

## **Changes This Year For Our Sunday Morning Children's Program:**

### **STEPS (Stories Told, Experienced, Practiced, and Shared)**

**(Sundays, 10:10 - 11:00 a.m., September through May)**

STEPS is our Sunday morning program for children in preschool through 5th grade based on the Workshop Rotation Model. Children, teachers, and youth helpers meet together each Sunday in the chapel for a combination of praise music and Bible action songs, an introduction to the Bible story, offering and prayer. The children then adjourn to their workshops downstairs for the remainder of the time.

In the Workshop Rotation Model, teachers sign up to lead a 3 week "workshop" while different classes of children along with their "shepherd" move or rotate to a new room each week. For example, a teacher would be in the Garden of Games workshop teaching the same lesson to Preschool/Kindergarten on week one, 1st and 2nd grade on week two, and 3rd, 4th and 5th grade on week three. The children would get the same lesson each week but on week one they would be in Games, in week two they would be in Art and in week three they would be in Drama.

The Education Committee has decided to modify this so that starting this year, a "team" of teachers will be assigned to a specific age group or class for the entire year. They will then rotate to a different classroom each week with the students. We believe that this change will not only provide consistency for the students but will also make it easier for the teachers to ensure that the lessons are presented in a more age-appropriate way for the children.

In addition, we are asking that our high school students volunteer to act as "hosts" for each of the three workshops/classrooms for the year. For example, if a student is interested in drama, they could be helpers in the Drama Workshop, or if they like art, they could help in the Art Workshop. We will not have a separate class for the Senior High Youth this year. Our hope is that these changes will allow us to improve the quality of our program for both the young children and the high school youth of our church. We are still looking for a few more teachers for the year and would also like to have a list of substitutes to call on if needed. If you would be interested in co-teaching or would be willing to fill in or help out occasionally, please let me know. As always, I thank you for sharing your time and talents with our children!

~Rose Rodriguez