

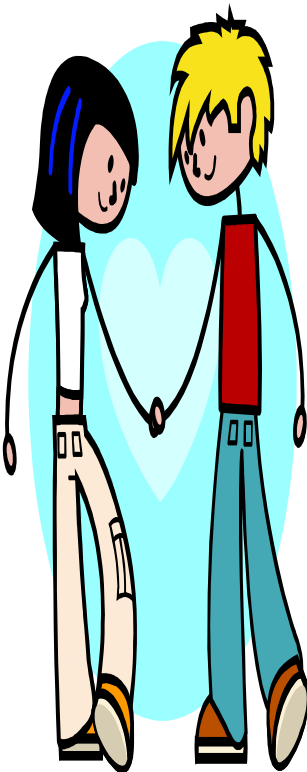
Kids of the Quarry

Volume 2, Issue 1

February, 2007

Did You Know?

- 192million Valentines Day cards are exchanged each year?
- Your heart is a muscle and doesn't actually look like the hearts we draw? Visit www.kidshealth.com to find out more.
- Red paper is generally sold out at the office supply stores in the month of February.



Christ's Kids

Our after school group for third through fifth graders meets every Tuesday from 4:00 until 5:30 PM. You may not recognize our name, because the kids are trying on different names as we decide how we want to be known. This month we are calling ourselves Christ's Kids. Derek Belew came up with this one.

We meet at the quarry and tackle all the big issues, like Love, Trust, Helping Hands, Fun and Fitting In. We also play games, have a great snack and always take time out to share what is going on in our lives. We have a great team heading

up this ministry. Anne Belew and Lori Meese spearhead this group and set a wonderful example of what it means to be loving and nurturing. They are not alone. We could not do it without the help of our two energetic youth counselors in training, Tim & Greg Belew.

It would not be any fun if we did not take a couple of road trips. We have two fun days planned for this semester. We went to Adventure World on Jan. 30th and will be going bowling on March 13th. On February 13th we are planning to go to Wheatland Retirement Home to take gifts that we've made in our after school group and visit with the residents twice more this year.



And finally, we end the year with an overnight on May 4th.

Come and join in the fun! We can help with transportation if you need it.

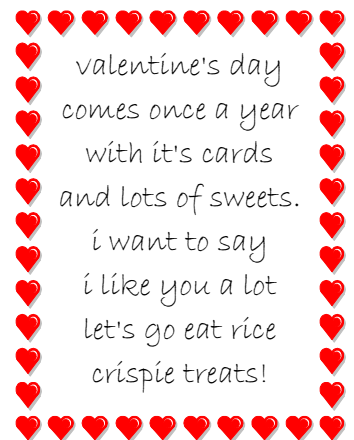
Feel free to e-mail kids@rockum.com or call the church office if you need more information. We'd love to have you join us!

Mr. Stinky Feet to Appear

SAVE THE DATE! Mr. Stinky Feet, A.K.A. Jim Cosgrove will be coming to Fieldstone on Friday, March 16th at 7:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be available for a small charge.

Mr. Stinky Feet is a well-

known children's singer/songwriter in the New River Valley and has appeared at Fieldstone on other occasions. Please join us for a fun-filled family evening. You can read more about the artist at his website: www.jimcosgrove.com



Valentine for Grandma

By Joseph Walker

A story to be read with your children, as age permits.

It was just a harmless prank, that's all it was.

And it wasn't as if Old Lady Hayes didn't deserve it. The way she used to scream at us for "borrowing" a few of her precious raspberries each summer, like we were stealing gold out of Fort Knox... well, she had it coming.

At least, that's the way we saw it as George finished tying the string to the red, heart-shaped box. We giggled as Ron added the final touch: two plastic red roses,

glued to the lid. "I wonder what will surprise her most," I asked as George practiced jerking the box out of reach by yanking on the string. "Seeing a box of candy on her step, or watching it fly away when she tries to pick it up?"

We laughed as we watched George make Albert chase the box around the garage. For a chubby 10-year-old, Albert did a good imitation of Mrs. Hayes's hunched hobble and her seemingly permanent scowl. And we howled when he picked up a broom and pretended to ride it through the midwinter air while shouting, "I'm Old Lady Hayes, the driest-old old prune in the West!"

Ron was first to notice my dad in the doorway. Within seconds, Ron's anxiety was shared by all but Albert, who continued to swoop around the garage until he came face-to-belt-buckle with our silent observer. For a moment the only movement in the room came from the little puffs of steam escaping our mouths. Dad broke the stillness by walking slowly to the empty candy box lying on the floor. He picked it up and dangled it by the string, watching it swing back and forth. Then he looked into the eyes of the frightened boys. And, as was his custom, he looked into their hearts also.

"It doesn't seem so long ago that I was pulling Valentine's Day pranks," he said as he laid the box on a workbench. "One year my cousins and I decided to pull one on our

Grandma Walker even though we loved her -- she was the sweetest grandma a boy could have. We were just feeling devilish and decided to have some fun at her expense.

"Early in the evening we snuck up to her doorstep with a can of red paint. Grandma was hard of hearing, so we didn't have to worry about being very quiet. Which was a good thing, because every time we thought about how funny it was going to be to see Grandma try to pick up a valentine that was just painted on her doorstep, we couldn't keep from laughing.

"It didn't take long, and it wasn't very artistic. But for an old woman with bad eyes, it would do. We kicked the door and hid behind bushes. When Grandma finally appeared she stood in the doorway, her gray hair pulled back tightly into her usual bun, wiping her hands on her usual apron. She must have heard the commotion in the bushes because she looked in our direction and spoke loudly enough for us to hear: 'Who could be knocking at my door?' Then she looked down. Even from 15 feet away we could see the joy in her eyes when she spotted a splash of red at her feet.

