

## Special Needs Ministry

In Christian Education programs at Wildwood Presbyterian Church we want to help **every** child and his/her family as they grow and develop in their Christian journey of faith. Because of this special goal we have started a Special Needs Ministry that intends to welcome, love and support children and their parents with special attention given to situations that require a little extra help in the classroom or extra staff training.

### Welcoming Children and Youth

Our new approach to classroom management (a benefit of the training our LOGOS leaders have received through The LOGOS Ministry and consultations with the Autism Specialist for Woodland School District) looks closely at classroom environment, scheduling, and problem solving techniques. We realize that ALL children learn in different ways and could benefit from the structure and loving approach to discipline that this ministry employs.



In order to accomplish our goals we need extra folks who are willing to be trained to be a buddy to a child or youth that needs a little extra help and a deeper understanding of what works and what doesn't with that student. If you feel called to this important and rewarding ministry please contact Ellen Dimock.

### Networking for Parents

Have you ever wished you had another parent to talk to about your day to day challenges? If so, then WildParent Network might be for you! Participating parents share their challenges in child rearing, discover shared issues, and share tips. Our first meeting was on the afternoon of May 31 and was well received by the participants. Regular meetings and events will be scheduled with the new Fall season. These will include forums, speakers, and social events. If you are interested in participating and have ideas for interesting topics please contact Ann Bartley-Arquilla.



### Making a Difference for Everyone

Every single person is special and unique. Our research and interest in the new Special Needs Ministry has informed our planning and training in all of the Christian Education programs at WPC. For example, we implemented a system to allow middle school youth a comfortable way to indicate a desire to "just watch" instead of participating in a classroom activity with which they might be uncomfortable. Youth are sometimes shy in group situations; we want to build confidence and security by respecting their comfort level. This year's Vacation Bible School staff training is another example. We gave staff some information to watch for and techniques for dealing with behavior that might mean a student is becoming anxious or overwhelmed with a situation. This attention to each and every student's needs has broadened our focus to truly include all of God's children in the life of our family of faith.

