

Youth Newsletter

May 2004

Over 140 Attend Youth Revival Activities

On Sunday, April 25, Bethlehem Christian Church kicked off Revival Week with a special pair of activities specifically designed for children and youth.

Pioneer Clubs Movie Night was planned for children up to and including fifth grade. The children were served hot dogs, tater tots, popcorn, and drinks, and were treated to a special showing of the recent VeggieTales video "An Easter Carol" on a giant 50" screen. Over 30 children and leaders were in attendance.

Revolution 2004, a Youth Revival concert event, was held in Graham Hall for junior and senior high youth. This special outreach-oriented concert featured local bands Almost Always, Still the Water, and The Blacktop June, as well as special guest M.C. DJ Liquid. Pizza, subs, chips, candy, and drinks were available, and the bands offered CDs, t-shirts, and other merchandise for sale.

Youth Group Cook-Out

Sunday, June 6, 2004
3:00pm-7:30pm

Bennett's Creek Park, Shelter #2

All food and drink provided
Children's playground available

Softball • Kickball • Volleyball • Fishing
Badminton • Football • Tennis
Frisbee • Horseshoes • Nature Walking

See flyer for directions to Bennett's Creek Park and more information
In the event of rain, Cook-Out will be moved to Graham Hall

Over 110 youth and leaders were in attendance at the concert.

Each band played about 40 minutes of music, while DJ Liquid played CDs between sets. At the end, an invitation was offered, and two youth came forward to re-dedicate their lives to Jesus.

Special thanks to all who worked hard to make these events happen!

World Vision 30 Hour Famine Final Report

Thanks to the generosity of the church and the community, the Alpha and Omega Youth Groups collected pledges in the amount of

\$1,106.00

*This amount will allow World Vision to feed and care for **3** children for **an entire year!** Further, due to matching government grants, this amount could be stretched up to **4** times as far, allowing World Vision to feed as many as **12** children for an entire year!*

Special Thanks

to all who helped support the Alpha and Omega Youth during their recent Pie Sale

Over \$500 was raised for the groups' mission projects and other activities

Thank you for your support!

YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULES

ALL GROUPS

May 2	Regular Meeting, 12:15pm-2:00pm
May 9	NO REGULAR MEETING <i>Mother's Day</i>
May 16	Regular Meeting, 5:45pm-7:30pm
May 23	Regular Meeting, 5:45pm-7:30pm
May 30	NO REGULAR MEETING <i>Memorial Day Weekend</i>
June 6	Youth Group Cook-Out, 3:00pm-7:30pm <i>Bennett's Creek Park, Shelter #2</i>

For more detailed information about your group's schedule, please contact your group's leaders.

Youth Coordinator's Corner

by David Salerno

Last month, I began to talk about what I considered to be the three essential elements of a successful youth fellowship program: fun enjoyable activities, church and community projects, and practical Christian instruction.

I spent a lot of time talking about the first element, fun enjoyable activities, and why I thought that these activities were important to the overall success of a youth program. I described fun and excitement as the oil that keeps the engine running smoothly, and the means by which we can better accomplish our goals.

This month, I would like to continue to talk about the other two critical elements: church and community projects, and practical Christian instruction.

I feel that these two elements give a youth program its content and character. These two elements separate us from the rest of the world, bring substance to our program, and give us our unique identity as a Christian youth fellowship program.

Church and community projects are essential to a successful youth program. Just in the last six months, Bethlehem's youth have engaged in an interesting variety of service projects:

- the youth went door-to-door in the community collecting donations for UNICEF
- the children and youth participated in Military Mail Call
- the youth went on a food scavenger hunt, purchased over \$175 of non-perishable food items, and donated them to Bethlehem's Food Pantry
- the senior high youth went Christmas caroling to homes in the Oak Ridge neighborhood
- the children and youth delivered Angel Tree gifts given by caring members of the congregation to nursing home residents and shut-ins
- the children and youth brought in over 60 food items on Souper Bowl Sunday to help re-stock the Food Pantry
- the Pathfinders went on a trail hike behind Johnson's Gardens, and picked up any stray trash and debris they found along the way
- the Scooters, Voyagers, and Children's Choir visited Nansemond Pointe nursing home, sang for the residents, and gave them valentines they had made by hand the week before
- the senior high youth helped the Jackson Circle serve at the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen
- the youth fasted for 30 hours to raise money for World Vision and collected \$1,106 in pledges—enough to feed 3 needy children for a whole year
- the senior high youth delivered home-made stew to the shut-ins
- the junior high youth contributed \$850 from funds raised for missions and other projects in 2000-2001 to the new church bus
- the youth delivered Easter lilies provided by the Board of Christian Education to nursing home residents and shut-ins

These service projects radiate God's love to a world in need, and help youth develop and exhibit an attitude of Christ-like service to others. Through church and community projects, youth learn to put their faith into action.

I am proud of our children and youth, and of their willingness to serve others, to share the love of Jesus, and to help a world in need. They exemplify what it means to be a Christian young person. We all have much to be proud about in our youth here at Bethlehem.

Next month, I hope to wrap up this series and talk about the final element of an effective youth fellowship program, as well as the importance of maintaining a proper balance of all three elements.

Until then, God bless,

