



If you could change the life of children and families in Covington in a dramatic way with only an hour each week of your time, would you do it? You can do that by spending 30 minutes with two second grade children one day a week helping them learn basic sight words they need to know to insure they are reading on grade level. **No special educational credentials are required to help a child. If you can read, you can help a child learn their sight words.**

Our schools in Covington have made great strides in education over the past 5 years. However, Covington elementary school principals (CIAA and Crestview Elementary) say that their weakness continues to be in reading, and that reading tutoring can have the single most significant impact on their students' overall education than any other.

The other important part of this ministry is providing children with a consistent, positive adult influence in their lives. To have another adult who cares about them enough to show up every week and read with them can be huge to children whose home lives may be chaotic or lack a loving adult influence. You can share the love of Christ with two children AND help prepare them for a better future through the gift of reading.

This collaborative ministry between five area churches (Central Christian, Covington Assembly of God, First Presbyterian, First United Methodist, and Tabernacle United Methodist) will begin in Covington in February. We will begin working with 2nd graders at CIAA now and hope to go into Crestview Elementary in the fall of 2016. To allow each CIAA 2nd grader to have a mentor, 32 persons will be needed to serve.

Training for the reading mentoring will take place at FUMC on Thursday, Feb. 4 from 2 - 3:30 p.m. in the New Beginnings Classroom. A background check through the Tipton County Board of Education will be required, which is \$40 (scholarships are available if needed). Please prayerfully consider offering your help and influence to a child for the remaining 14 weeks of this school year for one hour each week. Tutoring time is 10:40 - 11:30 a.m. on weekdays (you will have a specific day of the week to meet with your child). MALE MENTORS ARE KEY TO HELPING YOUNG BOYS MORE EFFECTIVELY. Please share this information with family and friends who may be interested in helping. If you know of other church congregations who might want to participate, please extend that invitation.

If you have questions, would like more information or would like to commit to serve in this new ministry, please contact Grace Phelps at gphelps@covingtonfumc.com or 491-1461 **no later than Friday, January 29** so that adequate training materials may be provided. A good education is the best tool to lift a child out of poverty and reading is the foundation on which that education is built. What a powerful message as people of faith come together to improve the lives of children, families and the future of our city! We can do this together!

God's blessings!
Grace Phelps