

— News Release —

For Immediate Release
For News and/or Community and/or Religion Editor(s)

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Churches Play a Vital Role in the Revival of “Children’s Day”

• Churches take part in the second Sunday in June celebration

Batavia, Ill., June 21, 2007 (*The Religion Wire™*) —

The start of a movement to celebrate *the second Sunday in June* as **“Children’s Day”** is taking root in America’s churches. Churches throughout American took part in this annual day of celebration and commitment to children.

This year, on June 10, many churches celebrated with storytelling, special writings from the pastor, recognition gifts, pledges of commitment, other creative means, and even proclamations.

At First Presbyterian Church of Aurora, Ill., children heard the story of Jesus telling adults to become like a child. The pastor wrote a special bulletin note to children. He also spoke of the day and its importance, plus acknowledging state and local proclamations. The Warehouse Church in Aurora urged the signing of commitment cards. Another Aurora church, Westminster Presbyterian stressed **“Children’s Day”** at its three services and at one recognized some youth with new Bibles and had congregation members take prayer slips for children.

Children’s Day



Second Sunday in June

Add one — *Churches Play a Vital Role in the Revival of “Children’s Day”*

John Ross, advocate for “**Children’s Day**” and part of a growing movement spearheaded by the website www.nationalchildrensday.us, notes “The church played a vital role in the beginning of *Children’s Day* and will play a vital role in its revival in America. The faith-based community’s interest in the needs of children is historic. I’m looking forward to seeing more churches and denominations involved in 2008. With the involvement of churches, parents, individuals, businesses, civic organizations, and government, *Children’s Day* can have a significant impact for the betterment of America.”

“**Children’s Day**” observations in the United States predate both Mother’s and Father’s Day. This day dates from the 1880s and earlier. The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in 1883 designated the “the second Sabbath in June as *Children’s Day*.”

Chase’s Calendar of Events cites *Children’s Sunday*.

Denominations that officially observe the day include the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the Church of the Nazarene.

This year, Illinois became the first state in the start of a movement to proclaim *the second Sunday in June* as “**Children’s Day**.” Illinois governor Rod R. Blagojevich issued a proclamation. The Illinois cities of Batavia and Aurora (Illinois’ second largest city) also issued mayoral proclamations.

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