

Youth Newsletter

November 2008

Children, Youth Preparing for Youth Sunday

Each year, on the first Sunday in November, the youth and children of the church are given the responsibility of teaching Sunday School and leading the Morning Worship service.

Youth Sunday allows the youth and children of the church to participate in all aspects of the church service, and gives them the opportunity to learn how to teach a Sunday School class and lead a worship service. It's a great learning experience for the children, and essential in order to train up the Sunday School teachers and church leaders of the next generation.

Over the past month, our children and youth have been working very hard to get ready for Youth Sunday on November 2.

The junior and senior high youth have been planning their Sunday School lessons, while the Youth Praise Team has been practicing special music for the Morning Worship service.

Brooke Crumpler and Shane Culbertson have been preparing their messages, and over a dozen youth have been getting ready for their special roles during the Morning Worship service.

Immediately following the 10:00am service, the children, youth, and their families are invited to a special luncheon in Graham Hall, provided by the Women's Fellowship.

We encourage everyone to support our youth and children by attending Sunday School and Morning Worship on Youth Sunday!

YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULES

ALL CLUBS

November 2	Youth Sunday, 8:30am-12:00noon No Regular Meeting
November 9	Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm
November 16	Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm <i>Operation Christmas Child</i>
November 23	Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm
November 30	Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm
December 7	No Regular Meeting <i>Christmas Cantata</i>

For more information about your club's schedule, including any special events planned for your individual club, please contact your club's leaders.

Alphas, Omegas Visit Judgement House

Real people. Real choices. Real consequences. For the past several years, First Baptist Church has been sponsoring Judgement House, a dramatic walk-through presentation about the truth of people's choices and their consequences both in this life and the next. Since 1983, an estimated 3.9 million people have attended one of nearly a dozen different Judgement House dramas in 37 states and 7 foreign countries.

On Sunday night, October 19, fifteen high school students, graduates, and leaders attended First Baptist's presentation of "Abducted". The next weekend, on Friday, October 24, twelve junior highers and leaders also attended.

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(Judgement House, continued from page 1)



This Judgement House drama follows the terrifying experience of two middle school cheerleaders, Becca and Abby. Abducted in the parking lot of the local movie theater, the two girls find themselves in the company of two men with nothing to lose and ransom on their minds. Throughout their ordeal, the girls look to each other and, more importantly, to God for help and strength. When they are finally rescued, one will go home to be with her family and one will go home to be with her Savior.

After arriving at Judgement House, the group was led through the presentation by a guide, who described each scene as it unfolded. The youth witnessed the scenes leading up to the abduction at the movie theater, the aftermath in the parking lot, and the climatic rescue in an abandoned warehouse.

Next, the group was taken to a scene depicting the characters' final judgment, after which they were sent to their eternal reward or punishment. Each member of the group was also called by name and told that, unlike the characters in the drama, it was not their time yet, and that there was still time to accept God's offer of salvation.

The group then witnessed a scene depicting eternal separation from God in Hell. Dark, loud, hot, and filled with smoke, the room displayed the characters' suffering as a result of their choice not to accept God.

Next, the youth were taken to a scene depicting Heaven. Each member of the group was given a white robe to symbolize their new body in Christ, and was greeted by Jesus with words such as "I'm proud of you" and "well done, good and faithful servant". The character who chose to accept God's offer of salvation was then welcomed to her eternal reward by Jesus and a host of angels.

 **Pioneer Clubs
News & Notes** 



The **Scouters** finished their Jesus the Helper unit, and sent get well cards to all of the church's shut-ins. The club started their next unit, Growing Like Jesus, and painted handprints to include in their Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes. The children also made happy faces using broken candies, and created pattern rubbings of coins and leaves.



In October, the **Voyagers** continued working on their memory verse, Psalm 119:105. The children went on a nature walk to earn their Exploring Nature activity award. The club also spent time observing the sky and drawing pictures of what they saw. The group earned their Play Ball activity award, and learned how to play a number of ball games. To earn their Bible exploration award, the children discussed the words of Jesus, and talked about what He meant in His words and parables. The group also discussed the Ten Commandments. The Voyagers will be starting a new unit—Loving Others—in November.



The **Pathfinders** recently earned their Understanding the Bible badge and their Designs activity award. To earn their Wilderness Skills award, the children made a bug catcher and a solar powered hot dog cooker. The club just started their next unit, Getting Along with Others, and began working on their Cooperative Games and Missions activity awards. Upcoming topics include Spending Time with Jesus and Stamping Out Prejudice.

Lastly, the group was led to a room where a speaker discussed the drama that had just unfolded, gave a brief message, and invited the youth to accept Jesus, or to rededicate their lives to Christ. Counselors from the church were standing by to talk to anyone who accepted the invitation.

