

Green Pastures

Wellford Baptist Church Preschool Ministry

Our Vision:

We will partner with families to reach and teach Preschoolers in such a way that they have the opportunity to become best friends with Christ, grow in their relationship Him, and develop a servant's heart.

Our Purpose

- We, Shepherds, will help each child
 - Feel comfortable, loved, wanted and important
 - Have a safe, secure and clean environment
 - Grow in his/her independence by beginning to meet and solve their own problems; to make progress in sharing and taking turns
 - Feel secure with adults and with other children in a variety of situations
 - Begin to show love, respect and acceptance for others
 - Learn that Jesus was born, grew and belonged to a family
 - Know that the Bible is a special book that tells about God and Jesus
 - Learn Bible basics and how to apply them to everyday life
- By showing our preschoolers that **we** (*"Then I will give you **SHEPHERDS** after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding" Jeremiah 3:14-15.*) love them and we are trustworthy, we teach them Jesus loves them and they can trust **Him**, (*"that Great **SHEPHERD** of the sheep," Isaiah 40:11.*)
- We will support the family in building a spiritual foundation in the life of a child so that, in God's timing, they would place their faith in Christ and continue on the journey to full devotion.
"By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ." 1Corinthians 3:10-11

Our Values

- Prayer is the essential foundation for all effective ministries.
"And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive." –Matthew 21:22
- Children matter to God and must matter to His Church.
"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them, for of such is the kingdom of heaven.'" –Matthew 19:14
- Biblically based; Child centered; Relational and Fun! Green Pastures' lessons will be inspired by the Word of God.
"...and how from infancy you have known holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise

for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”-2 Timothy 3:15-16

- Form authentic and loving relationships between our shepherds and preschoolers.
“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” –John 15:12 “And if anyone gives a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is My disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward.” –Matthew 10:42
- Provide a safe and secure environment.
“For in the day of trouble He will keep me safe in His dwelling.” –Psalm 27:5
- Place Shepherds in ministry positions to best utilize their spiritual gifts.
“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.”-1 Corinthians 12:4-6
- Honor God through excellence. A commitment to excellence in Green Pastures is the key to honoring God. Each Shepherd will be fully committed to serving with excellence.
“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.” – Colossians 3:23

Guidelines for Preschool Teachers/Shepherds for Green Pastures

- A background check must be completed and approved.
- Be on time. You should arrive before the first child arrives, at least 15 minutes before class.
- Be spiritually prepared to be used by God to work with His little ones. Teaching begins when the first child arrives. This time is not to be used for personal conversations between workers.
- Teachers are encouraged to use all available resources and materials for teaching (pictures, resource kits, ETC leaflets, etc.)
- Make effort to attend special preschool meetings, teacher training sessions, and be faithful in outreach.
- Always leave your room neat and clean. If the preschoolers make a mess on the tables, please clean them. Encourage the children to put up materials neatly and pick up any paper, etc. God expects us as teachers and our preschoolers to take care of His Church.
- In case of absence, contact a substitute and the Preschool Minister.
- When working with infants, check diapers often. The proper diaper changing procedures are posted in each room.
- When working with two's and toddlers being potty-trained, ask or take children to the restroom often to avoid accidents.
- Green Pastures Shepherds will:
 - Use soft voices when talking to preschoolers.
 - Sit in child-sized chairs or on the floor (except when rocking chair is needed.)
 - Be alert to all that is going on around you, but with relaxed supervision.
 - Be familiar with the Fire Escape Plan and Emergency Procedures for the Preschool area.
 - Report any accident/incident immediately to the Preschool Minister. An accident/incident report then needs to be completed. Forms are in the classrooms.
 - Maintain a structured and orderly learning environment.
 - Wear medical grade gloves while diapering, cleaning up toilet accidents, or dealing with any situation where bodily fluids are present.
 - Not administer ANY medication. Parents must administer all medications.
 - Follow all safety/security procedures to ensure that preschoolers are released to authorized persons. Preschoolers WILL NOT be released to younger siblings and WILL NOT be left in a Preschool room unattended.

Guidelines for Paid Preschool Staff

- A background check must be completed and approved.
- All paid Preschool staff is expected to be in Preschool Suite 15 minutes prior to the planned church activity.
- Preschool staff is responsible for disinfecting toys, equipment, and furnishings after each session. All soiled linens and smocks should be placed in the appropriate area.
- All preschool rooms should be returned to a neat and orderly fashion before leaving.
- Only authorized persons will be allowed in the Preschool Area.
- Preschool Staff will:
 - Use soft voices when talking to preschoolers.
 - Sit in child-sized chairs or on the floor (except when rocking chair is needed.)
 - Be alert to all that is going on around you, but with relaxed supervision.
 - Be familiar with the Fire Escape Plan and Emergency Procedures for the Preschool area.
 - Report any accident/incident immediately to the Preschool Minister. An accident/incident report then needs to be completed. Forms are in the classrooms.
 - Maintain a structured and orderly learning environment.
 - Wear medical grade gloves while diapering, cleaning up toilet accidents, or dealing with any situation where bodily fluids are present.
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 - Follow all safety/security procedures to ensure that preschoolers are released to authorized persons. Preschoolers WILL NOT be released to younger siblings and WILL NOT be left in a Preschool room unattended.

Parent Guidelines for Green Pastures

- Parents are to leave and pick up their preschooler at the Preschool Lobby counter or at the door of the classrooms located in the main hallway. A shepherd/teacher will greet you and get any information needed. Only the shepherds/teachers are to be in the preschool classrooms. This includes children of the shepherds/teachers not assigned to the classroom.
- Parents are expected to pick up their preschoolers immediately after the close of each church activity.
- Preschoolers can only be picked up by authorized persons with a receipt matching the name tag number of the preschooler.
- Parents should not leave a preschooler in a classroom for any reason other than attending a church function.
- Please refer to the Preschool Health Policy (attached.)
- Do not allow preschoolers to bring toys from home. Special objects for security are permitted, but should be labeled.
- It is suggested that parents or other family members not visit a child during the time he/she is in the preschool area. Too many people going in and out of the room upsets the preschoolers, upsets their routines, and disrupts sleeping babies. Workers will notify parents if there is a problem.
- Parents should complete a Preschool Information Sheet and leave any special instructions. These sheets are available in the Preschool Check-in Area.
- Bottles should be stored and given according to the instructions by the parents. Bottles should be labeled with the child's name.
- Please tag all items left with your child: coats, caps, sweaters, bottles, blankets, etc. If you send a pacifier it is suggested that you label it or have it on a clip. It is difficult to return an unmarked item when there are many children in a room. Even four and five year olds can confuse items that are similar in style and color.
- Parents of children in the potty-training stage should inform the worker and bring an extra change of clothes in case of accidents.
- Preschoolers will be transferred from babies to toddlers according to his/her physical development from birth to one year of age. After one year of age, the preschooler will be transferred according to their age before September 1 of the current year. So that they will move up with the class they will start school with.
- Parents of preschoolers are encouraged to share in the care of their children and others during Wee Worship (church for our little ones). Your contribution to the ministry is greatly appreciated!