

HAYGOOD PRESCHOOL

NEWS

December 2009

Please mark these dates on your calendar!

December 2	Hanukkah Chapel
December 2	Atlanta Speech School Evaluations for ages 3-K
December 14	Christmas Chapel Programs Four's Program ~ 9:30am in the Chapel Three's Program ~ 10:15am in the Sanctuary Pre-K ~ 11:00am in the Sanctuary
December 21	SCHOOL CLOSED ~ Winter Holidays begin
January 6	First Day After Winter Break

CHRISTMAS CHAPEL PROGRAMS

Christmas Chapel programs will be on **Monday, December 14th** and will feature preschooler angels, wise ones, shepherds and members of the Holy family singing, playing instruments and giving us a unique version of the Christmas story. These programs, for the three year-old classes and up are about 15-20 minutes long. Bring your cameras and be ready to be entertained by your little ones.

CHRISTMAS GIFT DRIVE FOR ATLANTA CHILDREN'S SHELTER

Our gift drive this year will benefit families at Atlanta Children's Shelter. The Atlanta Children's Shelter serves homeless children and their families and helps them from homelessness to self-sufficiency by providing a wide range of services, including a daycare for homeless children. The Gift Drive will run from **December 7th - December 16th**. Please watch your child's bags for flyers and emails from your room parents for specific information about the family your class will be helping this holiday season.

TEACHER APPRECIATION COMMITTEE

The Teacher Appreciation Committee is collecting donations for teacher holiday gifts. Everyone should have received a letter with information about the collection in the school bags before the Thanksgiving break. All donations can be made out to Michelle Constantinides and need to be received by **Wednesday, December 9th**. Participation is voluntary. There will be no collections made by room parents for your teachers during the holidays. If you have any questions, please contact Michelle at michelle.constantinides@gmail.com.

HAYGOOD UMC YOUTH BABYSITTING FUNDRAISER

Get your Christmas shopping done while your kids have a blast with the youth of Haygood. We'll have a craft, playtime and a movie. Pay and complete paperwork at the time of sign in. Parents pack a sack lunch and bring a change of clothes for your child. Children must be 3 years and up. So get ready to shop on **Saturday, December 5th** from 10:00am - 3:00pm. The cost is \$45 per child and \$30 per additional child. Contact Rev. Eric Fessler at efessler@haygooducm.org with any questions.

THIS MONTH IN MUSIC

If you walked past the music room in November, you might have mistaken it for a turkey farm. We've been singing and gobbling all month long. We have lots of "thankful" songs, and even more to be thankful FOR. We enjoyed teaching you

songs in Thanksgiving chapel, and we are already looking forward to sharing our Christmas chapel cheer with you.

THIS MONTH IN SPANISH

In November, Ms. Lilia talked about Thanksgiving and traditional Thanksgiving dinner and about the changing colors of the leaves. With the Christmas holidays approaching, the children will be learning the song “Feliz Navidad.” They will continue to work on numbers, colors and all things Spanish!!

THIS MONTH IN YOGA

The children learned how to do the turkey countdown with Ms. Leslie and learned new poses incorporating Thanksgiving turkeys and pilgrims. Ms. Leslie read books this month and the children created poses from the stories.

WINTER BREAK PLAY DATES

Winter Break Play Dates are coming soon! Looking for a fun way to get the kids active during the holiday break? Don't miss this wonderful program with Ms. Angela for ages 3 years old through Kindergarten. Flyers will be coming home soon!

Monday, December 21

Tuesday, December 22

10:00am-1:00pm in the Haygood Gym

Pick one or sign up for all four ~ \$35 each date. Spaces are limited. Email Angela Foster to ask questions at afoster@haygoodwcm.org.

ILLNESS POLICY

Your child MUST be free of fever or vomiting for a full 24 hours before returning to school. Please help us to keep all the children at Haygood healthy during this busy time of year. If you are wondering whether or not they are well enough to come to school, please err on the side of caution and keep them home for the day. Thank you so much for your help and support!

