



Hilltop Happenings

Keeping In Touch With Our Hilltop Families

Notes from the Director:

Well here we are again!! The last time I was writing this newsletter it was September, and we were looking forward with anticipation to a new school year. We had many new faces to meet, and anxiousness over a new school year always creeps in. Now, here we are in April, the school year almost done, and what a WONDERFUL year it has been!!! We have SO MUCH to be thankful for!! God has provided in so many ways!

We are so thankful for the many families that God has brought to us this year. Each of you has touched our lives in a special way. It has been our pleasure getting to know you and your children!! Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to be a part of their lives.

I do have to say that this time of the year is bitter-sweet for me. I love the fact that the children have grown so much, and it is exciting to see many of

you move on to a new school adventure, but it is always a sad time for me to say good-bye to so many friends. That's why I love this newsletter!! It helps all of us to stay in touch! Thank you to the MANY of you that have called in, written a note, or stopped in for a visit. We LOVE to hear how things are going for you and your family!

This year marks Hilltop's 30th year in ministry!!! If you stop and think about that it can be quite mind-boggling. Think about how many children and families have walked through our doors these last 30 years! It is our prayer that we have impacted each life in a positive way. We look forward with a renewed sense of excitement of how the Lord will continue to use us for His glory in the future! Thank you for being such an important part of our first 30 years, let's keep working together to make an impact on the next 30!

All for His Glory!
Miss Becky

Cute Kid Quips

In Miss Jody & Miss Pam's 3-year-old class they were talking about Christmas, and Miss Jody asked the class, "Where was Jesus born?" Ellie answered, "Buffalo!!"

Luke, 3, was watching his mom water the Christmas tree at their house. He

asked her what she was doing, and she explained that she was watering the tree because it was thirsty. Luke looked under the tree and said, "Where's the mouth?"

Do you remember a few months ago, when all you would hear was news about

the presidential election? Well, the same could be said about our preschoolers at Hilltop. The election was big news!! Courtney, 4, asked her dad, "Who are you going to vote for? Obama or Penn State?"

We love the kids so much! They make our hearts smile!

Hilltop Christian Nursery School

Volume 2, Issue 1

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- ☺ Comments on HCNS 30th
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Comments on HCNS 30th

Our upcoming 30th anniversary celebration has made me stop and think about Hilltop and our history. A few months ago, I had the pleasure of going to lunch with Mrs. Lucille Johnson, former director of Children's Ministries at the Hershey Free Church. As we met, she shared some memories of Hilltop. I soon realized that I was gaining a valuable Hilltop history lesson. It was such a blessing to hear about the inception of Hilltop. I was so thankful to learn how Hilltop was started and why! I wanted everyone to have that same experience, so I thought that it might be interesting--and inspiring-- to have Mrs. Johnson share some of her thoughts with all of us. Her written comments on Hilltop follows.

During the time I was Director of Children's Ministries at the EFCH, the Lord laid on my heart the need for a Christian Nursery School that would be an outreach ministry to the community -- one that would provide "laughing, loving, learning" experiences for children based upon Scriptural truths from God's Word. My greatest desire was to see children "increasing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man." Luke 2:52

Thirty years have gone by, and HCNS is still in existence and going strong. It has been a joy to see God at work in this ministry. As I was reminiscing about the school, I could not help but think back to 1979, the year it started.

The original Planning Committee consisted of three sets of parents, members of the church, namely: Ken and Nancy Miller, Craig and Sue Deaven (Craig was our first treasurer), Bob and Lynn Kuhn (Bob was our first chairman and served 15 years and Lynn was

our first registrar and served 6 years), Bob Burt, an Elder Board representative, and myself.

Before getting the school off the ground, an All-Church Survey was taken to see if there was an interest and need for this type of ministry. The response was overwhelming. Approval of the Elder Board was granted and the groundwork was laid.

The Hilltop Christian Nursery School opened in September, 1979. Pam Berry Guench was the first teacher, and Sharlyn Berst was the teacher's aide from January - May of that year plus 16 years thereafter. The school started with 29 children in attendance -- one class of 3 year olds which met on Tuesday and Thursday, and one class for 4 year olds which met on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Today there are 157 children in attendance with 11 classes for 3's, 4's, and 5's.

In comparing the 1979 school year to the 2009 school year, there are several things that remain constant: the Name; the Logo; the Scripture verse on which the school was founded, Luke 2:52; the Executive Council, similar to the Planning Committee, and the Board of Elders as the Overseer.

I praise God for the excellent leadership of the school over these 30 years. God has been faithful in providing spiritually mature Directors, Teachers, and Assistants to help in "training children in the way that is right so that as they grow, they will remain upon it." Proverbs 22:6. May God continue to bless HCNS!!

-- Lucille Johnson

Psalm 23

In our last newsletter, we encouraged all of you to memorize Psalm 23 along with us! Our goal was to have 100 people say the entire Psalm by the end of this school year. We are happy to report that at the time of this writing, we have 50 people that have said the entire passage!!! That includes each Hilltop staff member and our entire 5-year-old class.

