

## Off To Westeros!

“It’s the most wonderful time of the year,” Judson Mommas and Poppas! Yes, summer is upon us, and yours truly is off to Westeros, land of the Game of Thrones and the Stark family, or what’s left of them anyway. [Spoiler Alert!]

After “The Red Wedding,” in which mama Catelyn Stark, son Robb Stark, daughter-in-law Talisa, her unborn child, and everyone else under the Direwolf sigil was so brutally slain, including the direwolf, the entire House Stark is down to three kids and their Uncle Buddy, and Uncle Buddy is concerned. Though very proud that little Arya Stark refused to bow down to the Red God, when asked who her God was, she responded, “Death.” Uncle Buddy’s exact words to me were, “I swear by the old gods and the new, it’s time that child had a proper Sunday School teacher.” So Judson has made a good old fashioned summer baseball trade: one Grand Poobah (or Grand Maester, it’s all the same) for one three-eyed raven, which Judson hopes will help guide them through future budget negotiations. Do keep me in your prayers, for the night is dark and full of terrors, and no one wants to end up like Theon Greyjoy, aka Reek. I should be back at Judson by the time Sunday School classes resume on September 8th, but then again, if I happen to run into Melisandre, well, as Gendry said: “You’re me. She comes at you. Big words, no clothes. What would you have done?” Just start without me.

Before I leave, how about a HUUUUGE THANK YOU from me to you for everything you did in making this year at Judson Sunday School such a success! Without you – or perhaps more importantly, your children – it would have been just me and the Poohbettes sitting around playing Hungry Hippo every Sunday. This year’s Kids’ Day service was so much fun. Our little takeoff on the Arnold family, “The Judson Wonder Years,” got the big laughs we were hoping for, and Tom Waits (For No Man) never sounded so good. Watching your children perform the preludes (thanks Matilda, Ella and Cooper!), read the poems (thanks Azalea!), prayers (thanks Matilda, Emily, Dominick and Anders!), scriptures (thanks Sydney!), take care of all the introductions (thanks Yineth and Alice!), and sing the special music – Green Day’s “Amy” (thanks Sterling! In your face “Just As I Am”!) – I could see my secret long-term goal of not having to do anything myself on Kids’ Day slowly coming to fruition. My sincere thanks to Ward Sutton for the cartoon, and to all of you for your generosity. Every time I have too much to drink and yell “WHOOOOO! FREE BIRD!” at City Winery over the next year, just know some poor singer-songwriter will be cursing Judson Sunday School’s name.

As for this summer, Judson Sunday School will provide plenty of childcare for all those Sundays you happen to be in attendance. While we are saying goodbye to Lottie (Prague) and Joshua (Vermont), all our other Poohbettes – Nathan, Alec, Marisol, Ezra, Anne Marie, and Gwyndolyn – are in the house. When not in Westeros, I plan to be around Judson myself from time to time over the course of the summer and I do hope to see you and your kids then. Please tell your little ones that on those Sundays when they do not see me, I’m only away and not dead, which is what one of our three-year-olds (Norah) told her mom when she missed seeing me a few years ago.

Have a wonderful summer!

Andy

Grand (Maester) Poobah