

Pat Janssen

From: Pat Janssen
Sent: Tuesday, November 18, 2008 12:01 PM
To: Pat Janssen
Subject: South Central Regional News from The LOGOS Ministry

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The LOGOS Ministry
South Central Regional Newsletter
Fall 2008



Dear LOGOS Friend,

Our regional newsletters are now electronic! We hope that you will share this newsletter with the folks in your congregation, your community and your region. If you have news to share, please contact **Liz Perraud** at lizperraud@thelogosministry.org.

Focus on Fun at Fort Smith's LOGOS Ministry

First Presbyterian Church in Fort Smith, Arkansas restarted LOGOS in their church and is now in its third "new" year. They saw a jump from twenty-five children (kindergarten-sixth grade) last year to over sixty this year and LOGOS Director and Dinner Dean Joey Cole believes there are several factors that have contributed.

First of all, they have an intentional focus on FUN! Joey says, "I'm smart enough to know that if the kids have fun, they'll tell their friends, and then those kids will make their parents bring them!" One of the ways they reach this lofty goal is through their Family Time themes and activities. They've worked to use themes that are a little more updated than the traditional topics. On "High School Musical" Night they brought in high school students from outside the church to come and sing and dance with the kids. The after-dinner game was a dance contest using a song from the movie with the high school students as judges. The activity on "Pirates of the Caribbean" Night was throwing wads of paper between large cardboard "ships" on either side of the dining room. Several adults dressed up as pirates to manage the fun. They have also had some special nights that have given the Bible teachers and Worship Skills leaders a break, including bringing in a clown magician who offered up incredible Biblical messages

while entertaining the children!



Secondly, there has been a change in focus for the ministry from what might be simplest and easiest for the volunteers to what is best for the kids...no matter what. All of the decisions by the LOGOS board are run through this focus. This includes a very intentional plan to involve leaders who feel called to be with kids, are dedicated to growing the program, nurturing families, working to build trust, and helping families to trust each other.

Additionally, Rev. William Galbraith, First Presbyterian's pastor is highly supportive and involved in LOGOS. This year he serves as a Table Parent and then a "separator" after the meal....separating the food from the dishes before they are passed to the dishwashers.

Along with their music director, Joey attended a LOGOS Experience last summer in Tulsa and is already planning how best to get the LOGOS volunteers trained next summer. He knows that having lots of people trained, excited and passionate about LOGOS is going to be critical! He is doing whatever it takes to make this ministry a great one for all of their kids. LOGOS at First Presbyterian also includes a large group of "at-risk" children from the community which has required special attention to make sure that they too can participate successfully. Setting enough structure while still remaining flexible and supportive has been a challenge but worth the extra work.

At First Presbyterian, LOGOS has been a way to minister to the younger children in the church and prepare them to enter the youth program as they get older. Joey believes that "LOGOS is a great minor league system for a good youth program" and he and his team work really hard to make that minor league system the best it can be.

Upcoming Events in the South Central Region

The LOGOS Powering UP! Workshops -- May 2, 2009

First Presbyterian Church
Bartlesville, OK

The LOGOS Experience -- July 31-August 2, 2009

First Presbyterian Church
Tyler, TX

The LOGOS Encounter -- October 24, 2009

First Christian Church
Duncan, OK

LOGOS South Central Regional Support

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We welcome your questions, concerns, ideas, support, or anything regarding your local LOGOS Ministry.

For those in the South Central Region [TX, LA, OK, AR], please call **Liz Perraud** at (877-937-2572, EXT 242) or email her at [lizperraud@thelogosministry.org](mailto:lizperraud@thelogosministry.org).

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