

Greetings!

I hope that your summer is off to a great start! There's a lot of fun to be had in the summer, with trips and camps and sports and more. I will be praying for joy and safety for each one of you this summer! A few Sundays ago, I spoke briefly about a change in our children's ministry volunteer scheduling; a change which will really enhance our ministry. I want to detail it below, since it directly relates to each of you.

The mission of Harpeth Heroes Children's Ministry has always been "*to partner with parents* in leading children to Christ and helping them grow to be more like Him." We have always believed whole-heartedly that the church is supposed to be a supporter and a resource for parents who are doing the bulk of the discipling of their children in the home. In the few hours we have with your child we cannot fully grow them into followers of Jesus, we have to have the full support of the parents, and in turn we support and guide them. *We're a team!* In recent months, the leaders of HCC have felt a strong pull to make this teamwork a greater reality in the ministry; creating more of a *family* ministry than just a kid's ministry. This has led to more events for parents and kids together, some changes in the vision of our "VBS", and now some changes in how parents will participate in our Sunday AM classes for children.

We have a skilled team of lead teachers who have committed to lead our children's classes for the 2008-2009 summer/school year. Some of them have kids in the ministry, some don't, but all of these are people who love children's ministry and feel a gift or calling to teach. We whole-heartedly believe that not everyone is called to teach in children's ministry. God has gifted each of us uniquely and differently. However, we do believe that as Christian parents, and as part of our church family, each one of you is called to serve and support the ministry in some way. We also believe that it would be a wonderful thing for your spiritual relationship with your children if you have the opportunity to enter their world at church and participate/learn/sing/etc. alongside them.

Therefore, beginning in July 2008, all regular-attender and member parents at HCC will be required to take a few turns serving in the children's ministry. This is not a full rotation, at this point we anticipate you will only need to serve 1 Sunday per quarter, 4 total throughout the school year. You will simply be assisting the lead teacher in whatever way she needs, participating in the class, etc. I can guarantee you will have a lot of fun and feel blessed during your Sundays in the ministry, as you serve and share the morning with your children and others. Besides, you'll get to hang out in our brand new, beautiful children's building! *Even if you don't have children in the ministry, if you love children, and want to offer your help and support, call or email Kelly Long at the church offices and we will find a spot for you!*

Kelly Long, my ministry assistant will be calling parents within the next 2 weeks to schedule your date for the summer quarter. Please take a look at your calendars and expect her call.

Thank you for your participation in the children's ministry, and your commitment to HCC. We know that these last few months have been filled with a lot of change, but it only means that God is working and that our church is alive and fighting the battle for the hearts and souls of our community. We are so excited about all that God has in store for our church, your families, and each child represented here.

Blessings,

Melanie Sutton
Children's Minister