

## Word on the street



**Pastors Tim and Candy Ryder**

Grand Rapids First - Kids Ministries

Our brains and the mind of Christ.

When a baby is born its vision is 20/400 and life is a blur. From three to six months of age a child's vision improves to 20/40 and life is still a blur. This has nothing to do with how well a child can see but everything to do with the brain's ability to process the visual data that is being sent to it. When they look at a couch, they see color and shape but do not recognize it as a couch. Things remain blurry for these infants because their brain has not developed the ability to process the incoming data to determine that the color and shape is indeed a couch. Data and experience over time train the neural pathways to recognize the couch as the couch.

How do we develop in our children (and ourselves) the mind of Christ? Our eyes and ears are data receivers. The data our brains take in develops the neural pathways that shape our ability to process and recognize our surroundings. We consider having the mind of Christ a spiritual thing, but it is also a physical thing. It requires the training of our brain much the same as a baby's learning to process data to recognize that the color and shape they see equals a couch. To have the mind of Christ requires the correct input, what you believe to be true. If you believe a lie, your life is formed by that lie. If you believe the truth, your life is formed by that truth. Your brain develops the neural pathways and

processing ability based on the data you put into it.

Our responsibility as adults (parents and teachers) is to bring the right data (truth) to our children (and ourselves). This data is then processed by our brain to create the neural pathways to help us develop the mind of Christ. This is a physical development based on the right input. The old saying, "garbage in, garbage out" may be a simple way of summing it up, but it is accurate. The truth of God's Word going in helps us develop the process that creates the neural pathways in our brains, which then create the literal mind of Christ, processing things from God's point of view. The important thing to remember is that it is not fully formed in us, either as adults or children. We are all works in progress. Just remember to input the truth through your data processors. Avoid data that is full of lies or hollow (the things of the world) and feed on what is true, the Word of God.

"If any man be in Christ he is a new creation. Behold the old things have passed away and all things have become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17). We have the new, the mind of Christ, and we are growing into it, kids and adults alike. Happy thinking!



### TEACHER OF THE MONTH!

Sara Nellis

Years ago, we were blessed by the addition of Sara to our children's ministry team. She came from a smaller church where she pretty much provided oversight to all aspects of Children's Ministry, to the point of overload. When we heard about what she had done, we naturally wanted to

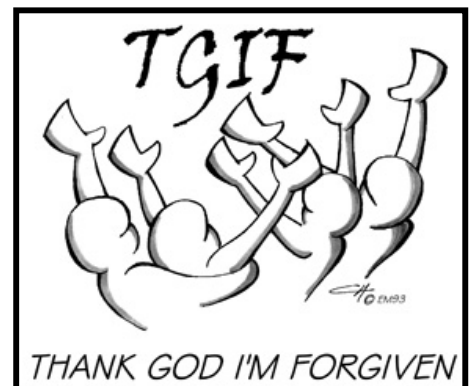
put her gifts to use. After a season of intake and refreshing, Sara jumped in with both feet into ministry here at GR First. She has helped in Mpack, Sunday mornings, Nursery and Kids Musicals – not all simultaneously though. Sara is a utility player and fills in where we need her. She is a blessing to us beyond words. She's a great teacher, as well as carpenter and everything that comes in between. Thank you Sara for all you do!



### STUDENT LEADERS OF THE MONTH!

Jacob Carlton

Jacob Carlton has grown up here at Grand Rapids First, experienced the Children's Ministry as a student, and now serves as one of our leaders. He has a natural aptitude in working with computers and technical things, as well as the ability to play keyboards. Jacob helps us out in our sound and tech area on Sunday mornings until the close of the service when he jumps to the platform to provide keyboard support for praise and worship, flowing into altar ministry. It is such a blessing to watch kids grow from learning about Jesus to serving Him. Jacob exemplifies the heart of a servant and faithfulness. Thank you Jacob, for a job well done!



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# KIDS FIRST

Mission  
 Bringing Kids to Christ and  
 training them up to be like  
 Him.



**Check us out!!**  
 We're on the Web at  
[www.grkidsfirst.org](http://www.grkidsfirst.org)



grand rapids first

# MAY

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Child Dedication	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 No Children Church	30	31				

**Sundays Kids First**  
**Wednesday Kids Classes 6:00-7:00 and 7:15-8:15**

## Virtue

### **FORGIVENESS**

Deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay

## Bible Stories

- 5/01 – **No Mercy**  
 (the parable of the unmerciful servant)  
 Matthew 18:21-35
- 5/08 – **Making Change**  
 (Jesus and Zacchaeus)  
 Luke 19:1-9
- 5/15 – **Getting Even God's Way**  
 (Joseph and his brothers)  
 Genesis 45:1-15
- 5/22 – **Go First**  
 (Jesus teaches about forgiveness)  
 Matthew 5:1-2,23-24
- 5/29 – **All Access**  
 (present your requests to God)  
 Philippians 4:6-7



Rush Hour is a Sunday morning ministry for Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The program includes drama sketches, games, Bible teaching, music and more. You are welcome to stop in to check it out.

## Times

Drop off 8:40 am - 9:00 am  
 10:30 am - 11:00 am  
**K through 2nd - Upper Room**  
**3rd through 6th- Lighthouse**

## Memory verse

“Forgive the things you are holding against one another. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you.”

**Colossians 3:13, NIV**

## Bottom Lines

- 5/01 – Since God forgives you, you should forgive others.
- 5/08 – When people are forgiven, it can change them.
- 5/15 – When you want to get even, do the opposite.
- 5/22 – Don't wait to start making things right with others.
- 5/29- You can talk to God about anything.

## **Parents of children ages newborn to 6th grade**

Please be aware that there is a number display in the Worship Center and in the Lighthouse Auditorium. Each family and guest is assigned a number when you register your child at a Children's Ministry sign-in station. If you see your family number on the display, go directly to the Nursery or Sunday School office.