

**To:** Executive Board and Members,  
First Church of Christ, Scientist, Fairfax, VA  
**From:** Frančeska Wilde, Sunday School Superintendent  
**Re:** Quarterly Business Meeting Report for June-July-August, 2023

Dear Fellow Members,

Welcome to the new academic year for 2023-24, which, for our Fairfax and Loudoun Counties public school students, began in late August!

Yesterday (Sept.10,) the Sunday School was pleased to have marked the end of the June-July-August Quarter and to usher in the next Quarter, by holding a “Meet, Greet, and Eat” event for all our upstairs church members. We look forward to finding more “getting to know you” opportunities in the next Quarter.

The “Summer Quarter” started with preparation for our church’s final Mother Church (MC) workshop on June 20, titled “Engaging Youth in Church.” The workshop was conducted over Zoom by Ian Gudger, C.S., who serves as the Sunday School Support Lead for the Mother Church Activities Department. The questions posed to church members at the workshop included asking that we deeply consider how to seamlessly connect Sunday School to church. One suggestion was to hold events such as yesterday’s *Meet & Greet*, so that members and students can get to know each other by name and show a genuine interest in each other as individuals. At the workshop, other ideas for better engaging youth with church included: Having students help select hymns that resonate better with youth; involving them in selecting a lecturer; getting their ideas about church signage. They also might provide ideas for improving our web and FaceBook pages. Another thought is for members and Sunday School staff to explore ways in which “upstairs” members can engage more actively in the functioning of the Sunday School. Here’s a question for you regarding yesterday’s event: How did we do? Going forward, your input about how this event met its goal would be appreciated (please email me with your thoughts).

June – July – August, -- the “Summer Quarter,” -- typically challenges our staff with having to juggle vacation schedules on the part of Sunday School staff and students, alike. The challenge of ensuring that SS classes

are covered throughout the quarter was met in prayer and practice by the selfless devotion of our invaluable “go-to” substitute teachers, Charles and Gordon; and, by the readiness of teachers John, Jan, Steve, and Kathleen to step in wherever needed; and, to Kathleen Stilwell, our ever-prepared Assistant Superintendent, who ably resolved each scheduling issue while I was away. This quote from our dear Leader comes to mind: “Whatever holds human thought in line with unselfed love, receives directly the divine power.” (*Science and Health*, p. 192:30).

Notwithstanding such challenges, this Quarter turned out to be exceptional with respect to student attendance. One or more students were in attendance on 11 weeks of this 13-week quarter. This tally includes two times when one high school student, who was unable to attend in person, requested and received class sessions with his teacher by phone. We also welcomed Logan, a visitor in John Baker’s High School class. Logan attended two Sundays in a row, while his mother, Ana Cole, attended the church service. We hope Logan will visit again.

In closing, we wish to thank members for participating in TMC workshops, and we look forward to an increase in your personal and metaphysical support of Sunday School. Attached below are some references that members might find useful and informative in this regard.

Respectfully submitted for the Sunday School,  
Frančeska D. Wilde, Superintendent

### References

“How are we praying for Sunday School?” by Daisette Hey McKelvie, from the April 1977 issue of *The Christian Science Journal*.

“Four pillars that strengthen your church” by Leide Lessa, from the July 2023 issue of *The Christian Science Journal*.