

Leadership Moment – October 28, 2018

Several of my team members have shared with you in recent months about changes taking place at Wayne Church. My purpose today is to speak with you about one big change that you've probably heard by now: After 22 years of faithful service in our children's ministry, Janet French will retire in May of next year.

Change can be unsettling for all of us. God does not promise that change will be easy, but He does promise He will remain at our side throughout, and that what might come as a surprise to us has been known to Him since the beginning of time. Isaiah 43:19 says, *"See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."*

If you have a child age 0 to 10, you should have received an email invitation to complete a survey about our Children's Ministry at Wayne Church. (If by chance you did not, please let us know. We certainly don't want to miss out on your opinion.) Thirty-three surveys representing 64 children were submitted. Thank you if you took time to share your thoughts with us.

It probably comes as no surprise to all of you that a resounding theme was that Janet has done a wonderful job, leaves a tremendous legacy, and will be greatly missed.

We also learned a number of interesting things that will help to guide the vision for the future of our Children's Ministry. I wanted to highlight a few of them for you today:

- Janet's creativity and personal relationship with each child was noted and is highly valued. These qualities will be high on the list when considering candidates for her replacement.

- Many of you highlighted the need for more helpers in our children's Sunday School classrooms – and the desire that this pool be expanded to include a broad base of church members rather than primarily the parents of the children currently enrolled.
- Several echoed a call for greater multi-generational involvement in the Children's Ministry. The wisdom and perspective of grandparent-aged helpers - as well as the energy and relate-ability of our young adults – would bless the children greatly.
- Some mentioned a desire for children's Sunday School classes at 10:30 – concurrent with our traditional worship service. Many noted that being on campus from 9:15 until 11:30 was challenging for our younger school children and disruptive for our littlest ones accustomed to a morning nap.
- Other common threads that ran throughout many surveys called for more opportunities for both mission and music to be incorporated in our children's Sunday morning schedule.

I think we all recognize that the Children's Ministry of Wayne Church is perhaps more important than any other. As Proverbs 22:6 instructs, *“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.”*

Please commit today to lift our Children's Ministry in prayer during a key time of transition. This process is just in its beginning stages, and we welcome your input throughout. Toward that end, we'll be having several Children's Ministry Dialogue Groups in the near future. Stay tuned for dates and other details. I do hope you'll plan to join in this important discussion. Thank you.