

SCHOOL NEWS

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College Park UMC Primary School & CDC
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MASSEY'S MESSAGE

I have a confession to make: My Christmas tree has been up since last Christmas. Yes, I'm serious. I felt badly about it for a short time; but, as the weeks and months went by and I found myself traveling to Mayo Clinic and Cleveland Clinic, 3 round trips in 6 months (over 7,000 miles), somehow it became less important for me to get that tree packed up and stored away. I forgave myself, accepted it for what it was and moved on. The lesson for me? Take life as it comes. Focus on what really matters. The rest of the pieces will fall into place. The good news: 1) my tree is already up for this year; 2) every time I pass it, I thank God for my healing; 3) every day it reminds me of those who are fighting for our freedom who will not be spending Christmas with their families this year (my ornaments are all red, white, and blue). A beautiful life lesson from what began as a congenital heart defect. And thanks to the good Lord . . . the beat goes on . . .

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS AT 10 A.M.!

"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Proverbs 22:6

Contents

Massey's Message	1
Parenting Tips	1
Upcoming Events	1
Children's Musical	2
Christmas Cantata	2
Christmas Eve Services	2
Contact Information	2
Teaching Tips	2

PARENTING TIPS

Creating Family Traditions at Christmas Time

Creating family traditions with your children is fun and allows them to take part in building strong foundations for family relationships. Traditions are something to look forward to each season and a beautiful way to provide predictability for children, which serves to strengthen their sense of security. They can also be passed down from generation to generation, preserving the legacy of ancestors. Here are just a few ideas:

- Make a special "family ornament" for the tree each year. Be sure you put the specific year on the ornament. The family will have a great time each year, recalling the circumstances surrounding making each ornament, while trimming the tree.
- Make it a point to purchase a Christmas ornament on family vacations. Trimming the tree will recreate those special vacation times and locations.
- Prepare and cook a Family Christmas Feast. Allow each child to request a specific side dish and go grocery shopping as a family. Be sure you allow children to take part in food preparation and even some of the cooking (depending upon their age).
- In advance, create a schedule for special holidays. Be sure each family member is allowed to choose something he/she prefers (i.e. watching a football game, shopping, going to a movie, taking a bike ride, playing at the park, playing a board game, making hot chocolate).
- Make matching family t-shirts to wear on Christmas Day!
- Create place cards for every family member, using favorite photos.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ CHILDREN'S MUSICAL
- ◆ CHRISTMAS CANTATA
- ◆ CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

CHILDREN'S MUSICAL



Please make it a priority to come see "The Mystery of the Manger . . . It's the Gospel Truth!", a full-stage musical presented Sunday, December 9th, 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary, by the Primary School and PreK classes. This is a sweet story, with music, for the whole family. You'll want to bring your children, 3 years of age and older. It won't be long before

THEY will be starring in a CPUMC production! The show only lasts about 45 minutes and a nursery will be available for children 2 years and younger. This is a great time to make this one of your Christmas Traditions!

We're on the Web!
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CHRISTMAS CANTATA

On Sunday, December 16th, at 10 a.m., the CPUMC Seasonal Choir will present "Unspeakable Joy", a collection of varying styles of music, featuring guest soloists and ensembles, to celebrate the Christmas Season. This is another great opportunity to attend, as a family, and start a new tradition for the Christmas Season. A nursery will be available for children 2 years and younger.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

*"Glory to God in
 the highest and on
 earth peace, good
 will toward men."*

Luke 2:14 (NKJ)

It is our tradition to provide a 7 p.m. Family Service for Christmas Eve. This service is child-friendly and focuses on telling the Christmas story in an age-appropriate manner, for the children of our school, church, and in our community.

We, also, provide an 11 p.m. Candlelight Service for those who wish to welcome Christmas Day, focusing on

the birth of our Savior. This is a communion service, featuring special music and a time of meditation.

Both services are held in the church Sanctuary. We welcome you to join us and be a part of these special services.

Remember, modeling for your children, is the best (and most effective) way to teach them about God and your faith.

TEACHING TIPS

Environmental Print

Children learn pre-reading skills by observing what is known as "environmental print", which includes restaurant chain logos, grocery store signs, etc. The huge golden arches of McDonald's are a prime example of "environmental print." My guess is most of your children can point those out and say "McDonalds!" Am I right? You can help your child strengthen these pre-reading skills by pointing out specific logos of the places you visit frequently (Publix, Macy's, Barnes and Noble, Chevron, etc.). Although they are not actually "reading" the words, they believe they are and that is the first step to reading, making those connections between sight and sound (what they see and what they hear). Recognizing the visual representations of familiar places will encourage your child to take that first step.