

# Youth Newsletter

December 2008

## Youth Lead Congregation on Youth Sunday

The first Sunday in November each year, the youth of the church take on the responsibility of teaching Sunday School and leading the Morning Worship service.

This year, on Sunday, November 2, over 20 Junior and Senior High youth started Youth Sunday by teaching all of the Sunday School classes, from toddler to adult.

After Sunday School, the youth then began the task of leading Morning Worship.

Junior ushers greeted worshippers as they arrived, tallied the number of people in the congregation, handed out visitor's cards, and collected the offering.

The Youth Praise Team began the service by leading the congregation in a number of praise songs. During the service, this group also led the congregational hymns, and sang the Special Music, the Offertory, and the Anthem.



The Youth Praise Team sings the Special Music, "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"

Philip Barber was the Lay Reader, leading the Congregational Call to Worship and inviting the congregation to shake hands and join together in

## YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULES

### ALL CLUBS

December 7	No Regular Meeting <i>Christmas Cantata</i>
December 14	No Regular Meeting <i>Children's Christmas Play</i>
December 21	Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm <i>Individual Club Christmas Activities TBA</i>
December 28	No Regular Meeting
January 4	Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm

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

fellowship. Tori and Ginger Tarkington welcomed visitors and read the morning announcements. Melissa Lewis then led the congregation in the Morning Prayer.

Dominique Hilbert taught the Children's Sermon, while Emma Salmon and Olivia Graham helped with Children's Church. Taylor King said the Offertory Prayer, and Laura Thornton read the Morning Scripture.



Philip Barber leads the Call to Worship

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*(Youth Sunday, continued from page 1)*



Tori and Ginger Tarkington read the Announcements



Dominique Hilbert delivers the Children's Message

This year, high school seniors Brooke Crumpler and Shane Culbertson delivered the morning messages.

Brooke's message, entitled "I'm 18, and I Know It All", highlighted the influences and experiences that have helped shape her life, and explored how God wants us to grow in wisdom and knowledge.



Brooke Crumpler reads her message, "I'm 18, and I Know It All"

In his message, "Why I Trust the Bible", Shane discussed a number of specific reasons why he trusts the Bible, laying out a factual basis for believing the Bible is the true Word of God.

**Pioneer Clubs News & Notes**



The **Scooters** earned their Growing Like Jesus badge this past month. The children also created a special Jesus at the Temple art project.



In November, the **Voyagers** completed their God's Word unit. The children earned their Exploring and Play Ball activity awards, as well as their God's Word Bible award. The club started their next unit, Loving Your Neighbor, and began working on their Cooking and Puzzle badges.



The **Pathfinders** are finishing their Getting Along with Others unit. The children earned their Cooperative Games and Missions activity awards, and participated in Military Mail Call.



Shane Culbertson delivers his sermon

Both sermons can still be heard online on the church web site at <http://www.bccsuffolk.org>.

Thanks to each young person who participated in Youth Sunday. Great job!

Special thanks to Lisa Tarkington, Paula Thornton, and Becke West for their help in preparing and leading the youth. Thanks also to the Praise Band for their role in Youth Sunday, and to the Women's Fellowship for serving lunch to the youth and their families after the service.

## Sixth Annual Community Harvest Festival an Evening of Family Fun

On Sunday, October 26, Bethlehem hosted its sixth annual Community Harvest Festival. The festivities began at 4:00pm, and children from the church and the community came out for food, games, and fun for the entire family.

Various games of skill were set up in Graham Hall, including: the Pop-A-Verse dart throw, sponsored by the Omega Youth; the A.C.T.S. Class Bean Bag Throw; the Treasure Hunt, provided by the Scooters club; the Pumpkin Bean Bag Toss, Mini Golf, and Bowling games, all courtesy of the Alpha Youth; the Duck Pond, sponsored by the Voyagers club; the Fishing Game, provided by Angie Salerno; and the Ring Around the Scarecrow Game, sponsored by Whit and Brenda Oliver. All who played were rewarded with candy and prizes.



Left, children fish for prizes at the Go Fish game  
Right, Sydney lines up for a putt at the Mini Golf game

The children loved bouncing on the Moon Walk, set up in front of Graham Hall by Triple T Gymnastics. And, while all of the activities were going on indoors and in front of Graham Hall, George Fowler was outside taking children on an exciting Hay Ride around the church in a trailer loaded with hay bales.