"The kids all said they liked it," commented Alpha Youth Group leader Lisa Tarkington. "It certainly made them think about their own relationship with God."

"Judgement House was a real eye-opening experience," added high school junior Emma Salmon. "It really made me think about things."

Summer Camp, Part 1: Laying the Foundation for a Great Experience

“I had a great time!” “The games were fun!” “I really liked the music!” Such were the comments from several of the 14 children from Bethlehem who attended our camp program this past summer.

The process to send kids to summer camp actually started almost ten months ago, when the Youth Advisory Committee made a decision to support a camp program in 2008. A special committee researched over a dozen camps in Virginia and North Carolina. After much consideration, Camp Piankatank in Hartsfield, Virginia, was recommended.

“We looked at so many camps, and even made a personal visit to a camp in North Carolina,” commented David Salerno, Bethlehem’s Youth Director, “but we kept coming back to Camp Piankatank. There just seemed to be something that kept ‘pulling’ me personally toward it. It seemed very kid-friendly, very high-energy, and very spiritually-focused.”

Located on a 90-acre site on the pristine Piankatank River north of Gloucester, there was much to like about Camp Piankatank.



It was relatively close, less than a two-hour drive away. It was very affordable, with one of the lowest fees of all the camps the committee considered. It was owned and operated by the Virginia Baptist Mission Board, and was a member of three camping associations,

including the Christian Camp and Conference Association.

“But I was most impressed by the counselors and staff,” commented David. “All of the cabin counselors and supervising staff were at least 18 years old, and carefully selected to be Christian role models. They all had lots of energy and were great with children. Plus, they were all first aid and CPR certified. I think it speaks volumes when you have counselors who return year after year, and when even the camp directors themselves were both former campers and counselors.”

A meeting was held with interested parents to present the camp options, and to set camp dates. Families paid the initial camp deposit to hold their spot, as well as for any optional items, such as t-shirts, etc., while the Youth Advisory Committee committed to cover the remainder of the camp cost for all church youth, through fundraisers and contributions.

“We had initially planned for a number of fundraisers to raise the funds to send kids to camp,” commented David. “But thanks to generous donations from the Missions Committee, and from the congregation through the Lent Offering, we had all of the support we needed.”

So, on June 29, four boys ages 7 to 9 headed off for Mini-Camp. This special 3-day camp session was designed for younger campers to get a “taste” of the summer camp experience. The focus of this camp was on typical camp activities.

In July, the first two girls ages 10 to 14 attended Saddle Sisters camp. This week-long camp focused on riding and caring for horses. And, on August 3, the remaining eight girls went to Outdoor Outburst camp. The focus for this week-long session was on sports and outdoor games.

This is the first part of a two-part article, to be concluded next month with details about the children’s camp experience, plus more pictures and comments from campers.

Children, Youth to Participate in Operation Christmas Child

This year, in cooperation with the Missions Committee, our entire youth fellowship will be participating in Operation Christmas Child.

A ministry of Samaritan's Purse International Relief, a Christian relief and evangelism organization led by Franklin Graham, Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God's love. Since 1993, more than 61 million shoe boxes have been packed, shipped, and delivered across the globe.



Children will be packing shoe boxes filled with useful items, such as toys, school supplies, candy, gum, and other needed items, and bringing them to church on November 16. The boxes will then be delivered to a local distribution point, and shipped to needy boys and girls all over the world.

"I'm excited to be working with the Missions Committee this year on Operation Christmas Child," commented David Salerno, Bethlehem's Youth Director. "This unique mission project gives children of all ages an opportunity to demonstrate God's love to needy children around the world, and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ."




Junior High Youth Visit Nursing Home

On Sunday, October 12, the Alpha Youth Group visited Nansemond Pointe Nursing Home.

The children left for the nursing home after dinner at church, and spent over an hour visiting with the residents. The children gave the residents small pumpkins that they had decorated.


The residents all enjoyed and appreciated the visit from the youth.




Collection date is
Sunday, November 16!

Please bring your filled shoe boxes to the Regular Meeting that evening.


To participate in Operation Christmas Child:




Find a shoe box or plastic storage box. There are some shoe boxes at church you can use if you need one.




Fill it with toys, school supplies, candy, and other items a child your age would love to get.




Wrap the box in colorful paper. Be sure to wrap the top separately!



Label the shoe box with the child's gender and age.



Bring your shoe box to the Regular Meeting on Sunday, November 16. We will collect them and ship them to needy children overseas.



You can buy items for your shoe box anytime, and put it together early, so you can be ready for Collection Day!

Thank you for participating in Operation Christmas Child, and for showing God's love to needy children all over the world!