



Grace-filled children's curriculum

Children's agency recognized

Faith formation encouraged



# Network *News*

Summer 2015

## Grace-Filled Education and Faith Formation

Congregational Ministries Publishing designed its new children's curriculum, *Growing in Grace & Gratitude*, for grace-filled education and faith formation. Grounded in biblical narrative, with suggested reflection and wondering questions, the curriculum intentionally recognizes children's agency as spiritual beings.

Children are invited to help create their space and to move or respond during the story. Invitational language and worship ritual used throughout the curriculum encourage children and adults to explore God's grace in their lives and to respond with gratitude.

Participants who attended a *Growing in Grace & Gratitude* introductory workshop this spring expressed a renewed commitment to gather and nurture children, their leaders, and their caregivers in a variety of contexts. Whether the setting includes two or ten children, the curriculum is flexible and adaptable for children's education on Sunday morning or evening and for midweek, multigenerational gatherings.

*Growing in Grace & Gratitude* workshops continue in the late summer and fall, shifting from introductory experiences to explorations of the curriculum as an educational tool for nurturing family and community faith formation.

Read more about the curriculum and download samples at [growinggracegratitude.org](http://growinggracegratitude.org). Place your order by calling (800) 533-4371 or online at [pcusastore.com](http://pcusastore.com).



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## Letter from the Coordinator

POINT representatives can find tools for curriculum interpretation at [pcusa.org/point](http://pcusa.org/point). The stand-alone Logos folder provides slides with logos of all CMP curricula to copy and paste into interpretive pieces. Section one includes curriculum evaluation instruments, a workshop template, and other PDFs to copy or e-mail. Section two has a tip sheet with basic information about resources available for children's education. Other age-group information is in the remaining folders. Let me know if you have questions.

*Candace C. Hill, coordinator, Educational Ministries*



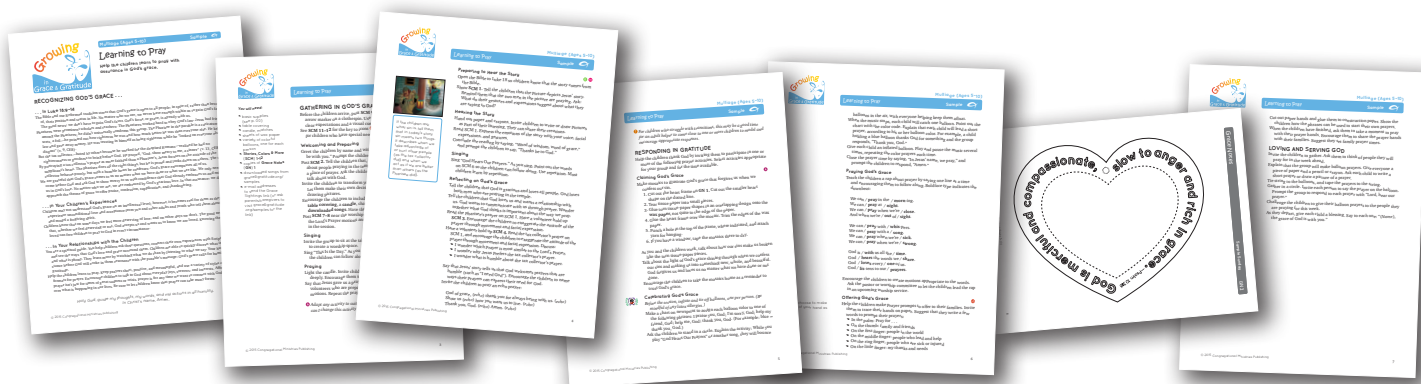
## Experiencing Summer with Fall in Mind

Summer is an excellent time to build relationships that nurture faith formation. Gather children, youth, and adults for cross-generational experiences to compensate for possible attendance irregularities and vacation schedules. Provide opportunities for people to have conversations and share their faith questions or stories. Faith communities that take the time for intentional, less-superficial friendships in summer are poised for meaningful education when fall arrives.

Spend time evaluating educational ministries from the past year. Invite leaders and volunteers to consider their call and recommit to the same age group, seek another place of service, or take a break. If a particular program is ending, plan a goodbye celebration. Brainstorm plans for the coming year with congregational leadership.

Take time to equip leaders during the summer months. Offer Bible study and prayer time to renew spiritual life. Review resources that will be used and provide hands-on experiences to prepare volunteers for their places of service. Meet the needs of people called to educational ministry this summer so that they are strengthened to tend disciples in fall.

Find ministry evaluation and tools for creating your congregation's vision at [pcusa.org/education](http://pcusa.org/education). See the best-practices page, click on the Relational, Relevant, and Reformed tabs to view articles and free downloads.



