

*“Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from Him.”  
-Psalm 127:3*

“Let me tell you what should make your heart happy. It’s when you go to a place and you look around and see babies, preschoolers, and a multitude of children; when you observe the entire place covered with families and a gathering of young people.” The truth of this comment resonated within me as I read it recently. President Kennedy has often been given credit for saying, “Children are the world’s most valuable resource and the best hope for the future.” How true this is as well, but I believe the credit should go to the Lord for saying it best. The psalmist mentions it in 127:3-5, “Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from Him...Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.”

Dunklin Memorial Church is filled with babies and children. We have 49 kids whom actually live on-site at Dunklin and Sundays bring with it another 20 plus young children and teenagers as we celebrate the Lord’s Day together. We are blessed to say the least. It brings our hearts joy to look around and witness all of this life flowing throughout our community. Laughter and happiness is heard, excitement and energy is felt—especially when you experience all of this “youthful vitality” congregating in one place.

Recently, we facilitated a ‘Child Dedication’ service. Eight sets of parents along with 10 babies were brought before the Lord by the parents of these children and dedicated unto Him. This service emphasizes the parent’s commitment to raising their children up in the training and admonition of the Lord more than anything else.

One of the first commands God gives us in Genesis 1:28 is, “Be fruitful and multiply and increase in number...” Most of us are familiar with what we read in Proverbs 22:6, “Train up a child in the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.” Psalm 78 also speaks to this whole idea of pouring into children, with verse 7 specifying the hope, “Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget His deeds but would keep His commands.”

There was a moment during this service that the parents pledge themselves to the following oath:

“So that your child may walk in the abundant life that Christ offers, do you vow by God’s grace and in partnership with the church, to provide your children a Christian home of love and peace, to raise them in the truth of our Lord’s instruction and discipline, and to encourage them to one day in the future place their trust in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior?”

There is a beautiful reality in all this. The babies pictured on the back of this ‘Campfire’ are children who, by God’s grace, have now been placed in a home of love and peace. Their parents were at one time living in direct opposition to the Lord and, because of His mercy, are now walking in Him with a desire to raise their children in a godly way.

Each picture powerfully depicts God’s grace and the abundant life He affords all of us.

Nick



# Baby Dedication

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