



# Child Care Chatter

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December 2016

Dear Friends and Families,

As I returned from my Thanksgiving holiday and a two – day conference, I immediately felt the excitement of Christmas in the air at St. James. As I walked into the church, I saw the Advent calendar hanging outside of the church office. I then peeked into the worship area and saw the beginnings of the holiday decorations. As I descended the steps into child care, the decorations had begun there too! And the children were already giddy with excitement talking about seeing Santa and what gifts they wanted for Christmas.

Not to be Grinch, but at this time, I find it to be a perfect opportunity to try to turn their focus to others and what they might be planning to give to them. As a child, I can remember how meticulous my grandmother, “Nanny” was at finding the “perfect” gift for everyone that she gave to, something that I now enjoy doing myself. When the children look curiously at me, as I pose these questions, I prompt them to think about what the person may like to do, eat, play or read, hoping to spark the excitement of giving to others as my Nanny did for me.

Once again, the Holiday Family Outreach will be at St. James on Saturday, December 10, 2016 (and we will begin to see Santa’s helpers all about the church as early as next week). At a time when many of us can count our blessings, I encourage you to bring in a toy donation for Holiday Family Outreach. Ask your children to pick a gender and an age and talk to them about what this person may like for Christmas (I was always pretty confident that my brother wanted a Barbie when I was young), let them shop, wrap up the gift and mark it with the appropriate age and gender. Now is the time to teach that it is far greater a gift to give than it is to receive.

Wishing you all a peaceful and blessed holiday season,

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## IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- ▲ **Monday, December 5th** – Staff Christmas Party Donations due. Please note in the Memo line on the check “Staff Xmas”.
- ▲ **Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016** – Holiday Family Outreach in the Dining Room.
- ▲ **Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>** all Holiday Vacation Request/Schedule Changes: with the holiday season approaching, I want to remind everyone to please put any vacation/schedule change requests in writing two weeks prior to the changes. We ask for two weeks advance notice so that billing and staff schedule changes can be made.
- ▲ **Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>** - Christmas “Advent” ure. Please join us from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. in the dining room for food, fun and festivities!
- ▲ **Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> and Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup>** Center Closed: for the Christmas Holiday.
- ▲ **Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>** Center Closed: for the New Year Holiday.

**Andrea Crowe** started working at St. James Child Care Center in May 2016 and had to leave due to complications with the pregnancy. However, she was happy to deliver a happy, healthy baby in July and became the proud mommy of her son Kieran. She is transitioning to the Preschool Room to become the lead teacher as Miss Steph’s youngest will soon become a preschooler. She has more than four years’ experience working with young children. She has completed three years at Lock Haven University, where she majored in Early Childhood Education. Andrea lives with her boyfriend Mike and her young son, Kieran. She enjoys spending time outdoors and reading in her spare time.