

Stanwich Children's Ministry  
Annual Report 2010-2011

**PASSION**

Our Children's Ministry team started the year 2010-2011 by looking into the elements, which create an atmosphere of passionate worship and learning. This started a process of change. We looked at the one program that succeeds year after year, that being our Vacation Bible School, and took all the aspects of VBS and incorporated them into our Sunday School, keeping regularly in mind that familiarity is one of the passion killers.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Every program and activity we plan and run is grounded on our Mission Statement: "Stanwich Children's Ministry is called to embrace the children and their families in our community with the love of Christ, encouraging friendships with other Christian, advancing them in spiritual maturity, helping them to recognize their spiritual gifts and leading them into lives of service and surrender to God."

**VISION**

Every child will know there is a BIG God whom they can trust no matter what.

**FOCUS of the year 2010/2011**

Connect kids with God.

**KIDS CHURCH**

KIDS CHURCH, in the place of Sunday School, is one of the biggest, most successful changes our Children's Ministry has done.

What happens during Kids Church? All children first worship with their parents in the Main Sanctuary. Junior Sermon is the FIRST part of Kids Church. Our Junior Sermon is always the **INTRODUCTION** to the lesson that children will learn in Kids Church.

Children 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade go directly to Large Group time after the Junior Sermon. Pre-K-K age children gather in their classroom and join the Large Group time as a group. 3 year olds and nursery age children spend the whole Kids Church time in their classroom.

Our 3 year old class follows a Gospel Light Sunday School curriculum where as 4 year olds through 6<sup>th</sup> grade follow Gospel Light Kids Church curriculum.

Our Kids Church reached over 200 children this year with the average attendance of 125 children per Sunday.

**LARGE GROUP TIME** is high energy and always changing. We sing, learn a Bible Memory Verse and learn the day's Bible Story. We use puppet, video clips, sound effects, drama, games, visuals and object lessons. We also take a mission offering during this time. Children are encouraged to bring their Bibles to church every

Sunday. We also encourage the children to memorize the Bible Verse from previous week and bring friends to Kids Church. Large Group time is about 35 minutes. After Large Group the children are divided into **SMALL GROUPS** by age and sometimes by gender. Small Group time is relational and this is when children will come to understand the application of the day's lesson. Small Group time is about 20 minutes.

### **KIDS CHURCH LEADERS**

These are the leaders who have ministered to the children this past year.

**Large Group Leaders:** Charline Shaw, Shannon Peifer, Lorraine Hufnagel and Anitta Tilly

**Small Group Leaders:** Linnea Davis, Jane Palmer, Chris McLaughlin, Marsha McLaughlin, Bonnie Caie, Anne Strother, Elena Rota, Gary Palmer, Ron Culver, Kyle Gifford, Christa Hartch, Janet Tibberts, Laura Anechiarico, Ellen Morrison, Christian Davis, Sue Greenlee, Carl Oliver, Susan Oliver, Archer Clarke, Bob Moss, Alissa Tilly, Ernst Schirmer, Maria Martinez, Lorraine Hufnagel and Anitta Tilly.

**3 year olds:** Saskia Craddock and Krista Tilly

**Nursery:** Christina Rathbun, Magda Castro and Vilma Castro Villacorta

**Youth Helpers:** Valerie Shaw, Annika Tilly, Madison Jayes, , Katriina Tilly and Seth Kim.

**Worship Team:** Jenni Tibberts, Katriina Tilly, Madison Jayes, Leigh Jacobson, Elizabeth Stepton, J. Alex Marino, Demarest Janis, Cyndi Tibberts, Piper Gilbert, Katie Tibberts, William Janis, Nikita Marina, and Jack Gilbert.

**Substitute Leaders:** We have had many volunteers who have stepped in here and there when needed. We appreciate these faithful servants who offer their time to Stanwich Children's Ministry, many times with a short notice.

### **CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

Stanwich Children's Choir performed "Joy Story" as our Christmas production. The main cast had 28 children plus many more lambs, shepherds, ark animals and angels.

A huge crowd attended the Christmas Eve Family service. Children's choir, with a support of some middle and high school singer, lead the prayer, sang many songs, and read the scripture. This was an unforgettable evening. Children did such an awesome job in every possible way.

We changed the focus of the choir this spring and called it a "worship team" as these committed children will be leading our second annual Children's Ministry Celebration May 2011.

## **DANCE**

We have had the following Dance Groups: Blue Angels led by Jenny Winters, Scarlet Dancers led by Julie Kast, 50:s Dancers led by Anitta Tilly, and Dance Team led by Johanna Walker.

## **MAKING OF A CHAMPION**

This program got its name from the example of David who served his brothers before he became a king. This spring our children have begun to lead “mini worship services” at Nathaniel Witherall a local nursing home. Between 10-29 children and adults attended each visit (February, March and May 2011).

## **CAMPS**

Ninety children attended the **“High Seas”** Vacation Bible School in June 2010. This camp is made possible only with the commitment of many parents, non-parents and teen volunteers. I believe that all volunteers would agree, “We were blessed to be a blessing”.

Forty-four children from Stanwich and the community participated in our very first Drama Camp called **“Kid Shine”**. This camp was for 3<sup>rd</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> graders. By the end of the week, the campers put on an impressive show filled with humor and talent.

**“Living to Win”** was the theme of our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls’ Vermont camp. Six girls had the most wonderful time bonding with each other as we learned about ourselves and what makes us succeed in the “race” according to Hebrews 12.

Twenty-seven 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> graders and Stanwich Rocks alumni attended the **“Acquire the Fire”** event with 16,000 other teens and pre-teens. This event was chaperoned by Tom Crozier, Connie Dinsmore, Rosa Lagana and Anitta Tilly.

**“Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.” Psalm 8:2**

Blessings to All,

Anitta Tilly  
Director of Children’s Ministries