

# NEW YORK AVE CHURCH CHILDREN AND YOUTH NEWS

Coming Up - Picnic and Bells (3) | Host and International Student (4) | Teacher/Helper List (7)

## Sunday School!

- Begins at 10 am
- Ends at 10:50 am
- Children 5th grade and under must have a parent or guardian pick them up from their classrooms!
- Please pick up on time as teachers would like to get to the 11 am service on time.
- Youth 6th grade and older may leave on their own with a parent's permission.
- Please fill out a registration form for each child. (Attached)
- If you wish, please fill out a photography release form for each child. (Attached)
- Teacher Lists are attached.
- Child/ Youth lists are available by request (for privacy).



## Gift of Heart School Kits

*"When a foreigner lives with you on your land, don't take advantage of him. Treat the foreigner the same as the native. Love him like one of your own." -Leviticus 19:33-34 (The Message)*

There has been a dramatic increase in the number of unaccompanied children crossing into the United States. So far this year, more than 52,000 have arrived, with the majority from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

<http://pda.pcusa.org/situation/unaccompanied-children/>

This upcoming Sunday, Sept 7, those age 2 - youth, will have the opportunity to pack Gift of Heart School Kits and act in support of these children.

Held in a sturdy cloth bag, a child will find, 1 pair of scissors,



## Unaccompanied Children

Children Crossing the U.S./Mexico Border

by Reverends Sarah Henkel and Jeniffer Rodriguez.

We pray...

For children from Central America who, seeking safety, make the dangerous journey to the U.S./Mexico border.

For parents who travel beside their children, for parents who must remain at home and for parents who have gone ahead.

For children being held in temporary Immigration and Customs Enforcement shelters across this country.

For Border Patrol and Immigration Officials that they would respond with compassion to the children in their care.

For the churches and humanitarian organizations, especially those in the border region of this country, that will respond with open doors.

For children who are reunited with family in the United States.

For children who now face deportation.

For children who return to the fear they tried to escape.

For the countries of Central America experiencing the crises of poverty and violence.

For the United States as we see the result of U.S. foreign policies that have destabilized Central America.

For the PC(USA) as we follow Jesus Christ who loved and honored children and who came to give abundant life to all.

Amen.

3 notebooks, 1 ruler, 1 pencil sharpener, 6 new pencils with erasers, 1 large eraser, and 1 box of 24 crayons.

Many of you have already brought items to the church. Thank you! If you are bringing items on Sunday, please bring them to the park level. If you have time, put them in the assorted bins. If not, the sorting process will be part of the pack!

The pack will take place during gathering time (10-10:15), and then in order from the youngest to the oldest, children/ youth will return to their classrooms to do some orientation and get to know you activities.

Questions or to help with mailing, please email Alice:

[alice.tewell@nyapc.org](mailto:alice.tewell@nyapc.org)

*Continued on page 5.*



## COMING UP!

### **September 7, 14, 21 "Handbells 101" 10:00 a.m., Room 127 – YOUTH + ADULTS**

Did you know the church has hand bells? This three week class will provide an introduction to how to play hand bells correctly and care for them and we will play some very simple pieces. After the three weeks, there may be opportunities to get together additionally with the

possible goal of a musical offering



during a church service.

### **All Church Family Picnic, September 27, 10:30am - 2:00 pm -**

Join the children and youth Sunday school class children for an end of summer picnic. The church will

provide hot dogs and drinks. Please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share. We have rented shelter #9 at the Watkins Regional Park in Prince George's County. The park has a carousel, train, the Old Maryland Farm, miniature golf and a beautiful playground. Please email David Inoue at [dhi1@cornell.edu](mailto:dhi1@cornell.edu) if you have any questions and to RSVP so we can be sure to have enough hot dogs and beverages. Everyone is welcome to join this celebration of the start of the new school year for our church's children and youth.



## LOCAL OPPORTUNITY - School Without Walls - ASF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

**(for more information, please contact  
Julia or Dawn Hiemstra):**

AFS is in feverish pursuit of placements for our remaining incoming students for 2014-15, and one of our largest obstacles is finding schools with openings. In the DC area, we have the opposite problem. School Without Walls High School has open spots for us, but we don't have enough families in the area so far that would like to host. If you or anyone you know would like to host, please contact me, Jennifer Anderson at [janderson@afsusa.org](mailto:janderson@afsusa.org), or by phone at 800-876-2376 ext.3331 or simply respond to this email.

