

Youth Newsletter

January 2009

Youth Active in Church, Community During Christmas Season

The Youth Groups at Bethlehem have been very busy this past month, participating in a number of Christmas-related church and community mission projects and other activities.

On November 16, children and youth of all ages participated in Operation Christmas Child. The children packed shoe boxes filled with useful items, such as toys, school supplies, socks, candy, and gum, and brought them to church to be shipped by Samaritan's Purse, a Christian relief organization led by Franklin Graham, to needy boys and girls all over the world. Combined with the Girl Scouts and the Women's Fellowship, Bethlehem Christian Church sent 92 filled shoe boxes to needy children overseas through this unique mission project.



Ariel, Vyctoria, Mrs. Salerno, and Sydney wrap and fill a shoe box for Operation Christmas Child

In late November, the Pathfinders and Omegas both participated in Military Mail Call. Together, both groups wrote over 200 cards with personal messages of thanks and encouragement to our military men and women serving all over the world at Christmas time.

YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULES

ALL CLUBS

- January 4 Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm
January 11 Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm
Summer Camp Meeting, 7:30pm
January 18 Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm
January 25 Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm
The Alphas/Omegas Ski Trip originally planned for January 24-26 is being rescheduled to February, due to a conflict with the public school schedule. Dates and details will be announced as soon as the new plans are made.
February 1 Regular Meeting, 12:15pm-2:00pm
Souper Bowl Sunday • youth are asked to bring non-perishable food items for Bethlehem's Food Pantry mission

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



The Pathfinders write cards to the troops for Military Mail Call

In December, the Omega Youth group made nearly 100 pounds of fudge to sell in support of its Christmas activities and mission project. Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, over \$400

(continued on Page 2, Christmas)

(Christmas, continued from Page 1)

was raised. For their mission project, the Omegas plan on buying canned goods for the church's Food Pantry, to help the needy right here in our own community this Christmas.



Emma, Becke, and Kayla mix up another delicious batch of fudge

On Sunday, December 7, selected youth and recent high school graduates participated in the Christmas Cantata. The youth played the roles of the characters in the nativity scene—Mary, Joseph, the Angels, the Shepherds, and the Wise Men—arriving one by one as the church choir presented the musical “Hope Has Hands”.

On Sunday, December 14, the children and youth participated in the Children's Christmas Play, “Tree-Mendous Love—From the Manger to the Cross”. In this wonderful re-telling of the Bethlehem story, we discovered the cranky and overworked church janitor trying to rush people out of church so he could go home. However, after he met a young girl from around the corner, the true meaning of Christmas became the center of conversation. Small groups took the stage one after the other, from infants to adults. Each group brought an ornament to trim the bare Christmas tree, and told the story of Jesus' “tree-mendous” love, from the night He was born in Bethlehem through His journey to Jerusalem.

On Wednesday, December 17, and Thursday, December 18, the Omega Youth and Alpha Youth, respectively, participated in the Living Nativity. For one hour each, the youth groups, along with several adults, braved the night air to

play the parts of Mary, Joseph, the Christmas angel, the Shepherds, and the Three Wise Men.



Ginger, Taylor, and Tori are dressed as the Three Wise Men for the Living Nativity


Finally, on Sunday, December 21, several groups held special Christmas activities.

The Pathfinders went for an afternoon of old-fashioned Christmas caroling in the Bethlehem Court neighborhood. For about two hours, the children went door-to-door, spreading Christmas cheer to our neighbors and friends.

The Omega Youth Group had their annual Christmas gathering at Sapporo's in Suffolk. Following dinner, the group went to the home of Omega leader Becke West for fellowship and gifts.

Lastly, the Alpha youth went to Nansemond Pointe Nursing Home to visit the residents and deliver their Angel Tree gifts. After visitation, the youth returned to church for dinner and a Christmas party.

We are proud of our youth and all that they have done in our church and community this Christmas season. We hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!



Planning Meeting

Sunday, January 11 • 7:30pm

All interested parents and youth are encouraged to attend!