

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Representing the important area of Christian Education, I'd like to talk with you briefly about your child/children and the subject of giving.

As "members" of this congregation, children and youth are taught the wide scope of what it means to be part of this family. We pray with them in worship, Sunday School, and youth gatherings. We encourage them to come as often as they can. We deliberately involve them in service on their level by participating in programs such as Backpack Buddies and SPAN for all ages, Heaven's Kitchen and Winter Relief for families, ASP for youth. We teach them how to share their love of this church, and of God and Jesus.

Where we are striving to work harder is the area of education about giving. They are not too young to realize that giving is a way to thank and honor God. It is both our privilege and our responsibility to help our church be the best it can be. They understand that we are blessed...we have more than enough when lots of kids do not. Knowing that sense of blessedness should move us to want to give back a little.

We started talking about this in Sunday School this fall; and the next week, two children emptied their piggy banks, bringing their offering to God. They even told the gathering of children why they wanted to bring money to their church. We are currently using new incentive, and they can choose where they want their offering to go, all mission choices that they clearly understand.

Most kids will not do this on their own. They need heartfelt encouragement from their parents to fulfill this part of church membership. You can help them develop patterns of giving that could last their lifetime. If they learn now, they will see offering as a joyful activity, one that honors God and helps others.

Please take a moment and go over the simple pledge card included. They should complete it and return it the same day you return yours, November 19. They can bring it to Sunday School where it will be collected.

Thank you, and may God continue to bless you and your family.

Rev. Lee Ferrell, Minister of Education and Youth
Erica Benjamin, Director of Children's Ministries