

# WEE

## A Child's Mind and Heart

by *Richie Hilbert* ([lrhilbert@comcast.net](mailto:lrhilbert@comcast.net))

Unconditional love fills the air. Learning is made fun. Expectations are reasonable but challenging. Spirits are fed. This describes First Baptist Church's Weekday Early Education program (WEE).



WEE's goals are two-fold: spiritual development and preparation for kindergarten. One way this blending of spirit and education is accomplished is in weekly chapel services led by "Miss Mary" Hiteman (Pictured left).

Preschoolers chant, "I will listen (holding hands to ears) to what God says (pointing upward)." And listen they do, as Miss Mary's message takes hold.

This year some of the children were asked to draw a picture of what God looks like. Hannah's depiction of her recently deceased grandmother, sharing a cloud with God in heaven, is a sermon in crayon. (See drawing on page 6.)

Mission projects involve teachers, children and parents in outreach. The grandmother of one WEE family collects clothing to minister to Tanzanian orphans. The school's

**I come to school because it is fun. My brother doesn't get to have fun at his school.** Jonathan, 4

**I know how to sign "Jesus Love Me" & the whole alphabet.** Grace, 5

participation in this project has been gratifying to those on both sides of the globe.

Just as valued is the social, intellectual and physical development of the child in preparation for kindergarten. A professional staff of degreed preschool teachers, 13 fully equipped classrooms, two playgrounds, a gymnasium and a wonderful library undergird the goal of helping each child acquire the skills essential to learning, and to do that on his or her own timetable.

An annual highlight is the Pre-K "Small World Celebration," inspired by Leviticus 19:18, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Each class learns about and demonstrates the culture of another country. Respect for those whose lives differ from theirs is the result.

First Baptist's Weekday Early Education is a treasure chest of commitment to the total development of each child's mind and heart. ✚

**I just love birthdays at preschool. Everyone makes a gingerbread cake—yummy! Maybe a cotton candy cake would be better.**

Georgie, 4



**My sister has to do homework all the time. Not me—my job is to have fun & follow Jesus.**

Tucker, 5





## Heart, Head and Hands: Teaching for Faith Formation

Sunday Morning Bible Study  
Teacher Equipping Workshop

Saturday, September 12, 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon

Join other teachers in becoming more effective in crafting the teaching-learning experience as we partner with God in forming boys and girls, men and women into faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

Workshops designed for teachers serving in the four primary age groups: preschool, children, youth, and adult – will be offered.