

## **Christian Education Committee Annual Report 2018**

*Mission Statement: We are called to be friends with God by following the example of Jesus Christ.*

Members: Steve Heinisch, Lisa Perrin, Dois Augspurger, Julie Graham, Cindy Hoadley, Jan Pickrel

Thank you, Steve and Lisa for your service the past three years on this committee.

The Christian Education Committee wishes to express thanks to Pastor Edward Yang for another year of faithful and knowledgeable leadership and guidance. Thank you to our wonderful and spirited volunteers for teaching, committee work and event support.

Twice a year the Christian Education and the Youth Ministry Committees meet to collaborate together to help with joint activities that coincide. To give mutual support in numbers when needed for bigger events that require more manpower.

The curriculum used for Sunday School include the year 2 of SPARK Holy Moly for children PreK-4<sup>th</sup> grade, and SPARK Connect for grades 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>. Leaders for the 2018 year were Ashli Porter, Matt Miller, Sunnie Yang, Heidi Klevemann, Kristi Wolfe, Nicole Miller, Denny Vollbracht, Julie Graham.

Special events this past year included Children's Sunday on April 29<sup>th</sup>, special Easter activities, VBS June 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, presentation of Bibles to preschoolers and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, Bring a Friend to Church Pajama Sunday on Oct 14<sup>th</sup>, Children's Sabbath on Oct 21<sup>st</sup>, the Children's Christmas Pageant on Dec 16<sup>th</sup>, and special activities with Membership and Growth for family picnic and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday potluck.

The SPARK Bible (NRSV) was presented to 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and the Storybook Push Bible was presented to the preschoolers in September.

The Christian Education Committee worked on updating the committee description which was approved by Governing Council at the November meeting. Notice of media consent for families was discussed and approved. New background checks will begin in January 2019 for all children and youth volunteers.

The Christian Education Committee, Property and Finance, and Governing Council are working together to become proactive vs reactive to building and safety concerns of the Education Center. This past year required new plumbing due to water pipe breakage. Other property concerns included repairing locks on cupboards, weather stripping the many doors in the Ed Center, repairing light

and electrical fixtures, and new clocks. A professional building inspection is being discussed for strategic planning for timing of repairs and updating.

Special thank you to Ashli Porter for years of service to children and families as Nursery Attendant. Ashli resigned at the of May 2018.

The position of Nursery Attendant is still vacant. The Christian Education committee would like this position filled. Thank you to the gracious and wonderful volunteers who have been helping in the nursery this year: Hailey Rathje, Doris Augspurger, Sue Mares, Barb Olson, Julie Graham, Sunnie Yang, Heidi and Brian Klevemann. A volunteer responsibility checklist is being written to assist volunteers with duties and safety measures.

Special thank you to Kristi Wolfe and Pastor Edward for all the hard work it takes to coordinate VBS and summer events. This year with Columbus Public Schools releasing later in June, VBS was held different week here at Federated Church. This is a three-church event in cooperation with St. Luke's United Church of Christ and First United Methodist Church.

The Christian Education Committee pauses to remember Denny Vollbracht for all he brought to the committee in past years as a member, to all the years of being present on Sundays to teach, to all the years he served the youth as mentor for ushers and acolytes, and confirmation, and youth mission trips, and always being ready with busses and vans. Denny had the heart of service and comes before the Lord with a heart full of love like a child.

*Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me. Don't keep them away. The kingdom of heaven belongs to people like them." Matthew 19:14*

Julie Canaday Graham  
Chairperson, Christian Education Committee