



Andy Atkinson
Pastor of Families and Discipleship
870.692.6435

Kevin Stone
Student Minister
423.902.9017

Nichole Stookey
Kids Minister
423.693.7580

First Family



Calendar *Highlights*



October - December

Ashish Matoo
Presentation
- October 1

October Mission
Camp Lunch
- October 1

Ecuador Mission
Trip
- Sept 29 - Oct 5

The Point
- October 8

2nd Annual
Kids Fall Bonfire
- Oct 13 - 7pm to 9pm

Student Mission
Camp Meeting
- Oct 15 - After Service

October Point Band
Rehearsal
- Oct 15 - 3pm - 5pm

The Point
- October 22

Trunk or Treat
- Oct 29 - 4pm

The Point
- November 5

November Mission
Camp Lunch
- November 5

November Point
Rehearsal
Nov 12 - 3pm - 5pm

The Point
- November 19

Operation
Christmas Child
Collection Sunday -
- November 19

Christmas
Community Dinner
Saturday December 2

"First Christmas"
Musical
- Dec 8 - Dec 10

The Point
"Christmas"
- December 17

Kids Skate
Christmas Party
- December 17

Kids Caroling Night -
- Wednesday, Dec 20

Student Winter
Retreat
- Dec 27-29



From Nichole

Life with kids is hectic! I find myself struggling to meet everyday demands, with having to juggle school, work, sports, and other extracurricular activities. It makes it nearly impossible to include daily family devotions and prayer time. Do we have our priorities in order? Are we relying on the church to guide our kids to form a relationship with Jesus and trust in the in Lord, just by attending Sunday School?

Let me give you some statistics. Between the day your child is born, and the day he or she turns 18, there are 940 Sundays! Let's say she is already 5 and in kindergarten, you are down to 680, and by 5th grade you only have 420 Sundays left!!! If we really want our kids to build a solid relationship with Jesus Christ, we are going to have to do better than this!

What I want to accomplish is to build a Family Ministry that unifies teachers and parents. Let's partner together in the disciple making process of our kids! I want there to be an open line of communication between parents, teachers, and kids that reflect the value of relationships we are trying to create. I want us to not only lay out a biblical foundation for our kids, but give them the skills they need to tell others about the love of God!

Let's put focus on missions and outreach since we are commanded to love one another, be kind, and take care of each other. Throughout the end of the year, our Kid's Ministry will be having several opportunities to get involved in, both family activities and outreach events. I encourage you to participate and talk to your kids about why we do these things. Communication is the first step in building trust with your kids! I look forward to working with you through this disciple making journey!




Nichole Stookey
nicholes@fbcfo.org
423.693.7580

Embrace the Vision & Heart of Family Ministry

Our Church is growing towards an integrated way of investing into the lives of our kids and students. The possibility exists that kids can get lost in the wide path of growing up in the church and miss the essential life-giving emphasis they need for the next stage. **We want to be very intentional in the values that influence our children with who we believe God to be.** We also acknowledge the inherent complexities of parenting and building a Jesus-focused perspective. We view the family ministry of the church to be a partner with parents who are the primary disciple maker for the kids and students. So we want to work with you as much as them and not simply about behavioral issues but their spiritual progress. We want environments that are more than one trained minister and group of students, but include as many mentors as teachers. Here are the four values that we want to emphasize and cultivate as we partner together with the parent from birth to 18 years of age:

1

Curiosity 

We want to disciple kids naturally and use their natural tendencies to direct them to faith.

2

Openness 

We want to preserve the "child-like" faith that is key for them to be true salt in our world

3

Excitement 

Kids have a unique energy. God created this to be uniquely expressed in the life of a kid.

4

Confidence 

Precious and delicate parts of our kids need to be invested in and not molded by a hammer.

What you may notice as you read those are that they all apply to the heart or perspective of a student and how they interact with their world. Our students' heart and their relationships are the exact things we are aiming to influence. We say it this way. We are unified in the desire for hearts and relationships to flourish between God and people.

Family Ministry Is Parent Ministry

So why change from a children and youth ministry focus to a family ministry focus? We believe that parents have the privilege to be the primary disciple maker in the life of a child. We believe this is deeply scriptural. If we ignore this and do not include them in the ministry effort, we see a vast array of problems that come to the surface. We can not ignore the fact that a church ministry may have Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings, but parents have the students everyday and a special 1:1 impact. Here are 4 areas we want to subtly shift towards more parent involvement in what we do.

1

Communication

Communication which is respectful, direct, inviting, & consistent with our values.

2

Conversation

We want to create a culture of listening to the parents and engaging in their concerns.

3

Curriculum

We want to invite parents into the intentional process with each activity.

4

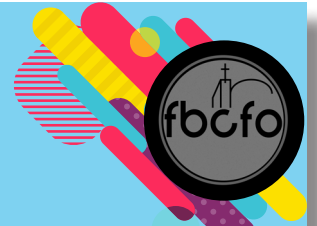
Cooperation

We want to build relationships that are inclusive to people.

