

Dear Parents of First UMC 5th and 6th graders:

1/10/12

The Children and Youth ministries of First UMC Coppell would like to invite you and your child to participate in a very special workshop **February 23-25** entitled, “Created by God.” This important seminar will focus on God’s gift of human sexuality from a Christian perspective. “Created by God” deals in a thorough way with the basics of growth and sexual development. Our children will be given an opportunity to obtain accurate information, as well as a better understanding of what it means to be wonderfully created by God – including God’s call to live responsibly as sexual beings.

This seminar provides an open door for conversation about a number of sensitive and scary subjects for children *and* parents. What a great opportunity to allow the church to assist you in the awesome responsibility of teaching your children about their sexuality. Remember that your child may not be jumping for joy at the aspect of learning ‘the birds and the bees’ – especially in such a public setting. But don’t give in! God will open the door to allow stress-free conversation – and that is a gift. Don’t miss this opportunity!

Leading the study again for our church for the 6th time will be Laura Atterstrom. Laura is a well-respected licensed Professional Counselor and Marriage and Family Therapist. She is a member of St. Andrew’s UMC in Plano and is certified by the North Texas Conference of the UMC to present these workshops for 5th and 6th graders. Not only has Laura taught Sunday school and confirmation classes, she also participated in the “Created by God” workshop for three years, and in doing so, felt led to become a facilitator for the workshop.

Please make note of the dates and times listed below. This is a serious commitment required of both parents *and* children. Students need to be present for the entirety of the seminar. Therefore, I ask you to let coaches or dance teachers know that your child will not be available for games/practices/recitals, etc. during the weekend.

Enrollment is limited to (40) students. Small Group leaders are essential for this seminar to take place. We must have one male and one female adult to serve at each table as group leaders. It is very important for you to know that the parent leaders do not in any way have teaching responsibilities. They are merely facilitators at the tables for group building, etc. There is no *Created by God* curriculum taught at the tables, Laura does that in total group time and the leaders are merely a supportive presence during those times. You will not be at your child’s table. Look at it this way...your child will still know that you understand what they have learned but from a fairly safe distance! Every year we have a difficult time finding enough male leaders. Please don’t be afraid, it is so important for your child to see how committed you are to this important step in their life!

The purpose of the mandatory Thursday evening parent meeting is for Laura to go over the schedule, curriculum, and discussion topics and answer questions and concerns. She will be using *Created by God* curriculum from Abingdon Press. The students will each receive their own book. If you’d like to look at the curriculum or student book ahead of time, please feel free to contact me.

I am confident that the “Created by God” experience will be a wonderful blessing for your child and for you. It truly is a lot of fun – the kids even say so! I am happy to give you names of parents who have participated in the past few years if you have questions about the weekend. They would be happy to visit with you, as would I.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions. I look forward to us walking this road together – as your children learn that they are wonderfully, beautifully, and in all ways “Created by God.”

Blessings to you and your family,



Kelly Williams
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Coppell
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“Created By God” Important Dates:

Thursday, February 23 (6:30-8:00 pm)

Parent meeting – one parent from each home **MUST** attend (the table leaders will meet with Laura for a few minutes after the meeting)

Friday, February 24 (6:30-9:00 pm)

Opening session for students and table leaders

Saturday, February 25 (9:00 am-3:00 pm)

Second session for students and table leaders (please do not double book your child for any of this time period, it’s important they are here for the entire session)

Saturday, February 25 (2:00-3:00 pm)

Wrap up for students and parents (one parent from each home **MUST** attend)

****REGISTRATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE CHURCH OFFICE BY FEBRUARY 13.**

All meeting times will take place in the Rotunda. The cost for each student is \$25. The cost includes the seminar, supplies, Saturday lunch and a student book. Please do not hesitate to ask for a scholarship if you are in need. We never want finances to be the reason your child does not participate in a church event.

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Registration for “Created By God”

DUE February 13, 2012

Please attach check made out to *First UMC* for \$25. Scholarships are available. Please contact Kelly Williams.

Child’s Name _____ Church Member or Guest? _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Grade and School _____

Parents’ names _____

Email _____

I understand that one parent must be present for the parent meeting on Thursday evening and Saturday closing at 2:00 pm. I agree that my child will be there for the entire session on Friday evening and Saturday 9:00-3:00.

Signature _____

Yes, I will be happy to serve as a small group leader!

Name(s): _____

Yes, I will be happy to:

(Please check – a confirmation email will be sent to you)

_____ bring snacks or drinks for Friday night session for students

_____ bring breakfast or snacks or drinks for Saturday session

_____ order and pick up pizza for Saturday lunch (to be reimbursed by the church)