

**The preschool was started by Faith Presbyterian Church in 1960 as an
outreach of Faith Presbyterian Church to witness to the love of Christ. But did you know?**

HISTORY: Faith Preschool & Kindergarten was established in 1960 to serve the community as an educational arm of the total mission of Faith Presbyterian Church to witness to the love of Christ. All subject matter is taught from a Christian viewpoint within an atmosphere of love and understanding. Dr. Nick Heerema, Dr. Hank Watt and Dr. Ross Witherspoon served on the first preschool committee that hired the first preschool director, Lynn Frances. Dr. Heerema and Dr. Watt each had a son in the first K class of 6 children that later grew to 12. The first preschool class was held in the Preschool Building while the church offices were in the scout hut. The church was housed at Kate Sullivan Elementary School. There was not a sanctuary at that time, nor was there a John Knox Road or fenced playground, so the children just played in the backyard. The Preschool operated for 35 years as a "morning" school program, adding a 2-hour "Lunch Bunch" to 2pm in the 1980's. In 2015, the Preschool began a transition to expand its offerings, by becoming eligible for state-funding for VPK and Kindergarten and for Step-Up-for-Students scholarships from the State. In 2017, the Preschool continued this transition by offering full-day school and care, called "Stay-n-Play", to accommodate the needs of families with working parents. The preschool now teaches approximately 130 children with 22 staff.

TOP-NOTCH ACCREDITATION: The preschool is licensed by the Department of Children and Families. The preschool is fully accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the most rigorous accreditation available for preschools, and far exceeds the highest standards required by these licensing and accreditation bodies. Faith Preschool has the only ½ day fully-accredited K programs in Leon County. The preschool participates in the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) program for four-year-olds. Faith Preschool has a clean track record of inspections, without any violation in many years!

EXCEPTIONAL TEACHERS & ADMINISTRATORS: There are two teachers in each classroom, as well as a music teacher. All lead teachers at Faith Preschool are certified in Early Childhood Education or have a Child Development Credential. The assistant teachers have all the coursework and experience required by DCF. Most of the teaching staff have been teaching at Faith for 15-20 years

SCHOLARSHIPS: Faith Preschool provides a number of scholarships and programs to assist families with the cost of preschool education. Over the last few years, Faith Preschool scholarships have served 12-24 children per year at an annual cost of \$15,000 to \$97,000. Scholarships and tuition discounts are provided to qualified families in a variety of ways including discounts for families with multiple children, for children and grandchildren of teachers, discounts for families with economic need, and for children with special or developmental needs. For the 2019/20 school year, Faith Preschool has begun offering scholarships for full-day preschool.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH: Community participation is an important element of Faith Preschool. Giving back to others is a passion shared throughout Faith Preschool, including instilling a spirit of community and fellowship in our students. The preschool participates annually in numerous community activities such as: the Angel Tree, Sealey School Partnership, Habitat for Humanity, American Cancer Society, Goose Creek Refuge, hurricane victims, Thanksgiving baskets, Hats from the Heart drive for breast cancer victims, the Christmas Connection, St. Jude Children's Hospital, and the local fire prevention and law enforcement agencies.

CHURCH CONNECTIONS: The ministerial staff participate and are included in Faith Preschool events and activities throughout the school year. These activities include: a back to school blessing service, parent night, and the Christmas and Spring programs. Our ministers serve a very important role in Faith Preschool. The preschool director, minister and school staff rotate teaching a message or reading a Bible story at weekly Chapel in the church sanctuary. Preschool families are invited to participate in all of the

church children's activities, including Pumpkin Patch, Easter Egg Hunt, Splash Parties, among others. The Preschool offers monthly Parenting Classes, led by preschool and church staff, providing support for parents and fostering relationships among the preschool families.

JOINT FUNDING: Faith Preschool is funded in several ways: tuition, fundraising, and church support. Families pay the bulk of the preschool expenses through tuition and fees. In addition, Faith Preschool conducts annual fundraisers that raise money for building and campus maintenance, classroom and playground resources, and other needs. In addition, as an important ministry of our church, our church provides the preschool with all of its space and utilities at no cost (valued at \$75,000-\$125,000 annually).