**Our deadline to confirm homes is September 4, so please hurry (today, but perhaps there is still room).**

We are looking for homes for students like:

Leonardo from Brazil says he is a "normal Brazilian guy" who wants to discover the world outside of Brazil. He has a good relationship with his family; his mom says he is patient and fair. He likes sports and goes to the gym

regularly. He plays tennis with his dad, soccer with his friends, and other sports at school. He also enjoys watching TV, riding his bike and playing video games; he really likes computers and technology. Leonardo's teacher says he is an excellent student and has good relationships with many friends. His favorite subjects are physics and math.

Tiantai from China, who prefers to go by the nickname Tyrone, is positive, open, and independent. He gets along well with others and loves to meet new people. He has a close relationship with his parents and they have taught him to be respectful, independent, and responsible. Tyrone believes that it's important to be ambitious; he loves to

study computer programming. In his spare time he enjoys playing basketball, reading, and playing board games.

Email: [janderson@afsusa.org](mailto:janderson@afsusa.org)

Phone: (646) 381-3331

Toll Free Phone: 1-800-876-2376 ext 3331

Fax: 646-937-6021



## MORE ON THE BORDER CRISIS Frequently Asked Questions: The Exodus of Children from Central America (from [pcusa.org](http://pcusa.org))

### **Who are these “unaccompanied immigrant children”? How do they end up in the United States alone?**

Unaccompanied immigrant children are minors under the age of 18 who cross the U.S. borders alone, without their parents or caregivers. They come to the United States from all corners of the world, but the most recent influx of children has primarily been from Central America – Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. They travel by foot over the border or as stowaways on freight trains. Sometimes they are victims of human trafficking, sometimes they must pay to get to safety, and sometimes they just travel alone. The number of children making this perilous journey has grown astronomically.

### **How old are these children?**

They are usually in their early teens, but can be as young as three. They are both boys and girls.

### **What happens to children once they get here?**

If a child migrant enters the U.S. as a national of Mexico he/she is eligible for voluntary return as long as this person is not a victim of trafficking. Children from Central American countries are transferred by the Border Patrol into the custody of the Office of Refugee

Resettlement (ORR), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

After the initial steps of checking the children’s health, making sure they are safe, and understanding who they are and the situation they have fled, some are reunited and released into the custody of a relative or family friend who live here in the United States. Some may be returned to the country they came from, and others are placed in foster care while their needs for protection are determined by an immigration court.

Currently, the average wait in ORR custody is about 30 days. With existing children’s shelters at capacity, military installations are housing many of these children during this wait. The U.S. government has opened four new large shelters for these children so far: Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas; Fort Brown in Brownsville, Texas; Port Hueneme Naval Base in Ventura County, California; and Fort Sill in Oklahoma. These facilities are operated by the Department of Defense and have been authorized to stay open for 120 days. There is also a facility in Nogales, Arizona that is operated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and was established to expedite the processing of these children.

### **Are these kids and their family members being given permission to stay in the United States permanently?**

Currently, there is no legal status being offered to these children or their family members. All the children who cross into the United States are still required to abide by U.S. law and must present themselves for immigration court proceedings to determine if they are eligible to remain in the United States. Some children may be eligible for options such as a T-visa, if they can prove they were a victim of human trafficking, a U-visa, if they can prove they were a victim of crime in the United States, asylum, if they can prove they have been persecuted in their home country, or Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, if they can prove that they were abandoned, abused or neglected by their parents.

### **Do the children need clothing, toys, or other stuff?**

The kids have a variety of needs, and the most urgent items are being provided for them. Because these are minors in federal custody, there is not yet a means for material goods to be donated to them. As soon as there is a system for this type of assistance, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance will post it on their website.

### **What are Presbyterians doing to help these children?**

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is working with congregations and mid councils

along the border that are especially impacted by this situation in addressing needs. We are also collaborating with our ecumenical and interfaith partners who have experience in working with refugees and immigrant and are who are also responding to the growing crisis along the southern U.S. border.

### **What can Presbyterians and others do to help?**

Give. Share your financial blessings to help provide humanitarian relief for children arriving in the United States alone; to support Presbyterian congregations and mid councils as they minister to these children; and to help with advocacy issues related to this crisis.

Act. Like us on Facebook to stay informed of additional information - <https://www.facebook.com/PDACARES>

Advocate through the Office of Public Witness

<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/washington/>

Pray. That the grace and love of Christ will cover the frightened children being held in detention facilities or makeshift holding centers, that they will be treated with dignity and respect, and that their safety and protection be ensured.

## 2014-2015 Worship Play and Sunday School Teachers

<b>Worship Play</b>	
Susan Danewitz	yoderja@gmail.com
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