

# Congregations & Early Childhood

*From the Early Childhood Faith Initiative, a collaboration between Durham's Partnership for Children & End Poverty Durham*

Ninth Edition

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## SECTION 1: FAITH COORDINATOR NEWS

**RSVP to Winnie at [winniewmorgan@juno.com](mailto:winniewmorgan@juno.com) for the May 10, 2011 training from 11:30am - 1pm at Duke Memorial UMC on "Welcoming Children with Autism to Faith Classrooms" at [winniewmorgan@juno.com](mailto:winniewmorgan@juno.com).** It's **free** and offers networking with colleagues. Please share with faith educators, congregation volunteers working with children, and children/family ministers.

We have raised more than \$11,000 towards our **\$25,000 challenge grant—due June 15th**. **Please consider a donation from your congregational budget.** For questions, contact Ted Whiteside at [ted@dpfc.net](mailto:ted@dpfc.net) or 919-403-6960 or send donations to Attn: Durham's Partnership for Children, 1201 S. Briggs Ave, Suite 210, Durham, NC 27703 with a note on the check: Child Poverty Faith Initiative.

Marian Wright Edelman states that "we don't have a budget problem in this country, we have a values problem". Please share with your legislators your priorities and that the budget cannot be balanced on the backs of our young children. Contact **Melanie** at [melanie@dpfc.net](mailto:melanie@dpfc.net) to be added to the "Be a Champion—E-ALERT" list or simply sign up for it on the Partnership's legislative site at <http://www.champions4youngchildren.net/>

**Contact Winnie Morgan for questions or to speak to your congregation at [winniewmorgan@juno.com](mailto:winniewmorgan@juno.com).**

## SECTION 2: RESOURCES & MATERIALS

**EARLY CHILDHOOD MATTERS** by Sondra Saunders (to read this article go to: <http://www.childrensministry.com/articles/early-childhood-matters>)

Babies are built for learning. Every sensation -- touch, taste, smell, sight, and sound -- electrifies the infant brain and helps it establish sensory connections that'll last a lifetime.

Because babies build a sense of trust with caregivers as their needs are met, it's vital to respond to their needs in a loving and consistent manner. When adults interact lovingly with babies, their sense of self-worth grows. Babies develop trust in the people who meet their physical needs. You can surround an infant with a sense of acceptance, security, and love with the experiences you provide for babies in your nursery. Babies feel God's love as it flows from you.

### SECTION 3: QUOTES: Mothers

***In the end, it's not what you do for your children but what you've taught them to do for themselves.***

Ann Landers

***If you have a mom, there is nowhere you are likely to go where a prayer has not already been.***

Robert Brault

***Mothers hold their children's hands for a short while, but their hearts forever.*** Author Unknown

***God could not be everywhere and therefore he made mothers.*** Jewish Proverb

***Mother is the name for God in the lips and hearts of little children.*** William Makepeace Thackeray

***What the child says, he has heard at home.*** African Proverb

***There is but one way to eliminate juvenile delinquency - that is by providing each child in America with competent parents.*** J. Edgar Hoover

***As a mother, my job is to take care of what is possible and trust God with the impossible.***

Ruth Bell Graham

### SECTION 4: SHARING IDEAS: Gifts From & To Mothers

**“The mother’s face and voice are the first conscious objects as the infant soul unfolds, and she soon comes to stand in the very place of God to her child.”** Granville Hall, poet. This quote represents a challenge for congregations to reach out to mothers (and fathers) to provide them with skills to help raise spiritual children. In the book, Making a Home for Faith, Elizabeth Caldwell shares a list of **“10 Things Every Child Needs from Faithful Parents”**:

1. Parents who are comfortable using God language, reading faith stories, answering children’s questions, and praying with children.
2. Caring adults that make connections between faith and life.
3. Participation as a family in the worship life of a congregation and keeping the Sabbath.
4. Connecting life with faith through faith practices: retelling faith stories, singing songs, saying prayers, having meditations, offering affirmations of faith (God loves you & I love you).
5. Experiences with other faithful adults.
6. Opportunities to experience people of other cultures and faith traditions.
7. Reinforcing the practices and meanings of your faith at home.
8. Books to read and books to read from.
9. Time/space for questions, wonderings about the mystery of God, opportunities for creative expression: music, art, drama, words.
10. Time, patience, love.

**Mother’s Day Gifts:** Most low income mothers will not receive anything special on Mother’s Day. How about seeking out mothers living in homeless facilities and let them know you care about them and their children on this special day? Are we demonstrating our faith to children with our actions? Call for ideas of service to underserved mothers and children.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[www.dpfc.net/EarlyChildhoodFaithInitiative.aspx](http://www.dpfc.net/EarlyChildhoodFaithInitiative.aspx); [www.endpovertydurham.org](http://www.endpovertydurham.org);  
[Sign-up for e-news from Durham’s Partnership for Children and join us on facebook!](#)

Better Brains for Babies (<http://www.fcs.uga.edu/ext/bbb/factSheets.php>)

To **unsubscribe** or for **more information**, contact Winnie Morgan at [winniewmorgan@juno.com](mailto:winniewmorgan@juno.com).

We would appreciate your feedback on this newsletter and ideas to be shared with others on birth to five and their parents in congregations. Please forward this newsletter to appropriate persons on your staff or submit their e-mail.