

## **Deep Run East Preschool 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

The vision of Deep Run Mennonite East in the late 1980's was to share its facilities and resources with the community. It was with this vision in the mind, that the preschool was established and opened in September 1990. The mission of the school is to provide opportunities for children to grow cognitively, socially, and spiritually while experiencing God's love in the activities provided and by those caring for them.

God has been faithful through the years and has sent many children to the preschool. It is our prayer that as they have come, they have been blessed. Mark 10:13-16 reads: "Let the little children come to me, do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs. He took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them and blessed them." We have been blessed by all the families who have entrusted their children to be nurtured and cared for by our staff. Over the past 20 years, the DRE preschool staff has taught more than 310 children. They are committed to the preschool program and have devoted much time and energy into creating ways to make learning fun and exciting.

Today, we would like to say "Thank You", to all those who have served over the past twenty years. Without their dedication and hard work, our preschool would not be what it is today. And so, thank you to the staff, board members, parents, students, and you as a congregation, for all of your support and prayers over the past 20 years.

## Deep Run East Preschool Staff:

### **Fall 1990 to Spring of 1991**

Ruth Swartley – Director and Teacher  
Sharon Bishop – Teaching Assistant

### **Fall 1991 to Spring of 1999**

Ruth Swartley – Director and Teacher  
Sharon Bishop – Teaching Assistant (4's class)  
Susanne Meyers – Teaching Assistant (3's class & one day of 4's)

### **Fall of 1999 to Spring of 2003**

Ruth Swartley – Director and Teacher  
Terri Nyce – Teaching Assistant (3's class)  
Sharon Bishop – Teaching Assistant (4's class)

### **Fall of 2003 to Spring of 2006**

Ruth Swartley – Director and Teacher of 3's class  
Terri Nyce – Teaching Assistant (3's class)  
Melanie Lambing – Teacher of 4's class  
Sharon Bishop – Teaching Assistant (4's class)

### **Fall of 2006 to Present**

Ruth Swartley – Director and Teacher of 3's class  
Terri Nyce – Teaching Assistant (3's class)  
Brenda Rice – Teacher of 4's class  
Sharon Bishop – Teaching Assistant (4's class)

## Board Members

### **1990 – 1993**

Richard Baum  
Rowena Dise  
Daryl Hackman  
Glenda Wismer  
Arnold Roth (Pastor)

### **1994 - 1996**

Richard Baum  
Daryl Hackman  
Wendy Leatherman  
Barb Rice  
Arnold Roth (Pastor)

### **1996 - Present**

Richard Baum  
Mae Kulp  
Wendy Leatherman  
Barb Rice  
Brent Camilleri (Pastor) 2007–Present

### **Other Pastor Representatives**

Ken Burkholder, 2005 - 2007  
Emma Frederick, 2003 - 2004  
Phil Nyce, 2001 - 2003 (Elder)  
John Miller, 1998 – 2001  
Merlin Hendrick, 1997 – 1998

## Litany of Blessing

**Leader:** Jesus says, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” Today we offer thanks and praise to God, who has blessed our Preschool Program with 20 years of joyful learning and fellowship with the children and families of our community.

**Staff/Board:** Today we gather also to recognize Ruth Swartley’s two decades of excellent Vision, Leadership and Teaching of our children. Ruth, 20 years ago, God placed a call in your life, and we have all been blessed through your faithful answer to that call.

**Parents of Preschoolers Past and Present:** Miss Ruth, we thank you for your willingness to be with our children, to teach them, to guide them, and to support them. In your ministry we have seen the love, truth and grace of Jesus lived out. The ways that you have instructed and interacted with our children have taught them so much more than ABC’S and how to share with each other.

**Preschoolers Past and Present:**

You have helped to shape our character and our lives, and we have been blessed by God through your service. Thank you Miss Ruth!

**Ruth:** I thank you for the gift of your children. In their words, their questions and their laughter I have truly seen the Kingdom of Heaven. Thank you for the trust that you have placed in me, and for the ways that you have supported and blessed me throughout the years. Now as I step away from this role, I trust that God has new things in store for me and for our Preschool as well. May we continue to follow His call faithfully.

**Leader:** Eternal God, you made our world good, and set times for our labor and for rest. You give us talents to be used for the good of all. You made us, and you call us to serve one another. Today, we honor that call that you have placed in Ruth's life, and her 20 years of service to our young people.

**Congregation:** Father, we recognize the many abilities that you have given to Ruth, and thank you for her imagination, her leadership, and her abundant love of children. Grant Ruth a sure sense of the good things that you have brought about in and through her. Grant her satisfaction from tasks accomplished. Now, prepare her for new tasks in your kingdom, and give her new eyes of faith to follow where you will lead her.

Through Jesus our Mighty Lord. Amen.

Litany by Pastor Brent