### Stay in Touch

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800-728-7228, ext. 8100

# Coming Events

## June 28–July 3

### **Covenant Gathering 2015**

Synods of the Covenant  
and Lincoln Trails  
Michindoh Conference Center  
4545 E. Bacon Road  
Hillsdale, MI  
Information and registration at:  
covenantgathering.com

## July 30–August 1\*

### **Big Tent**

University of Tennessee,  
Knoxville campus  
Information and registration at:  
presbyterianmission.org/ministries/  
big-tent

## August 8\*

### **Arkansas Presbytery 2015 PLACE**

Presbytery Leadership Academy for  
Congregational Enrichment  
Second Presbyterian Church  
600 Pleasant Valley Drive  
Little Rock, AR  
Contact Linda Lebron at:  
lebron.linda@gmail.com

## August 11–14\*\*

### **1001 New Worshiping**

**Communities: Pursued by Grace**  
Trade Winds Island Grand  
5500 Gulf Blvd.  
St. Pete Beach, FL  
For workshop information, contact:  
marissa.galvan-valle@pcusa.org  
For event information and registration  
visit: presbyterianmission.org/  
ministries/evangelism-church-growth/  
pursued-grace/

## August 14 and 15\*

### **Main Event, Leadership Development Conference**

Presbyteries of North Alabama  
and Sheppards and Lapsley  
First Presbyterian Church  
2100 4th Ave. N.  
Birmingham, AL  
For information, contact:  
jthagard@fpctusc.org

## September 19

### **Abingdon Presbytery Mountaintop**

Royal Oak Presbyterian Church  
139 West Main St.  
Marion, VA

### **Congregational Ministries Publishing curriculum overview workshop**

Contact Nancy Haga at:  
healer.nkh.341@gmail.com

## September 19

### **Coastal Carolina E3**

Elizabethtown Presbyterian Church  
Elizabethtown, NC

### **Congregational Ministries Publishing curriculum overview workshop**

Contact Kaye Bledsoe at:  
kaybledsoe@presbyterycc.org

\* **Growing in Grace & Gratitude  
curriculum workshop as part of  
another event, registration required**

\*\* **Growing in Grace & Gratitude  
workshop in Spanish**

**Planning  
Christian  
education events  
in your area?  
Please tell us.**



PRESBYTERIANS ORGANIZED IN  
**Nurture & Teaching**

Locate your POINT CMP regional representative or view the POINT network list at [pcusa.org/point/directory](http://pcusa.org/point/directory). Contact one of these Christian education representatives for support of your educational ministry, especially for assistance with the interpretation and selection of resources.

# Resource News

## ***Growing in Grace & Gratitude for Toddlers (Ages 1-3)***

*Growing in Grace & Gratitude for Toddlers (Ages 1-3)* includes basic information and resources for caregivers that will help transform the lives of the youngest among us and those who love them, shaped by grace and gratitude. It is non-dated, so you can purchase it once and use it year after year.

Features:

- An easy-to-use guidebook for caregivers
- Stories & More: 52 Bible story cards that provide colorful visuals and basic themes of Christian faith
- Age-appropriate enrichment activities in a handy tear-out book
- At-home resource sheets (on CD)

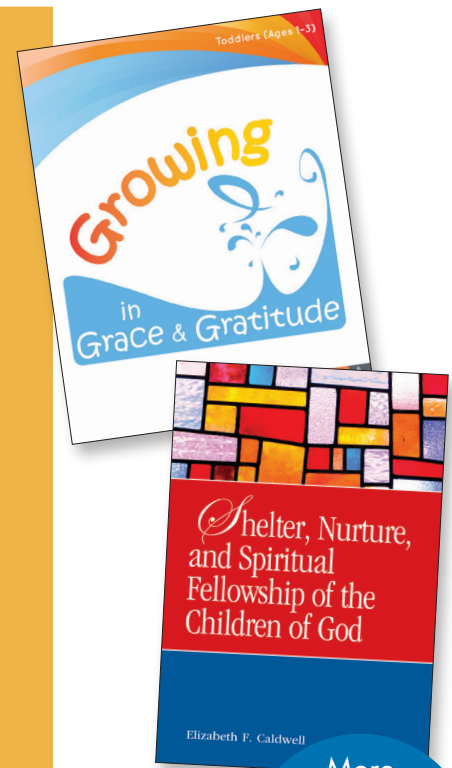
\$50.00 • 11000T

## ***Great Ends of the Church series***

*New look!* For decades, the Great Ends of the Church has helped establish church directions in mission and ministry. Books are sold as a set of six or individually.

Buy the complete set!  
\$95.75 • 096209

**Order resources online at [pcusastore.com](http://pcusastore.com), or call (800) 533-4371.**



More  
information  
available at  
[pcusa.org/  
curriculum](http://pcusa.org/curriculum)

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LOUISVILLE, KY  
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