Summer Missions Camp

Our Kids and Students Camps are amazing highlights each summer. They **enrich each student with an experience of other-orientation, worship and revival.** We want to partner with families to make this opportunity available to as many students as possible. It is a major financial commitment from the families and our church ministry. We seek ways to offset the cost by hosting 8 fundraiser lunches on the first Sunday of every month except Jan. Our kids and students participate in its preparation, service and clean up and receive credit that applies to their camp costs. **This is how we make camp the experience of majority and not the minority.** We need the parents'/guardians' help and commitment to get the kid or student to church at 9am on these Sundays. They will be dismissed approximately at 1:30pm as clean up wraps up. Parents of our student ministry, please mark your calendar for the date **October 15** a for a meeting to discuss the deposit schedule, fundraising opportunities, and deadlines.

From Kevin



This fall is going to be an exciting time in the life of our Student Ministry! We have opportunities of worship, study and missions! A huge part of what we do is build relationships with you, the parent. **Thank you so much for every dessert you make or ride you give to make what we are doing as a Student Ministry great.** Let me say here, that I want to hear from you about our Student Ministry and how I can have a deeper impact in the lives of our teenagers. We are partners together as these young lives discover more and more the love of Christ in their lives. This takes a great attention to the details that we want to pursue. I want to walk along side your family in this journey consistently and not just in the crisis moments.

An important role I play in the life of your child is bringing small group teachers and mentors to lead them in faith. If you do not know your child's Sunday School teacher, please contact me and I want to introduce them to you so you can work with the person who is investing the life of your child on a weekly basis. When we are discussing your child, here are some things that you could help me with as we seek to work together. What are some changes that your child is adjusting to that are meaningful? What seems to motivate them to positive outlets? What do they love to do? How do you think they receive love best? These questions that are ongoing and extremely helpful to our discipleship partnership.

Let me also mention we are seeking some time to set apart where we can get together and paint inside the youth house. We would love for you to be a part of this and contribute ideas to this environment! Your ideas, thoughts, and energy are welcome, appreciated and encouraged on all levels to help us instill the values of curiosity, openness, excitement and confidence in each one of our students! If you know of families that you wish for me to contact about their kid's potential involvement, please let me know.



Kevin Stone
kevins@fbcfo.org
423.902.9017

Clubhouse Friends

On Wednesday evenings, we offer a dynamic program designed for kids' kindergarten-5th grade called 'Clubhouse Friends'. We meet upstairs in the large room of the kids' wing (called The Clubhouse) at 6pm and start off the night with a craft or game before leading into Large Group time. During large group, the kids say the club pledge, memory verse, and are introduced to the lesson by watching one of our On-Location videos, and then gather in small groups. Small group discussions are initiated through our 'Explore the Bible' lessons and offer plenty of time for both teacher led and student interactions. We wrap up the night at 7:10 with a large group game or activity! **Kids should be picked up at 7:15.** We also offer a preschool Bible study downstairs for babies-preK4. Kids are taught Bible stories through stories, songs, play, and crafts. **Join us each Wednesday as we build relationships, dig into the word, and learn about missions and outreach!**

Fall Cookout

Fall is in the air! We want to invite you to a family cookout sponsored by the Kid's Ministry. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and come sit by the fire with us. We will be roasting hot dogs and marshmallows and enjoying a time of fun and fellowship. All kids, birth through 5th grade, are welcome to attend and bring their families! **October 13th @7pm**

Angel Tree Community Project

We are bringing back our Angel Tree this year! What an exciting way to help our community. The tree will be put up in the main Welcome Center in early November and gifts will be due back by **December 10**. Please make sure to follow registration of your angel so that I can keep track of all the gifts. For more information contact Nichole.

Family Ministry is Transition Ministry.

Transition ministry? What is that about? One thing that we have noticed is that traditionally there are two points where students have great difficulty with the church: (a) **Transitioning from the children's department to the youth department** (b) **Graduation and the transition to what's next.** We want to do more than turn our attention to these changes during "Move Up Sunday," but to work in the reality that change is a major part of growing up. **The drastic changes that kids make as they grow must be central to what we do.** If we can focus our efforts on transitionsm, it will help us develop appreciation for new people and bring new people into our ministry continually and naturally. Because we believe that our relationship with God will affect our relationship with people, we acknowledge that a fully growing up is outward and upward. Here is how "I" think we can pursue this.



Pals

On Sunday Evenings, our students meet at the 'Pals' Car Wash lobby for a small and intimate time of studying God's word. Pals is located on Battlefield Parkway. We ask that parents provide transportation to and from Pals. **We begin at 5:30pm and typically last until 7pm.** We are praying about growing this small group moment into the homes of our families. We believe this to be a great opportunity to open the lives of our families to others in our ministry. If you would be interested in hosting a Sunday evening small gathering for our students in your house, please contact Kevin for more info.

Winter Retreat

We are attempting something new and different this winter. When our students already have some time out of school and after the busyness of Christmas, we want to get together and travel to Gatlinberg, TN to a conference called "Xtreme Winter." Check out the website. (<http://xtremeconferences.com/LIFTUP/>) This will include large Christian musicians such as Newsboys, Andy Mineo, NewSong, Chris Tomlin and others. **The price is \$139 per person + meals. Dates are Wednesday Dec 27 to Friday Dec 29.**

Kids' Christmas Skate Party

We are planning a fun and exciting Christmas Family Skate Party on **December 17**. Come celebrate the holiday season with a fun evening of skating at Roller Coaster Skateworld on Lafayette Rd. We will have picture time with Santa, and even a birthday cake for Baby Jesus! Invite all your friends and family to join our Kids Ministry this Christmas!

All Camp Deposits of \$60 are due Nov 15.

