



# In Step

*“Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”  
Galatians 5:25*

The Dance Ministry of College Park  
*“Igniting a passion to follow Jesus... through dance”*

## General Information 2011

Our goal is that ultimately the Lord's will would be done and that this ministry would provide another biblical avenue to glorify Jesus Christ. We want this ministry to be more than just dancing—we want to see spiritual growth in its members, spurring one another on in the faith and also to enjoy fellowship and burdens with each other.

### **We are daughters of the King BEFORE we are dancers**

~Your relationship with the Lord comes before (and along with) the dance ministry.

### **Reminder of Dance in the Bible**

~**Psalm 149 & 150** and many other places. I've found it to be mainly to express JOY!

~It is to be focused on the LORD—we are not to worship ourselves! **Rev. 4:11**

~A way to offer our whole body in worship. **Romans 12:1**

### **To make this ministry as effective as possible:**

~Your own spiritual walk comes first! Spend time with the Lord. Be connected to the King!

## **HOW DO I REGISTER:**

Open registration for NEW dancers (ages 5-adult) begins **JUNE 1, 2011**.

When all spots are filled, or at the dance ministry leader's discretion, we will end registration.

1. **Turn in a New Dancer registration & commitment form (obtain from [www.yourchurch.com](http://www.yourchurch.com) under Groups, Worship Arts, Dance)**
2. **Submit a \$30 registration fee per dancer (checks made to College Park Church – “Dance” in the memo)**  
We will not be able to save your spot unless you turn in your \$30 check, discuss a payment plan with Andi, or request financial assistance. This \$30 is a one-time yearly fee that takes care of costuming needs as well as other needs of In Step. Please return the form and check directly to Andi, Cassie, or the Dance Ministry mailbox.

**\*NEW\***: All applicants ages 11 & up will need to audition (details to come). After auditioning, we will let you know if we think In Step is a good fit for you this year. If we feel more training is needed in order to fit into an age appropriate group, we may recommend Step Training classes held on Monday nights for a year or more to enhance technique.

## **OUR NAME:**

Our ministry is called “In Step” which comes from Galatians 5. We often tell the dancers that our aim is to first be known as lovers of Jesus Christ and second to be known as members of the dance ministry, not the other way around. Galatians 5:25 says, “Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep *in step* with the Spirit.”

## **REGULAR DANCE MINISTRY REHEARSALS:**

Regular rehearsals are on Thursday evenings, lasting 45 minutes- 1 hour 15 minutes.

Placement is based on several factors, including ability, past commitment, age, maturity, how many dancers we have at a certain age or level, etc. After we receive your re-commitment forms and then new registrations, we will sit down and evaluate the “steps” for the 2011-2012 season. Please know that not everyone can “move up” to a new level each year. There are only 7 levels and there are only so many spots available in each level. Please also know and explain to your daughter that a level does not mean a certain level of dance. Each year we “re-organize” the dancers based on who is participating, so we cannot concretely say that a certain step means you are a certain level dancer. One year, the step 3 dancers might be closer in ability to step 2 and other years, they might be closer in

ability to step 4. Please also remind your daughter that ultimately, the dance ministry is a “team” effort to do the best we can to lead others in worship. We need leaders *and* learners in every level in order to do this! This might be your year to be on the “leading” end of your group, or it might be your year to be on the “learning” end of your group, or you might be right in the middle. We will send out the placement list in August before our first rehearsal. After seeing how the groups work together, we may switch some dancers around to different “steps” as we see the need.

\*For each dance done in corporate worship, there will be 1-2 extra rehearsals, usually on a Monday night 2 weeks prior to the dance date. For the musicals (December & May), there are 3 additional Monday or Tuesday night rehearsals, as well as 2 regular Thursday rehearsals where the time is lengthened for tech and dress rehearsals. (See information under “2011-2012 Calendar”)

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Since we are always learning new choreography, “cleaning-up” dances, working on spacing, or something else as equally important, it’s VITALLY important that you attend class each Thursday.

