

# Meet the HPP Staff

## 2011-2012

### **Kristie Kuzy - Twos Teacher**

Kristie has lived in Huntsville most of her life. She has been at Hope Playschool as the Two's teacher for eight years. She has been married to Nick, an operations manager at an ambulance company, since 1982. Their daughter Alison is married with two daughters, Natalie, 7, and Ellie, 4, and a little boy Calvin, 1 year old. They are living in Huntsville while Alison's husband is deployed and Ellie will be attending the Four's class at Hope. Their son, former Hope student Dominic, is a 6th grader at Mt. Gap. Kristie was a nanny for two different families for a total of seven years and was head teacher in the toddler class at Primrose School of Bailey Cove for four years. She received her Child Development Associate Credential (CDA) in 2000. She especially loves toddlers and has a special interest in children's literature. This will be Kristie's ninth year teaching 2-year-olds at Hope. She also loves reading, yard sales and dogs (she has several large mixed-breed dogs at home).

### **Tammy Hurley – Threes Teacher (Four days a week)**

Tammy was born and raised in Auburn, the oldest of eight children. She has three children. Elizabeth is 15 and in 9th grade; Emily is 13 and in 8th grade; Scott is 12 and in 7th grade. Tammy was very involved in the Children's Ministry at Lakeview Baptist in Auburn. She taught preschool-age Sunday school for over ten years and spent three years teaching children's choir. This will be Ms. Tammy's fifth year teaching at Hope. Since moving to Huntsville seven years ago, Tammy has volunteered as a teacher's assistant at Mt. Gap Elementary where her children attended school. She has done everything from organizing curriculum and class work for teachers, to coaching math and phonics with students. Tammy stays busy trying to keep up with all of her children's extra-curricular activities -- soccer, volleyball, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, just to name a few. In her spare time, she loves reading, scrapbooking, and photography.

### **Jeannie Schneider -- Threes Teacher (Four days a week)**

Jeannie grew up in Lexington, KY, lived in Slidell, LA, for six years, and has been in Huntsville for the past 20 years. She is married to Larry, who works for COLSA and leads network engineering in support of NASA's space station and shuttle. Their daughter, Lindsay, is a junior at Auburn, where she is majoring in psychology. Jeannie received her teaching certificate and degree in elementary education with kindergarten endorsement from the University of Kentucky. She taught Kindergarten and 2nd grade in Kentucky and Louisiana public schools for 11 years. She was the Playschool's main substitute teacher for 6 years. This will be her third year teaching this three's class. After taking time off to raise Lindsay, Jeannie is very excited to be teaching our 3-year-olds class for four days. Jeannie enjoys gardening, traveling, and spending time with her family.

### **Katie McCollum - Fours Teacher**

Originally from Huntsville, Katie grew up in Greenville, SC. She attended Auburn University and received a B.S. in Elementary Education. She and her husband Matt, a NASA engineer, have been in Huntsville for 20 years. Christopher, her son is a 10th grader at Grissom. Erin, her daughter, is in 8th grade at Mt. Gap. Katie has worked at the preschool at First United Methodist Church in Huntsville (now called the Susanna Wesley Early Education Center) for 7 years. She has worked with all ages, ones through fours, both in the classroom and as music & motor skills teacher. This will be Katie's 9<sup>th</sup> year teaching at Hope. While not busy with her children's soccer, dance, and baseball activities, Katie enjoys reading, sewing, crafts, scrapbooking -- and loves cats. She is also a volunteer for the Girl Scouts.

### **Marsha Owen - Fours Teacher**

Marsha was born and raised in a suburb of New Orleans. She followed her father's footsteps and attended Auburn University and received a degree in industrial engineering. In the fall of 1987, she met Todd, a Huntsville native, at the Methodist campus ministry in Auburn. They married in 1992 and began their short careers as engineers in Huntsville. Marsha found her love -- teaching toddlers and 4-year-olds at Highlands United Methodist Daycare and continued later to teach 3-year-olds at Asbury UMC Child Development Center in Madison. Todd answered the call into ministry by becoming a youth minister and is now the associate minister at Aldersgate UMC just down the street from Hope. They have two daughters -- Victoria is a senior at Grissom High School, and Ashtyn is a 7th grader at Mountain Gap Middle. This will be Marsha's fifth year teaching 4-year-olds at Hope. Marsha's hobbies include reading, scrapbooking, playing games and playing with their 5-year-old black lab, Tucky.

### **Beth Talbert – Music, Movement & Science Teacher**

Beth was born and raised right here in Huntsville. After graduating from Grissom High School in 1983, she attended Auburn University where she earned a degree in Early Childhood Education. While at Auburn she met her husband Bill and they were married in 1989. They have 2 children-Libby a senior and Will a freshman, both at Grissom. Beth taught for 4 years in the public school system (Kindergarten, Head Start and First Grade) before taking time off to raise her family. For the past 15 years Beth has worked with preschoolers as a Sunday school teacher, VBS Director, Preschool Sunday school Director, 3 year old preschool teacher, music and movement teacher and for the last 3 years as a substitute at Hope Playschool. When not involved with her son's tennis or her daughter's figure skating, she enjoys reading, writing and crafts.

### **Suzette Mikell- Director**

Suzette was born and raised in Huntsville and graduated from Huntsville High School. She has been married to Scott Williams for 10 years and they have two sons. Winton is 7 years old and in the second grade at Jones Valley and Walker is 3 years old and attends Hope Playschool. She received her undergraduate (Family and Child Development) and graduate (Masters in Education) degrees from Auburn University. She worked for Partnership for a Drug-Free Community as the Community Education Director for 13 years before becoming a stay at home mom. They attend First United Methodist Church where she teaches Sunday school and she is the room mother for Winton's second grade class. Most weekends she can be found at the YMCA with her boys playing soccer, basketball and baseball. She enjoys reading, gardening and walking home with Winton after school.