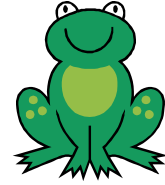


WHAT'S UP?



A newsletter for people in ministry with children and their families

Prepared by your **Resource Centre for Children's and Family Ministry**
Parafield Gardens Uniting Church, 3 Shepherdson Road, Parafield Gardens 5107
Ph: (08) 8285 7104 Fax: (08) 8285 2633 Email: rccfm@bigpond.com
<http://mrn.sa.uca.org.au> In menu on left, click "Children's Ministry"

ISSUE #72

MAY 2010

POSITIVE PARENTING

UNITING CHURCH. UNITING PEOPLE

Uniting People Parenting campaign begins.

Life moves fast. Treasure the moment.

During the month of May, the Uniting Church SA's Uniting People campaign focuses on parenting; valuing parents and encouraging them to make the most of the time they spend with their children. The website unitingpeople.org.au offers a range of articles and resources for parents, as well as a list of parenting events which are happening in May. Make sure you promote the website to your networks and church families.

If you have any queries about the campaign, contact Shannon Short- sshort@sa.uca.org.au or Sarah Urmston - surmston@sa.uca.org.au

100 WAYS TO SPEND TIME WITH YOUR CHILD

Another great resource available on the above site is a free booklet called '100 ways to spend quality time with your child' - [download it](#) for yourself or for other families you know.

Here are some of the ideas.

1. **Ask** your kids what they'd like to do and make time to do it.
9. **Plant** some vegies or herbs and then...
10. **Plan** a dinner party. Make invitations, menus & table decorations. Shop, cook & serve together.
31. **Roll** down a hill - visit a park, pack a picnic.
42. **Visit** a garage sale or
60. **Go op-shopping** for toys, dress-ups for young ones or "vintage-fashion" clothes for teens.
94. **And the Mary Poppins classic** - go fly a kite!

POSITIVE PARENTING RESOURCES



Free postcards and fridge magnets for UC congregations to give to families *are no longer available*. More may be printed in October. To secure magnets for the October print run please email Sarah Urmston surmston@sa.uca.org.au

NEW TIMES MAY MAGAZINE: PARENTING & CHILDHOOD

The Uniting Church's monthly newspaper focuses this month on *Parenting and Childhood*. To download a copy or to read some of the articles on parenting visit: <http://www.sa.uca.org.au/new-times-home/uniting-church-uniting-people.html>

Scroll down to find an article written by Steve Biddulph, psychologist and author of the million-selling book *Raising Boys, Manhood and The Secret of Happy Children*. In this exclusive article, titled *The War on Girls*, he writes about his growing concern for girls. Steve will be in SA in October 2010 for a series of parenting seminars.

PARENTING SEMINAR: GOLDEN GROVE

For parents (and grandparents) of 0-5 year olds.
When: 2-4pm, Sunday 16th May
Where: Golden Grove Uniting Church (cnr Crouch Rd and One Tree Hill Rd, Golden Grove).
Cost: Gold coin donation.
Enquiries: 8251 4298 or davane@bigpond.com
Be encouraged in your parenting role. Hear fun and creative ways to interact with your little one from a variety of speakers.

UNITING CHURCH CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS DATABASE

Calling all Primary Aged kid's clubs, holiday programs and children's ministries!

We are looking to find all of the various children's ministries offered for primary aged children (5-12 years) by the Uniting Church.

If you offer something - no matter how big or small - we would like to know about it!

Please send the program's details *When, Where, What and Who* to Heidi Harding, Children's Mission Planner, Uniting Church of SA.