- You are allowed **two excused absences a semester.**
- You **must be present at all tech, dress and on-stage rehearsals!**
- If you are more than **15 minutes late to any rehearsal, you will be considered absent.**

\*Sickness, family emergencies, and other events out of your control will be taken into consideration, but please be discerning regarding days you choose to miss for other purposes, knowing that you may get sick at some point and have to miss.

\*If you miss more than 2 Thursday classes or any tech, dress or on-stage rehearsals, you may be removed from the upcoming dance event (musical, corporate worship piece), or dismissed from the dance ministry for the remainder of the semester or year.

\*Please email Andi at [wehoagies@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wehoagies@sbcglobal.net) or Cassie at [cassiebrogan@gmail.com](mailto:cassiebrogan@gmail.com) as far in advance as possible, if you know in advance that you will not be able to attend class. In case of emergency or last minute notice of an absence, please contact:

Andi 774-0721 (H) or 407-7504 Cell  
Cassie 709-3954

-Please be especially cognizant of attendance as we get close to dance event. It is always recommended to talk through a discretionary absence with us so we can let you know ahead of time if it is a good idea or not.

\*We do understand conflicts with required school events (band concerts, etc.). However, as you choose other activities for your children (even those at College Park), please take into consideration your commitment to the dance ministry to determine if both/all activities can be done well and with great attendance.

Attendance is important for many reasons, but especially in dance it is very difficult for the teachers and dancers to work on dances when we are spending valuable time trying to remember who is in which spot and what happens if she were to move this way when I go that way, etc. Honestly, it makes our brains hurt and we end up wasting time. Again, we understand that life happens, but thank you for doing your very best at being at rehearsal.

### **YEAR LONG COMMITMENT:**

The commitment to the In Step dance ministry is for the entire year. **We will not be accepting new dancers at semester. (However, Step Training classes allow new dancers to join at semester, as long as there are spots available).**

### **WHAT ARE THE COSTS INVOLVED?**

- **black gaucho pants** (\$8-20, often found at Kohl’s). They are great to practice in and usually are used for at least one dance throughout the year. Look for them now, as they are hard to find in the winter.
- **ballet shoes** (\$15-25). We expect ballet slippers to be in good condition for *performances*. Socks and tattered ballet shoes are fine for rehearsal. Please buy leather, as they hold up MUCH better than canvas shoes when practicing on carpet.
- **tights** (\$2-12), usually for Christmas musical. Usually white footless tights
- **\$30/dancer/year, due with your registration form.** Make checks payable to College Park Church, cash in a labeled envelope with the dancer’s name, please. If your family is experiencing financial hardship, please talk to Andi! Don’t not participate because of this!!!!
- dance ministry t-shirt** (optional), usually around \$10

### **BALLET & GAUCHO EXCHANGE:**

-If you have any black gaucho pants or ballet shoes that you no longer need, you can turn them in to our "Pass Down" box. Please put all shoes in a ziplock bag. Label each bag and pair of gaucho pants with masking tape or paper safety pinned with the SIZE, YOUR NAME, PRICE. If you are donating the item, just put the size. The person taking the item will be responsible for paying the person selling the item(s).

### **WHERE CAN I GET DANCE SUPPLIES?**

- www.discountdance.com    www.dancedistributors.com
- Kinney Dancewear - (62<sup>nd</sup> & Keystone) ~ 255-8111 or 146<sup>th</sup> & Hazel Dell Parkway ~ 581-1800

### **WANT TO SERVE WITHOUT PUTTING ON DANCIN' SHOES?**

-**Sewing**- sometimes we need alterations to costumes, skirts made, etc. We will need someone to sew a curtain for in front of the mirrors!

### **SPIRITUAL GROWTH:**

In order for us to be ministers to others, we must be growing in our love and knowledge of Jesus! Therefore, it's expected that you are growing in the Lord through church attendance, fellowship with other believers, and interactions with your family. We expect a Christ-like attitude when at dance class, and if this becomes an issue, we will be addressing it with you and your parents if necessary.

