

## **Nashville Area Association for the Education of Young Children to Celebrate 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

*“Spread the Light!”* is the theme for the 60<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration for NAAEYC (Nashville Area Association for the Education of Young Children) set for Saturday, August 2.

The membership meeting and celebration is scheduled for Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville.

In 1948 twenty-two people concerned about the education of young children in the Nashville area met at West End United Methodist Church. These dedicated professionals had a vision for the future of the education of young children. They took up a collection of fifty cents each, which amounted to \$11.00 which they used to set up the present day organization. The now 700 plus members of the NAAEYC have the same vision and concern about today’s children.

Members are being challenged to purchase a commemorative candle to represent their commitment to help secure the vision of these early pioneers and “Spread the Light of Quality” in the future. NAAEYC is researching its past history and invites all past members to attend.

The NAAEYC membership consists of directors, teachers and other early childhood professionals. They represent a variety of professional institutions along with 860 childcare facilities providing care for approximately 34,000 children in the five counties surrounding and including Davidson, Cheatham, Sumner, Robertson, Trousdale, and Williamson.

The Tennessee Department of Human Services reports 97 family and group homes, and 389 child development centers enrolling approximately 27,000 children in Davidson County, alone.

The birthday celebration workshops and training is free to all NAAEYC members. The only costs are for CPR, First Aid, and lunch. Woodmont Baptist Church is located at 2100 Woodmont Blvd, Nashville, TN 37215.

To register, contact the NAAEYC office at 2021 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue S., Suite 440, Nashville, TN 37212. ([snaeyc@aol.com](mailto:snaeyc@aol.com)), 615- 383-6292. Conference details are available at [www.naaeyc.org](http://www.naaeyc.org).

Commemorative candles may be purchased for \$11.00 (the amount collected at the first meeting held in 1948).

NAAEYC is affiliated with the Tennessee Association for the Education of Young Children (TAEYC) Southern Early Childhood Association (SECA), and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

