A Grandparent By Any Other Name

Lara Davis

Nana, Poppa, Oma, Opa, Gran, Pop Pop, Babushka…all names that children lovingly call their grandparents. We have heard countless times, “There’s nothing better than being a grandparent.”

What memories might you have of visits with your grandparents? Did you go somewhere special? Did you do something special together? Did you share a unique ritual? For my children, Gran’s house was where you went and were treated like royalty, where you learned to bake bread and cookies, to garden, to tease, and, of course, to take scraps and feed “Annie’s pigs.”

In an article entitled, “Time With Your Kids: A Special Family Bond—Grandparents” (www.bblocks.samhsa.gov/**family**/**Time**/**grandparents**.aspx), the author lists these benefits of spending time with grandparents.

Grandparents:

* provide a sense of family continuity and history;
* have stories to tell and are great transmitters of the family’s cultural heritage;
* contribute to the children’s sense of belonging and security;
* become additional role models;
* often have more time than do parents for reading stories, teaching new skills, and playing games; and,
* have a vested interest in the well-being and healthy development of their grandchildren.

At the Weekday School, we celebrate our grandparents by hosting “Grandparents’ Day.” Grandparents are invited to spend time in the classrooms with their grandchildren. The children feel so proud to show off their grandparents! This ritual is one that honors and supports the special bond that children have with their grandparents. Look for photos on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the church.

**BOOK FAIR: NOVEMBER 13 AND NOVEMBER 14 IN FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**The Weekday School will be hosting a book fair courtesy of Winchester Book Gallery. Come browse a wide selection of literature for children of all ages! Remember: books make great Christmas gifts!**