

Congregations & Early Childhood

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

Second Edition

September 2010

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SECTION 1: FAITH COORDINATOR NEWS

Recently, I spoke to the Mission and Lunch Bunch at Watts Street Baptist Church. We explored our own early childhoods and discussed their congregation's activities and what could be done to reach the 23 percent of children living in poverty in Durham.

Contact Winnie Morgan to speak with a group in your congregation at winniewmorgan@juno.com.

SECTION 2: RESOURCES & MATERIALS

An excellent series *Better Brains for Babies* (<http://www.fcs.uga.edu/ext/bbb/factSheets.php>) is fascinating and easy reading for anyone interested in understanding how important our early years are for creating productive and successful adult. Some of the series' titles are: *Building Baby's Brain: The Basics, Ten Myths, What Parents Can Do, Learning Language, Prime Time for Learning, The Role of Music*.

Don't forget to use the handout: *Faith in our Future: Congregations and Children Birth to Five* (<http://dpfc.net/EarlyChildhoodFaithInitiative.aspx>).

SECTION 3: QUOTES

Do you have "white space" in your newsletters or bulletins that you could insert a quote?

Each month I will share quotes on early childhood that we hope you will enjoy and use.

*Cherishing children is the mark of a civilized society. **Joan Ganz Cooney***

*Poverty hides wisdom. **Yiddish Wisdom***

*Your children need your presence more than your presents. **Jesse Jackson***

*Don't limit a child to your own learning, for he was born in another time. **Rabbinical Saying***

SECTION 4: SHARING IDEAS

Nobody can do for little children what grandparents do. Grandparents sort of sprinkle stardust over the lives of little children. Alex Haley

With 23 percent of Durham's young children being born into poverty, we encourage you to reach out in your community to make a difference with young children. Not every child has a biological grandparent to lavish attention on him or her. Volunteer to be a Grandparent to a young mom and baby through **The GrandParent Network**. They match volunteers 50 and older with new families to share kindness and experience as an older mentor. Young parents want a caring and experienced "grandparent" who can have a positive influence on them being the best parent they can be. When were asked to sprinkle stardust? To volunteer, e-mail Annie Jones Clement at jones1@duke.edu.

The theme of the Children's Defense Fund (<http://www.childrensdefense.org/programs-campaigns/faith-based-action/childrens-sabbaths/>) for this year's Children's Sabbath weekend, October 15-17, is: **Blessed to Be a Blessing: Lifting up the Next Generation**. Through worship, prayer and actions, faith communities will affirm children as the primary blessing God has given us and commit together to working to end child poverty. Attached is a flyer we encourage you to use for Children's Sabbath. If you conduct Children's Sabbath activities, please let us know.

Molly Reingruber, Director of Children's Ministries at St. Philip's Episcopal Church, shares: 'Our **Spiritual Parenting** program consists of 4 to 5 discussion sessions about the characteristics of the young child, their spiritual needs and capacities. We talk about the need for order and movement and the child's capacity for love, wonder, and joy. Parents learn to appreciate and see the gifts that young children have and how to talk to them when they ask questions. The resource used is: *God and the Child Collections*. For clergy that include baptism, I would recommend **Baptism is a Beginning** for baptism preparation, edited by Rebekah Rojewicz. It has a parent training session and bilingual hand-outs and home letters that cover topics for children from pre-natal through age 6.'

E-mail Molly at mollyr@stphilipsdurham.org for more information.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information visit:

www.dpfc.net/EarlyChildhoodFaithInitiative.aspx; www.endpovertydurham.org;
www.heckmanequation.org; www.developingchild.harvard.edu

To unsubscribe or for more information, please contact Winnie Morgan at
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We would also appreciate your feedback on this newsletter and ideas to be shared with others on birth to five and their parents in congregations.