

## Resources for Worship and Contemplation

### One Church, One Child

Youthville is the United Methodist ministry to children in need of care throughout Kansas. There is ongoing need for specific financial support from each congregation. We invite all to consider this role in your spiritual lives and mission opportunities.

Lent is a time of preparation, reflection and taking stock. In "Connecting Worship and Daily Living in Lent," Daniel Benedict asserts that Lent is not about being miserable and deprived. Rather, it is a time to contemplate and take on some things; to grow in both our personal and social discipline. (Please refer to the article at the General Board of Discipleship: [http://www.gbod.org/worship/default.asp?act=reader&item\\_id=3864&loc\\_id=733,32,48](http://www.gbod.org/worship/default.asp?act=reader&item_id=3864&loc_id=733,32,48) )

An ancient prayer expressed it this way: "Lord, let me not so much to flog myself for my shortcomings, but rather may I breathe more deeply of life!" Both individually and as the Body of Christ, we can engage ourselves to grow in wholeness. Mr. Benedict gives examples of exercises in both Inward, Personal Discipline, and Outward, Social Discipline. He challenges by asking, "How does your church help seekers and members to connect worship and daily growth in spiritual, relational, emotional, and bodily fitness?" That challenge also held within John 10:7-18, in part: "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

In The Road Less Traveled, Scott Peck wrote that the essential nature of love is to extend and exert oneself for the healthy growth and development of the loved. It is that kind of love that is particularly needed by the children served by Youthville. Youthville cares for 1400 children daily. Most have been removed from their homes by the courts to protect their safety and well-being. The primary effort is to return children home safely, when possible. Robbed of their childhood, often by no fault of their own, the harsh reality for nearly 400 of them is they are unable to grow up in a stable home with their own parents. These children need an adoptive home; a "forever family" to be the loving, permanent place to regain their childhood days.

Children in need of care come to Youthville with an endless variety of challenges in an ever-changing social and economic environment. Adoption placements are a new service and financial responsibility to Youthville since 2005. Presently, there are three critical ways that churches and individuals can be a part of this dynamic ministry including:

- Include the children, families and staff of Youthville in your Lenten contemplation. Grace and guidance are profound needs for fragile children experiencing separation or rejection in their formative years.
- Determine a meaningful way that suits your congregation to send a significant monetary gift to Youthville. **Please see details on the other side of this page.** It is our hope that each church can easily help underwrite the costs to place ONE CHILD in a forever family.
- Seek additional ways for your congregation and various members to be involved in the mission of Youthville: *Giving Children Back Their Childhood.*

As the extended family of Youthville, may we all encourage and help each other to focus on the meaning of childhood and families in our lives!

## Resources for Giving and Involvement

One Church, One Child

### Please Participate in Youthville's **One Church, One Child** Campaign

- **The other side of this page provides ideas** to include the children, families and staff of Youthville in your Lenten contemplation.
- A quantity of printed material for the average attendance of your congregation will be sent to the attention of the senior pastor in early February.
- We ask that pastors and leaders determine the most fitting way for each congregation to send a monetary gift to Youthville by May 20, 2007. Please make it your goal to send at least \$10 multiplied by the average weekly attendance. For direct remittance, the address is:

Youthville  
Development Department  
P O Box 210  
Newton KS 67114

- We welcome invitations to speak to your congregation about **One Church, One Child** in the order received. To request a speaker, please contact Matt Johnson at 800.593.1950 ext. 8215 or [mjohnson@youthville.org](mailto:mjohnson@youthville.org)
- We welcome inquiries for speakers and other congregational involvement throughout the year.
- Youthville Ambassadors are volunteers who act as communication contacts within their local church to build awareness and involvement. For more information, please work with your Ambassador. If your congregation does not have an active Ambassador, you can help to create that connection by contacting Matt Johnson as noted above.

**Thank you for your advocacy, encouragement, and support!**



**Youthville**

A Ministry of the United Methodist Church

*Giving Children Back Their Childhood*