to us until now to add this class to church! We serve a Great God!

It is amazing to reflect on what God has done so far. He has brought us lots of children! We have about 80-110 children weekly! The children are the best! We plan to follow God's lead in whatever is next.

This year, we said good-bye to Andrea Nunley, Elaine Sespico, Luke McMinn, and Cassie McMinn. We are so grateful for your service!

As always, God has provided a great Junior Church crew. Kayla Sirrine has joined me during the first service as an assistant coach. I'm so thankful to have her! We are also grateful for our second service assistant coaches: Phyllis Reynolds, Laura Miles, Alaina Jamison, Gaylene Loftus, Amy Finley, and Renee Myers. Our substitutes have been Ann Sutch and Amy Finley. I want to extend a special thanks to Denise Kelly who has faithfully served in Junior Church for at least 5 years. God has gifted her with patience and flexibility. It has been a pleasure to serve our God with her! Thank you to everyone who participates in Junior Church, and thanks for loving our children!

Respectfully submitted,
Esther Oehlenschlager

"For because of Him the whole body, closely joined and firmly knit together by the joints and ligaments with which it is supplied, when each part is working properly, grows to full maturity, building itself up in love." - Ephesians 4:16