E: hharding@sa.uca.org.au or P: 08 8236 4281

FAMILY FRIENDLY CHURCHES

As part of the campaign, make sure your church website is up to date, including clear information on how to contact your church and the people overseeing children and youth ministries. In addition, make sure your playgroup listing on the MRN website is up to date. Go to: <http://mrn.sa.uca.org.au/childrens-ministry/find-a-playgroup.html>

The following site lists family friendly Uniting Churches. Take a look at the events and programs for inspiration for your own church: http://www.unitingpeople.org.au/parenting/family_friendly_church

THEOLOGY OF PARENTING

This article might just get you thinking so is worth a read as it explores a [theology of parenting](#). It is written by David Jensen (author of *Graced Vulnerability*) and is from the online *Journal of Childhood and Religion*.

Thanks to Chris Barnett (Uniting Church of Vic/Tas Synod) for this link.

RESOURCES

A COUPLE OF ENCOURAGEMENTS

1) For those of us who are passionate about ministry with children and families it is really encouraging that the Synod has recognised the importance of parenting by making it a major focus of their campaign to raise the profile of the Uniting Church. Let's hope this is the start of a new positive attitude in our ministry, in our congregations and in the wider church.

2) Last month Melissa and Mary Jo attended a Child Safe Environments (previously known as mandatory reporting) train-the-trainer course. Mary Jo was initially concerned about the 'big brother is watching you' aspect of mandatory reporting legislation. But after three days, she came to realise that this too was an encouragement. Our state government, as well as our church, consider children's welfare important enough to want all of us who work with children to be vigilant and aware.

Jesus assumed that parents knew how to give good gifts to their children, and used this parenting role to help us picture his heavenly Father. But, sadly, we can not make this assumption. Our willingness to observe and, if necessary, report suspicions of abuse and neglect can help to:

- break a chain of abuse.
- protect a 'little one.'
- protect a parent from doing greater damage.
- protect the church from being an unwitting participant in the neglect or abuse of children.

SMG CONFERENCE EXPO

Involved in children's or youth ministry?

You're invited to the **SMG Conference EXPO**
Monday 28th June, 5pm - 8pm
at 'The Shed' at Seaton Christian Family Centre,
185 Frederick Road, Seaton. **Free entry!**

See and hear about many of the best programs, resources and people available in SA. A whole range of mission agencies, ministry networks, denominational youth and children's departments, Christian training agencies, Government service providers, plus displays of all the latest resources and books.

Mix and chat with others who share a passion for reaching and empowering today's children and young people.

RSVP by 21st June to 8378 6800 or training@smg.asn.au

CHILDREN MATTER WEBSITE

The *Children Matter* website is the online incarnation of the children's ministry magazine, "KidsWise." It provides:

- current articles, ideas and resources for those working with children and families, especially in outreach settings.

- material written by leaders in the 'front line of ministry' from a range of Australian contexts.
- new content regularly posted with all articles usefully archived. The latest articles to be added include games to play, hints for managing behaviour and a great activity to help kids think about the resurrection story.

Go to www.max7.org/channels/ChildrenMatter or just go to www.max7.org and look through the featured libraries to find *Children Matter*.

Subscribe to *Children Matter* to receive a monthly email with a summary of the latest uploads and direct links back to the site. *Children Matter* is a channel within the Max7 children's and families free resourcing website.

TRAINING -SA

TOOLBOX PARENTING GROUPS: TRAIN TO BE A TRAINER

Train to inspire parents, equip them with practical parenting skills & help them enjoy their kids!

Training is being held on **Saturday 15th May**
at the Salvation Army Mount Gambier

Cnr Gray and Wyatt Streets

Cost: \$100 per person.

For more information phone Julie 08 8265 6314
or the Toolbox office on 03 9720 3314.

WONDERFUL WORLD OF WORKING WITH CHILDREN

**Saturday June 5, 9am (registration) for
9.30am start to 1pm**

at Woodville Uniting Church,
44 Woodville Rd, Woodville South.

Cost \$5, includes morning tea and materials.

An engaging & fun exploration of key principles
- both theory and practice -
for enjoyable & effective children's ministry.

Hosted by Woodville Uniting Church.

Presented by the RCCFM.

Register by Tuesday 1st June. (Pay on the day.)

