

ASM Children's Report 2024

Children's Church & Youth Online

Our online ministry has continued this year. However, views have dropped significantly this term due to irregular video uploads, despite recordings being completed.

We keep parents informed via our dedicated WhatsApp group, which has been instrumental in connecting new families not yet part of broader church groups. We encourage all parents to join this helpful platform.

Children's Church growth has remained stable.

Teaching Series

- **Term 2:** We followed the lectionary, exploring themes such as *Psalm 23 (The Lord is my Shepherd)*, *abiding in Christ's love (Jesus is the Vine)*, and an introduction to the 'I Am' statements. Special focus was placed on *Pentecost* and *Trinity Sunday*. We also studied Old Testament stories, including *Adam and Eve*, *The Tower of Babel*, and *God's promise to Abraham*.
- **Term 3:** The focus was on *The Armor of God*, aligning with the *Family Matters* series.
- **Term 4:** We delved into the *Methodist Heritage* series, culminating with *Advent* to close the term.

Worship

Worship remains central to our ministry. Every lesson—online or in-person—begins with prayer and a time for sharing gratitude. Singing and dancing, whether virtual or in-person, enrich the experience and mirror the joy found in corporate worship. The children thoroughly enjoy this segment of our service.

Volunteers

Our need for volunteers at the 11 am service remains urgent.

- **Volunteer Roles:** Opportunities include registering children at the 9 am and 11 am services, assisting teachers, managing snack time (11 am), leading games or crafts, and welcoming families.
- **Parent Roster:** We introduced a parent roster requiring parents to assist occasionally. Unfortunately, this initiative received limited support.
- **Training:** Volunteer training is a priority. Early in the year, we arranged police clearances and child ministry training. Recently, we conducted a CPR course, equipping 10 volunteers with essential life-saving skills. These initiatives not only grow our team but also enrich individuals.

Junior Youth

Junior Youth, catering to Grades 4–7, continues to thrive.

- **Activities:** Themed nights such as *Survivor* and *Pizza Party*, alongside outings to Adventure Golf and Bounce, have been highlights.

- **Meetings:** We meet bi-weekly in the Children's Church halls, maintaining stable attendance.

Children and Youth Internship Program

We are excited to welcome three new interns who have been introduced to the congregation. Please say hello if you see them!

- **Roles:** Interns assist with lessons, event planning, and curriculum development.
- **Training:** They participated in our *Holiday Club* and received child ministry training. Their leadership skills and interaction with children have already improved notably.
- **Age Groups:** We've begun splitting children into age-appropriate groups after worship—*Juniors* (ages 3–9) and *Seniors* (Grades 4–7)—allowing for more tailored lessons.

Joint Events

- **Holiday Club 2024:** Held from July 1st–5th. For details, refer to the *Holiday Club Report*.

Drives

- **Easter Elderly Care Drive:** We collected 120 hampers for elderly women at Gerald Fitzpatrick Home, distributing them on Easter Saturday.
- **Christmas Toy Drive:** Currently underway, this initiative supports three homes: Mother of Peace, Johannesburg Children's Homes, and Little Eden. We pray for a blessed Christmas for every child!
"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Family Focus

As part of the church's strategic plan to become more family-focused, we've initiated several programs:

- **Parent Roster:** While uptake has been limited, we are committed to fostering greater involvement.
- **Children's Church Hall Upgrade:** A design competition invited children to reimagine the hall. The submitted designs were outstanding, showcasing incredible talent! *Mount Sinai Hall* will soon be upgraded.
- **Parent Get-Together:** A recent gathering provided a space for parents to connect and build community. We plan to host these events more regularly.

Thanks

We would like to extend our thanks to the congregation for their continued support, love and prayers!