Also, we hope that you will enjoy engaging in our Scripture memory verses and will share them with others! Throughout the year, you may be given "homework" in the form of devotions so that you we can help you connect to the song you are dancing too. It's our prayer that you will desire to partake in these devotions and will come to class prepared to share.

### **REHEARSAL WEAR GUIDELINES: Please wear LOOSE fitting items (tops and bottoms!)**

Also as part of your commitment to In Step, you are expected to come prepared to dance.

#### **-PANTS:**

- Please don't wear jeans or skirts of any kind to class.
- We would like for you to wear modest pants (gaucho or Capri/cropped pants are best so we can see your feet). Pant should be below the knee and above the ankle.

#### **-SHIRTS:**

- Be sure we can't see your stomach if you raise your arms!
- Please do not wear tank tops.
- Shirts should not be tight fitting.

#### **-SHOES:**

- We expect ballet slippers to be in good condition for performances.
- Socks or old ballet shoes are just fine for practice.
- Trim your ballet shoe strings- pull the ballet strings (BUT NOT TOO TIGHT!) and knot them and then trim the remaining strings, please.

#### **-HAIR:**

Please wear your hair pulled back for class. We want to see your beautiful faces!

### **COSTUME CARE:**

Please continue to stress the importance of great care with the dance costumes to your daughters. Many of the shirts cannot be replaced (they were a certain style from a certain store) and the ones that can be replaced are expensive. Please, please stress good stewardship to your daughter in this area.

### **2011-2012 CALENDAR:**

Usually, we try to send out approximate dates of upcoming commitments, but this year could look quite different, due to the opening of the new building. We will send these dates as soon as we have them so you can mark your calendars.

In the past, we have held 1-2 mandatory on stage rehearsals prior to each dance event (usually held on Mondays). For major events, there has also been a Tuesday rehearsal and 1-2 of the Thursday rehearsals are usually extended in length. For Easter, there is usually a rehearsal during the day on Saturday (the day before Easter).

Again, we are not totally sure of what this year will look like with the new building, but we will update you as we get information. No matter what, we are excited to continue to teach worshipful dance to your daughters and maintain relationships with them.

## **PLEASE! PLEASE! PLEASE!**

Overall, try to remember the Three C's that we believe help make the dance ministry work well.

**CHRIST:** Growing in our love for Jesus helps the overflow of our hearts to naturally show on our faces and in our dancing.

**COMMUNICATION:** Please be faithful in checking email, as this is our primary source of communication

-check your email frequently! Do we have your email address?

-If you DO NOT have email, it is your responsibility to find someone in the dance ministry who will call you with information as it arrives.

**COMMITMENT:** Great attendance helps us be as productive as possible.

-be at rehearsal & be on time- tell your teacher of conflicts in advance, come watch if you aren't contagious.

- Please turn in money and forms in a timely manner

-make sure your dancer has used the restroom prior to coming in to dance class.

-take GREAT care of your costumes, return them promptly, & leave our rehearsal space spotless!!!

## **WHAT ABOUT FURTHER DANCE TRAINING?:**

### **Step Training**

We have seen so much growth in the dancers that have sought outside dance training, but realize that there are two major drawbacks to outside dance training. Outside training is expensive and it is hard to find a dance studio that places a large emphasis on modesty. So, we are now offering "Step Training," led by Cassie Pugh. This is a year-long commitment to technique classes, which will provide technical training in ballet, lyrical, and appropriate jazz styles. This does not take the place of In Step rehearsals on Thursday nights. Whether or not you decide if this is right for you, you will still have a place in the dance ministry! However, Thursday nights are often devoted to choreography and we would love to have the opportunity to help you pursue your dancing passion by bettering your technique. Contact Cassie at [cassiebrogan@gmail.com](mailto:cassiebrogan@gmail.com) to register. Information is also available on the website.

*Thank you taking the time to read about these changes and expectations for the ministry. We are excited for the upcoming year and look forward to working with each of you again!*

*Andi Hogan, Bethany Gee & Cassie Pugh*