For more information or to RSVP contact either:
RCCFM on 8285 7104 or rccfm@bigpond.com or

Kathy Blazewicz (Woodville UC) on 8345 1333
or kathyblaze@ozemail.com.au

(Refer to page 5 for the flier.)

SPIN KIDS CONFERENCE TURN YOUR WORLD UPSIDE DOWN

This is a great ministry training conference for kids in grades 3 - 7 **on July 3rd, 9.30am - 3pm**
at Paradise Community Church, 57 Darley Rd,
Paradise. Organised by *Kids R Us SA*.

\$10 per person, includes lunch and a showbag.
(Please provide leaders for your kids.)

Electives include: Make a difference; Dance;
Art; Prayer; Sharing your story and Praise Dayz.

For more info. visit: www.kidsrus.org.au/sa

For further information and rego. forms contact:
Melissa at the RCCFM on 8285 7104 or Damien on
8336 0077 or damien.beaumont@paradise.asn.au

TRAINING IN VICTORIA

STORIES OF CHILDHOOD PLAYGROUP/PRESCHOOL CONFERENCE

Saturday May 29th from 9.30am - 3pm
at Centre for Theology and Ministry,
1 Morrison Close, Parkville, VIC

For ministers, church leaders, playgroup
leaders, Sunday School teachers and anyone
involved in serving families with pre-schoolers.
Electives available include "*Conversations that
communicate care*", "*Playdough with a purpose*",
"*Practical Ideas for Worship with Families with
0-5s*", and "*Play and Playgroup/Pre-school
ministries - fun, learning and spirituality*".

For more information, contact Chris Barnett
chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au or visit
<http://ctm.uca.edu.au/children-families-ministry>

CHILDREN, THEOLOGY, AID AND DEVELOPMENT - CJ WRIGHT EVENT

Dr. Keith White, co-founder of the international
Child Theology Movement will be visiting
Australia to be part of the *CJ Wright Event
2010*. This year's event provides the opportunity
to engage with Dr. Keith White and key thinkers
from Compassion Australia, TEAR and World Vision.

Wednesday June 23rd, 10am - 12.30pm
at the Centre for Theology and Ministry,
1 Morrison Cl, Parkville, VIC.

Cost: \$10

RSVP to chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au before
Friday June 11 for catering purposes.

“Taking Faith Home”

– An Introduction for Congregations

Looking for a way to link Sunday worship with household faith formation Monday to Saturday?

Want to provide resources to help parents and grandparents pass on the Christian faith in their homes?

TAKING FAITH HOME is a weekly Lectionary-based resource to help your households live, share and celebrate faith together each and every week!

TAKING FAITH HOME is a suite of resources connecting weekly congregational worship with the faith life of the home.

- **TAKING FAITH HOME Church Bulletin Insert** — in photocopyable double-sided A5-size format. One side has aids for individual or household devotional use e.g. daily Bible readings, a key weekly scripture passage, prayers and blessings. These are related to Sunday’s Bible readings. On the reverse side are ideas to help households live out their faith in and through the home during the week. These are listed under four categories, called the “Four Keys” for the Home - *Faith Talk, Devotional Practices, Rituals & Traditions and Service*. (To learn more about the “Four Keys”, visit <http://www.formingfaith.com/3.html>).
- **TAKING FAITH HOME Home Table Edition** — in larger print, this edition contains parts of the Church Bulletin Insert (above) that can be shared by households on a daily basis – a key Scripture passage, words of Scripture that can be said responsively (“Words to Share”), a mealtime prayer and a blessing to speak to one another. It is designed to be inserted into an A5-size plastic menu holder and displayed on the home mealtable throughout the week.
- **TAKING FAITH HOME Supplementary Resources** — these build on the “Four Keys” materials in the Church Bulletin Insert. Their purpose is to help households easily make use of some of the ideas provided from week to week, and/or to help church leaders build connections between the resource and Sunday worship.