SAFETY ALERT

Please do not leave valuables in your car in the parking lot, even if you are only coming in for a short time. There have been in past years incidents of people smashing car windows and grabbing whatever can be reached from the car. Be alert and please let us know if you have any concerns or see anything suspicious. Do not give the door code to anyone. If someone does not know the code, ask them to wait outside the door and come and get someone on the staff to assist them.

GO GREEN AT HAYGOOD!

Class parties typically leave a lot of waste behind. While disposable paper products and individually wrapped items are extremely convenient, Haygood encourages parents planning the class parties to “Go Green.” With a little planning, it should be worth the effort to have a “Waste-free” party and it sends a positive message to our kids! How to have a Waste-Free Party:

- Haygood has provided plastic plates and cups for each class! These items can be rinsed off after the party and taken home by a parent volunteer to wash
- Skip the juice boxes! Bring in pitchers for water or purchase the large containers of juice or milk.
- Use cloth napkins and tablecloths. Have a parent volunteer to wash them.
- Bring foods that are not individually wrapped. Serve muffins, fruit, sliced cheese or finger sandwiches. Bring them in reusable containers.
- Plan a craft that uses natural materials, like decorating a pinecone as a Christmas ornament. Or instead of a craft, play music and dance. Read books related to the holiday being celebrated.
- Avoid plastic “goodie bag” items as party favors

WEATHER-RELATED SCHOOL CLOSINGS

Haygood follows the Atlanta Public Schools guideline for inclement weather. Please check your local TV and radio stations, 11 Alive, Star 94 or Access Atlanta on the internet for school closing information. If Atlanta Public Schools are closed, we will be closed.

Happy Birthday to... Ms. Denise-December 6, **Ms. Leslie**-December 9, **Ms. Jennifer**-December 15 and **Ms. Carol**-December 30

Many Thanks....

Edith Ann Morgan and all the teachers for all their hard work on the Thanksgiving Chapel program.

Heather Hallett, Mission Chair for coordinating the food drive and all of the parents and children who donated food to the Atlanta Food Bank.

In Our Prayers...

The Chance Family as Patrick continues his battle to beat neuroblastoma.

Taylor Dabney, Kerry Bresee's nephew, during his separation from his family as he serves his country in Iraq during the Christmas holidays.

Around Haygood UMC...

The United Methodist Men's Christmas Tree Sale is going on now. Get your trees today! Hours are Monday-Friday from 5:30pm-9pm, Saturday 9am-9pm and Sunday 12pm-9pm.

Christmas Eve Worship Services will be on **Wednesday, December 24th at 5pm and 7:30pm.**

Wednesday Night Supper for Advent wreath making will be **Wednesday, December 2nd at 6:30pm.** The Birthday party for baby Jesus will be on **December 20th** at during the Sunday School hour at 9:45am in the Gym. Contact Carrie Yoder at cyoder@haygoodumc.org for additional information or check the haygoodumc.org website.

In Closing Theresa Says...

Happy December! Can you believe there are only 24 shopping days till Christmas?

My youngest daughter is taking violin lessons. Katarina is in the 5th grade and this is her third year playing with the Morningside Elementary School Orchestra and her second year taking private lessons with Mr. Ben. As with most children, when Kat practices she can get wonderful sound from the violin if she concentrates and focuses on each individual note. It is easy to tell when she is not focused or is thinking ahead to the next measure. The sound is not as crisp and the tempo is not exact; rushed in one place and then slow in the next. With the MES orchestra concert coming up and Haygood's Advent celebration right around the corner, Kat has been practicing quite a few Christmas Carols. I LOVE Christmas Carols and thoroughly enjoy listening to her practice and I find myself slowly getting into the spirit of the holiday until...I PANIC. It is already December and I have so much to do. I don't have my Christmas cards yet, no Christmas tree, there are no decorations up, and I have only bought one present, and it isn't even wrapped. I still have to buy and ship the out of town gifts, bake Christmas cookies, and take the kids to visit Santa; all in the next 24 days! This is the point where I too need to take a breath, get focused and take things one measure at a time. I can spend the next 24 days in a state of frenetic panic, or I can listen to the sounds of the season and enjoy each task. My hope is that all of you will have a relaxed holiday filled with wonderful music, family fun, yummy treats and that you enjoy each moment.