



PRESCHOOL ADDING STUDENTS — The 3-year-old class of Mt. Pisgah Preschool proudly shows off their beautiful smiles. Pictured above, left to right: front row – Isabela Haithcox, Brody Stillwell, Maddie Barlowe, Haddie Barlowe, and Willow Kirby; back row – Seth Reece, A. J. Ventura, Ella Wise, John Crooks, and Kenan Honeycutt.

Mt. Pisgah Preschool begins enrollment

Parents looking for an exceptional classroom experience for their preschool-aged child, one that provides them with almost consistent individualized attention, should look no farther than Mt. Pisgah Preschool in Bethlehem, say its staff. Preschool provides a foundation for learning, both socially and academically, that will help children go on to succeed in elementary school.

Director Linda Bloom states, "With a teacher to student ratio of 1:5, we are able to give each child individual attention and guide their academic and social development in a way that best suits that particular child. For many children, preschool is their first experience in a structured setting with teachers and groups of children. It's an opportunity to learn to share, follow instructions, and begin the foundation for learning that will occur in elementary school."

With smaller class sizes and student to teacher ratios that allow more focus on the individual child, Mt. Pisgah Preschool provides a secure environment that promotes learning by nurturing warm relationships between students, parents and teachers. Teachers build a close personal connection with each child in their care. The Preschool has been open to the public for three and four-year old students for over 35 years and is located in its own facilities within the Mt. Pisgah Lutheran church property on Route 127 in Bethlehem (located in front of Lowes Foods shopping center).

All are invited to attend the Preschool's program for parents, friends, and relatives on Sunday, May 20, at 9:30 a.m. Opening parent's meeting for the Fall 2018 school year will be held in August—date and time forthcoming,

with the school year starting in September 2018.

"In order to keep our student to teacher ratios at optimum benefit to the individual student, we encourage early enrollment for our new students," states Mt. Pisgah Spokesperson, Susan Lydick Greene. "I encourage parents looking for a Preschool where their child is going to thrive, to contact the office for an application as soon as possible."

For more information about the program or directions, call either Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church at (828) 495-8251 or Mrs. Bloom directly at (828) 2562503, or drop by the church office to pick up an application. For directions and further information, visit the Preschool's Facebook page, which can be found at <https://m.facebook.com/mtpisgahpreschoolhickory>.

Mt. Pisgah completes walking track

HICKORY, NC—"It's important to the Mt. Pisgah family that the community recognizes us not only as a busy place, but a 'Grace Place' where anyone is welcome, any time," states Pastor Mike Stone of Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church located in Bethlehem. "We feel our facilities are here to be used and shared, and we share them with numerous community groups: the Boy Scouts, Brownie Scouts, the Alexander County Senior Center, AA, several fitness programs like Zumba and F3 (Fitness, Fellowship and Faith) and soon the new Bethlehem Farmers Market among other activities. Additionally, we are the home of the Good Samaritan Food pantry and serve as a Meals on Wheels pick-up location."

Spokesperson Susan Lydick Greene continues, "We are a congregation that cares about each other and embraces all. We take a holistic approach to faith in our lives and feel that sharing our belief system involves more than what happens here in this building on Sundays."

Mt. Pisgah recently completed a project that stemmed from discussions during the study of "The

Daniel Plan." The Daniel Plan defines itself as a groundbreaking healthy lifestyle program founded on biblical principles and focused on The Essentials: Faith, Food, Fitness, Focus and Friends, (Source: <http://www.danielplan.com/start/about-us/what-is-the-plan/>). Funded in part by a Peeler-Casey grant from the North Carolina Lutheran Synod and generous private donations, Mt. Pisgah members' hard work and the help of a contractor or two, a new walking path has been completed that circles the property. The walking path is 1/3 mile and covered with 300 tons of finely crushed gravel.

The path is lit for nighttime walking and equipped with benches spread out along the path. An informational kiosk and doggie litter bags were just added as part of an Eagle Scout project as well.

"We are excited to offer the walking path as a safe place for our church family and members of the surrounding counties to come to walk, gather with friends to get some exercise, bring their pets to walk, or just sit and enjoy time outside. The gravel is very soft to walk on and kind to knees, hips,

and feet," Pastor Mike says with a knowing grin.

Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church is located at 9379 Route 127 North in Bethlehem, in front of the Lowes Food shopping center. Sunday services are 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM, Sunday school at 9:15 AM. For directions and further information, please call the church at (828) 495-8251; visit our website at www.mtpisgahelca.org or on Facebook as Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Susan Lydick Greene at 828-638-8513 or email at slgreene13@gmail.com.

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