I'd like to introduce you to the Perry Family (See Picture at right). Darrin and Heather have three girls, Ainsley, Kaia, and Lydia. Ainsley is in 1st grade and Kaia is in Kindergarten at the Early Childhood Center in Derry Township. Both girls attended Hilltop, and we're looking forward to having Lydia with us in a few years.

The Perry's received the Hilltop Happenings newsletter and decided, as a family, that they would all learn the 23rd Psalm. They posted the passage on their dining room table so that they could work on it as a family each evening. I would run into them as we came to church, and they would often give me updates on how things were going with their memorization. I am so excited to say that at the Christmas Eve service at our church, I received a very special visit from the Perry's where each family member (except Lydia, but, hey, she's only 2!!) recited the 23rd Psalm!! Isn't that wonderful!! I am so proud of them -- not only for the fact that they took the time to memorize this, but



The Perry Family: Front row (l to r): Kaia, 6, Ainsley, 7
Second Row (l to r): Darrin, Heather, and Lydia, 2

that they did it together as a family. They are helping the girls to "hide God's word in their hearts," while making lasting memories for their family at the same time.

We'd like to encourage your family to do the same! There is still time to learn the 23rd Psalm together. As soon as you know it, let me know. We want to add your name to our list. I really believe we can still make it to 100 people!!

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." Psalm 119:11

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul.

He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalm 23

Legacy Family

When you've been around for 30 years you start to build a long-lasting legacy. That is what is happening at Hilltop. We currently have quite a few families with us that are now in their second generation at Hilltop. I have a special name for these multi-generation families...I call them a "Legacy Family." I'd like to introduce you to one of our Legacy Families. Amy Readinger (Kiskis) attended Hilltop as a child. Now Amy, and her husband, Ryan, have their son, Kadan, with us in our 3-year-old program this year. I asked Amy to write a few words about what Hilltop means to her. You'll find her note to me in the following paragraphs.

"When my son, Kadan, was approaching that time to start preschool my "mommy research" was easy! I had no doubt or questions as to where he would be going in his first, precious years of life. Who would have ever known that 26 years ago God was planting seeds for my children!

It was 1982 that I walked into Hilltop ready



A class picture from 1982-1983. Amy is the little girl in the center with the arrow over her.



Amy and Kadan now! We are so thankful to have your family with us!!

Are you a Hilltop Legacy Family? If so, let us know, we'd love to hear your story.

to conquer the world! I remember the smiles of my teachers, Mrs. Rohrbach and Mrs. Miller. They always shared God's love and grace in their hugs and the way they taught us. Twenty-six years later my son is also being shown God's love from his teachers at Hilltop!

I can still remember the family hot dog day picnic, some of the songs we sang, and some of my preschool friends. It is my hope and prayer that my son continues to see God's love and grace at Hilltop. What a blessing to know that the roots of Hilltop are grounded and 26 years later, my son and other children are being loved and taught by beautiful teachers!

Thank you for all the memories you have helped create for me and now my son 26 years later! May God bless Hilltop and continue to plant the seeds of His love and grace in the hearts of every child that walks in the doors of Hilltop. What a blessing to our children, and the future! "Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6" Amy Readinger

Prayer Requests

Thank you to the many of you that are praying for us! Please keep it up, it means so much to us!

- Pray for us as we "wind down" this school year. Pray that the seeds that we plant here at Hilltop will stay with the children long after they leave our school.
- Pray for our upcoming 30th Anniversary Celebration. Pray for good weather, and that the day would be a great celebration of all that the Lord has done through Hilltop these past 30 years!
- Pray for the health and safety of our children and staff.
- Pray for our staff over the summer. Pray that the Lord would use the time to refresh our minds and bodies. A picture of this year's staff is to the right to help you to remember us in prayer. Thank you!



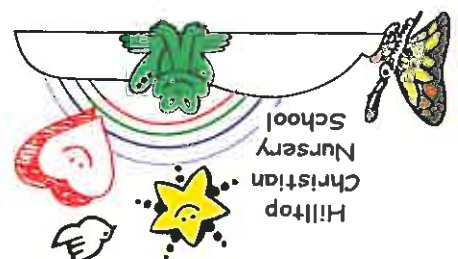
Don't forget Hilltop's 30th anniversary celebration on Saturday, May 2nd, from 12:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. We're looking forward to seeing you all there!!! Call Hilltop at 533-8956 with any questions.

Come Celebrate Hilltop's 30th Anniversary!!!

30th  30th

Join us on Saturday, May 2nd, from 12:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m., as we celebrate Hilltop's 30th anniversary!!! Phredd from WJTL, 90.3 FM will be here to perform. We will have many games and fun activities for the whole family. Hot dog lunches will also be available. All items will cost 30¢ to celebrate our 30th!!! Please call Becky Chocklette at 533-8956 with any questions! See you there!

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