At left, the children enjoyed bouncing in the Moon Walk  
At right, George takes off with another group of riders on the Hay Ride

New at this year's festival were the Pony Rides. Susan Lewis brought out two horses, Sinbad and

Gentle Lee, to take dozens of children on rides around the grassy area behind the basketball court. Susan was helped by her sister Kitty Duke, Kitty's friend Dana, Brooke Crumpler and Ashley LaPointe.



Susan leads the pony rides

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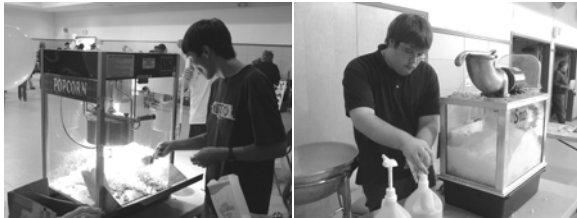
# Great Job!



The youth of Bethlehem, along with the Girl Scouts, contributed **41** filled shoeboxes to Operation Christmas Child. Added to the 51 boxes donated by the Women's Fellowship, a total of **92** filled shoeboxes were sent by our church to needy children all over the world!

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Lots of food was served throughout the evening, including hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, drinks, popcorn, and snow cones.



Philip pops the popcorn (left), while Shane serves up a snow cone (right)

Throughout the Festival, an old-fashioned Cake Walk was held in Graham Hall, and many people won delicious cakes, pies, and goodies brought by members of the congregation.

Merry Heart the Christian Clown returned once again this year with face painting, balloon animals, and a special show for the children.



Merry Heart paints a giraffe on Emma's face

Children and adults alike came out to the Festival dressed in creative, and often humorous, costumes.

A Costume Contest was held, and over a dozen children and adults were awarded miniature trophies.



The infant through 4-year-olds show off their costumes



The adults enjoy dressing up, too!

This year's Harvest Festival was a huge success, with an estimated attendance of approximately 150 people. Plus, a large number of children and families from the community came out to join the fun as well.

Special thanks to Denise Smith, chairperson of the Harvest Festival Committee, and everyone who came out to help and have a good time. It was wonderful to see everyone come together for a night of good, wholesome family fun, and we invite every member of the congregation to join us for next year's Harvest Festival!

Omega Youth  
**Fudge Sale**  
 • *Chocolate* • *Chocolate Pecan*  
 • *Peanut Butter*  
**\$5 per pound**  
 Please place your order with any Omega Youth group member by December 10!

## Summer Camp, Part 2: Camp Begins

This past summer, Bethlehem Christian Church sent 14 of its youth to summer camp at Camp Piankatank in Hartfield, Virginia.

In late-June/early-July, four boys ages 7 to 9 attended Mini-Camp, while two girls ages 10 to 14 attended Saddle Sisters camp. In August, eight girls ages 10 to 14 attended Outdoor Outburst.



Chelsea and Ariel are ready for Saddle Sisters camp

A typical day at camp started at 7:00am with exercises and devotions in the cabin, followed by breakfast in the dining hall. After breakfast, the campers spent time cleaning their cabins before heading off to morning worship service.

Then, usually about 10:00am, the morning camp activities began. These activities pertained to the general theme of the camp. "I really enjoyed the sports, like basketball and soccer," commented Outdoor Outburst camper Melissa Lewis. "My favorites were the rock wall, swimming, and kayaking," said Mini-Camper Bobby Rhea Shirk.



Bobby Rhea scales the rock wall

At about noon, the campers stopped for lunch in the camp's dining hall. After lunch, the campers headed back to their cabins for quiet time, where they could read their Bibles, pray, or just spend time reflecting on the lessons and activities of the day.



Ginger, Laura, Dominique, Christina, Tori, Taylor, Melissa, and Sarah pose for a picture in their cabin

At about 2:00pm, the campers started their afternoon activities. "One day we had a Sandcastle Race, to see who could build the coolest sandcastle," commented Bobby Rhea. "The v-swing was a big adrenaline rush!" exclaimed Outdoor Outburst camper Laura Thornton.

Dinner was typically about 6:00pm, followed by swimming time in the camp's outdoor pool. All campers went to an evening worship service, and then returned to their cabins for devotions before calling it a night.

"Our camp pastor was really fun," commented Outdoor Outburst camper Dominique Hilbert. "The worship services were awesome!"

"I really liked the music and Pastor Ron," added Melissa.

"I definitely grew closer to God," replied Laura Thornton, an Outdoor Outburst camper. "Plus, I learned about sports, made new friends, and learned more self-discipline."

*This is the conclusion of a two-part article. For part one, see the November 2008 Youth Newsletter at [www.bccyouth.org](http://www.bccyouth.org), and click on Youth Newsletters.*