Where does **TAKING FAITH HOME** come from?

TAKING FAITH HOME is developed by Rev. Greg Priebbenow, a pastor of the Lutheran Church of Australia currently ministering at Unity College, Murray Bridge. Pastor Greg makes the **TAKING FAITH HOME** resources **freely available to churches, households and individuals in Australia** via a monthly email.

- To be included on the Australian distribution list, email a request to pastorgreg@formingfaith.com
- In the USA, these are sold through Vibrant Faith Ministries www.vibrantfaith.org/taking_faith_home.html

Is **TAKING FAITH HOME** just for families with children or youth?

While the primary “target” of **TAKING FAITH HOME** is households with children or youth, it can also be used by others. For instance, adults have used the devotional resources in their “quiet times,” and small groups, ministry teams and committees have used the “Faith Talk” questions for spiritual reflection.

How can my congregation make best use of **TAKING FAITH HOME**?

TAKING FAITH HOME works best when reinforced through Sunday worship, promoted on an ongoing basis and supplemented with practical teaching and training. A “**Congregational User’s Guide**” and “**Home User’s Guide**” are available to help you introduce the resource to your congregation and support its use over time.

For more information, please contact: Pastor Greg Priebbenow —
Ph: 0423 151 367; Email: pastorgreg@formingfaith.com

The Wonderful World of Working with Children

A WORKSHOP FOR ANYONE IN MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN

An engaging and fun exploration of basic principles — theory and practice for enjoyable, safe and effective ministry with children

Presented by: Resource Centre for Children's and Family Ministry, Uniting Church SA

When: Saturday 5th June 2010; 9:30am - 1pm (registration from 9:00)

Where: Woodville Uniting Church
44 Woodville Road, Woodville South

Cost: \$5 per person, (covers morning tea and materials)



Register before Tuesday 1st June

Contact one of the following and leave your name, phone number or email and church

Kathy Blazewicz (Woodville UC): E: kathyblaze@ozemail.com.au P: 08 8345 1333

OR

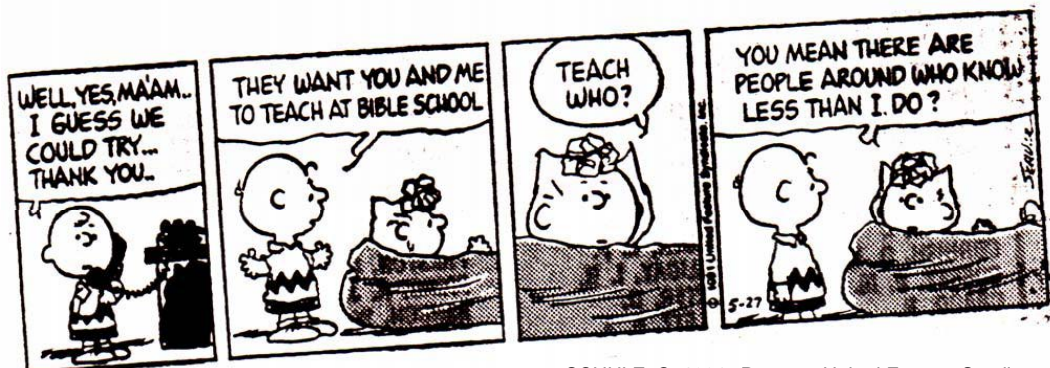
Resource Centre for Children and Family Ministry: E: rccfm@bigpond.com P: 08 8285 7104

Pay on the day (cash or cheque to: Woodville Uniting Church)

The workshop includes topics about children and telling stories, ages and stages, games, ways they learn, being flexible, arts and crafts, and much, much more.

Also includes a *Godly Play* demonstration.

Take your learning from theory to practice, by bringing along a friend or mentor who you can work with on some follow-up strategies that will be shared at the workshop.



SCHULZ, C. 1991. *Peanuts*. United Feature Syndicate