"A valentine for Grandma!" she exclaimed. 'And I thought I'd be forgotten again this year!'

"She tried to retrieve her prize. This was the moment we had been waiting for, but somehow it wasn't as much fun as we expected. Grandma groped at the fresh paint for a

moment. Slowly, she figured out our prank. She tried to smile. Then, with as much dignity as she could muster, she turned and walked back into her house, absently wiping red paint on her clean, white apron."

Dad paused, and for the first time I noticed that his eyes were moist. He took a deep breath. "Grandma died later that year," he said. "I never had another chance to give her a real valentine."

He took the box from the bench and handed it to me. Then he turned and left the garage.

Later that night a red, heart-shaped box with two plastic roses on it was placed on Mrs. Hayes's front doorstep by six giggling boys. We hid behind snow-covered bushes to see how she would react to receiving a full pound of candy and nuts.

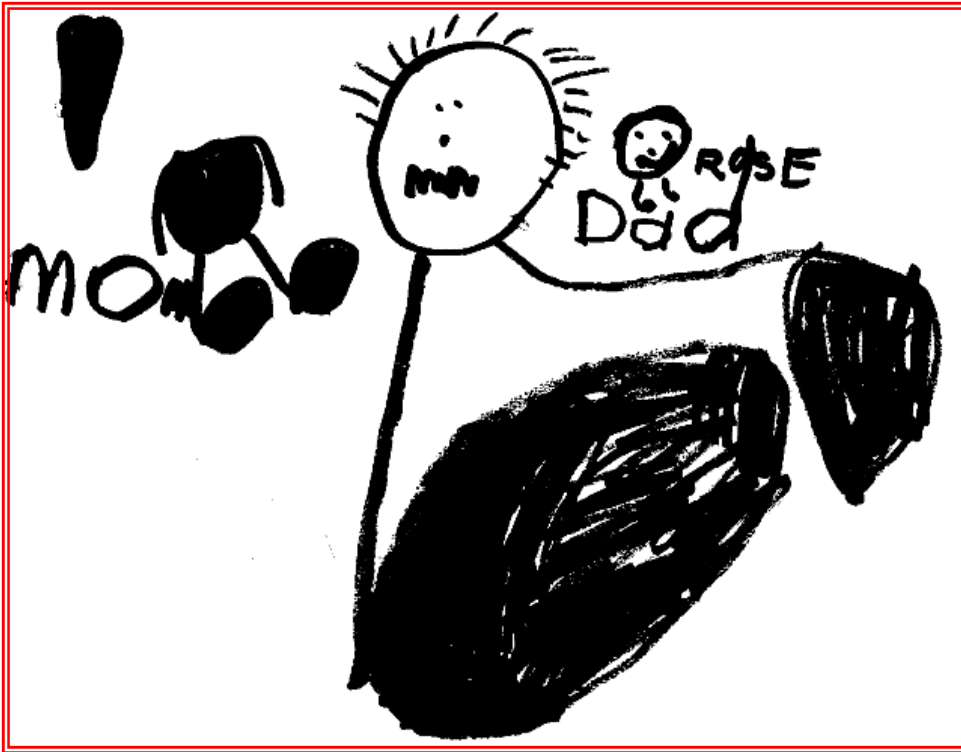
With no strings attached.



"A Valentine for Grandma! And I thought I'd been forgotten again this year!"



Do you **carrot** all for me?
My heart **beets** for you.
You are a **peach**.
Peas be mine.
If we **cantaloupe**,
Lettuce marry.
Weed make a swell **pear**.



Drawing by Emma Cook

Reminding us that family is about love and that each one of us in each family (in hers, Dad, Mom, and Rose) are symbols of true and honest love for each other.

Emma says, "Mom and Dad need a lot of love!"

Craft Corner

Valentine Pencil Treat Cards Craft Kit

Valentine's Day Crafts for Kid

Age: preschool, kindergarten, elementary

Make these punny valentine treat cards for the write one!

Supplies needed:

- Heart patterns
- Permanent marker
- Red craft foam
- Pink craft foam
- White craft foam
- Colorful Pencils

You can create these easily, with a great amount of family time and sharing and caring with each other.

For God so loved the world, he gave his only son, that anyone who believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. — John 3:16



Upcoming Events: Mark the Dates

- ⇒ **February 21st:** Ash Wednesday Service. The children will carry in the cross for this service. Plan to have your children at the Quarry by 5:50 if they would like to participate in the carrying of the cross. The Ash Wednesday Service begins at 6:00 p.m.
- ⇒ **February 28th:** A new small group for parents of young children will begin. This group is called “Tending the Soul” and will help parents grow to teach their children to be spiritual every day. The group will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will include dinner. The group is a six week session that will meet every other Wednesday evening. If you are interested, you may e-mail fieldstoneumc@verizon.net or call the church office. It will be a great opportunity!
- ⇒ **March 16th:** A free event for the New River Valley — Mr. Stinky Feet will perform at 7 p.m. Visit www.jimcosgrove.com if you would like to learn more about this children’s musician.
- ⇒ **April 1st:** Palm Sunday. The Kids of the Quarry (all of the Fieldstone children who want to participate are invited) wave palms that are given to them, as part of the celebration service, just like when palms were waved for Jesus.
- ⇒ **April 4th:** Holy Thursday. All are invited to come to the Quarry at 6 p.m. to celebrate in the Spirit. Traditional Hebrew snacks will be served and children are invited to taste!
- ⇒ **April 7th:** Easter Egg Hunt! More details to come soon!
- ⇒ **May 13th:** Mother’s Day

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We’re on the web
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Love God, Love People.