

Youth Newsletter

January 2007

Pathfinders, Alphas See “The Nativity Story”, Ice Skate at MacArthur Mall

On Saturday, December 16, the Pathfinders and the Alpha Youth joined together to go on a trip to MacArthur Mall, to view the new movie “The Nativity Story” and to ice skate outdoors at MacArthur on Ice.

Thirteen youth and three chaperones left church shortly after 11:00am, and ate lunch in the mall food court. The group then attended the 1:00pm showing of “The Nativity Movie” at the MacArthur Regal 18 Cinema.

A recent release by New Line Cinema, “The Nativity Story” chronicled the arduous journey of Mary and Joseph, from their youth in Nazareth to the stable in Bethlehem. Overall, the movie was incredibly accurate, with only a few “artistic liberties” taken. Stunning sets, backgrounds, and costumes gave the film an unprecedented level of realism, and made the viewer feel like they had truly traveled back in time 2,000 years. But what made “The Nativity Story” stand out from other films chronicling the birth of Jesus was its

YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULES

ALL CLUBS

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| January 7 | Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm |
| January 14 | Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm |
| January 21 | Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm |
| January 26-29 | Alphas/Omegas SnowBlast '07
Winter Ski Retreat
<i>time and details TBA</i> |
| January 28 | Pioneer Clubs Regular Meeting,
5:30pm-7:15pm |
| February 4 | Regular Meeting, 12:15pm-2:00pm
<i>Souper Bowl Sunday – youth are asked to bring a non-perishable food item for Bethlehem's Food Pantry</i> |

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

characterization of Mary and Joseph. They were personalized in a way that gave you a real sense of their thoughts and emotions. They were depicted as real people, with real hopes and fears, but also with a real faith in God.



The group at the MacArthur Regal 18 after viewing “The Nativity Story”



Check out the latest youth group news and pictures online at:

www.bccyouth.org

Please also visit our church web site at www.bccsuffolk.org

(continued on page 2, Pathfinders and Alphas)

(Pathfinders and Alphas, continued from page 1)

Following the movie, at 3:00pm, the group then went outside to ice skate at MacArthur on Ice. For the holiday season, a full-sized ice skating rink was set up outside MacArthur Mall, at the corner of Monticello Avenue and Freemason Street. For two hours, the youth enjoyed skating outdoors on ice to a soundtrack of Christmas music.



Chris, Kelly, Kaitlin, Laura, Mrs. Salerno, and Dominique rinkside at MacArthur on Ice



Dominique, Tori, and Laura are all smiles on the ice

At 5:00pm, the skating session ended, and the group turned in their skates. The children then bought hot chocolate and funnel cakes at the snack bar, and headed back to church, where they arrived shortly after 6:00pm.

Special thanks to Paula Thornton for planning and coordinating the trip for both clubs.



SnowBlast '07

Alphas/Omegas Winter Ski Retreat

January 26-29

Important Dates to Remember

- January 7** **Trip packages available**
Trip packages with complete trip details and all necessary permission forms will be available at church, at youth group, and online at <http://www.bccyouth.org>.
- January 14** **Sign-up deadline**
Your signed permission forms and full trip cost **MUST** be received by the end of the day to reserve your spot on the trip! Final counts will be turned in to the ski resort and hotels the next day, so please do not miss this deadline!
- January 21** **Fundraising Luncheon**
The Alphas and Omegas will be sponsoring a Fundraising Luncheon after the Morning Worship service in order to raise money to help defray transportation and lodging expenses for the Ski Trip. All Ski Trip participants **MUST** help with this dinner.



Pioneer Clubs News & Notes



The Scooters completed their God Made Me unit in November. For their I'm Glad I Have Ears lesson, the children made drums and played them to learn how sound works. The Scooters also began working on their God Gave Us Parents unit. The children made doors with their names on them, to illustrate how they belong to a family. For crafts, the Scooters made finger puppets and a nativity Christmas ornament.



To earn their Puppet activity award, the Voyagers made their own puppets and stages, and put on a puppet show. The club also earned their Family Helper activity award and Honoring My Family Bible award in November. The Voyagers closed out their year with a Christmas party on December 3.



In November, the Pathfinders completed their Masks and Trail Hikes activity awards, and earned their Being A Friend Bible award. In January, the club will be working on the Knowing God Bible award, and the Tumbling and Creative Messages activity awards.

Children, Youth Lead Congregation on Youth Sunday

Each year, on the first Sunday in November, the youth of the church take on the incredible responsibility of teaching Sunday School and leading the morning worship services.

This year, on Sunday, November 5, Youth Sunday began with the Early Morning Worship Service. The Youth Praise Band, backed up by Bethlehem's Praise Team, began the service with a selection of praise and worship songs. Claudia Graham, Michael Boyce, and Brittany West delivered the messages to close the service.

Following the Early Service, with the help and support of the regular teachers, the Junior and Senior High youth taught the children's and adult Sunday School classes.

After Sunday School, the youth then began to lead the Morning Worship service.

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

The Youth Choir and 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 Anthem.

The Children's Choir performed two songs during the service, and the Youth Chorus performed MercyMe's popular hit, "I Can Only Imagine". The Junior Handbell Choir also performed the Gathering Music, and Taylor King and Dominique Hilbert sang "God So Loved The World" during the Offering.

Shane Culbertson was the Lay Reader, leading the Congregational Call to Worship and delivering the Offertory Prayer. Claudia Graham and Brittany West welcomed visitors and read the morning announcements, while Michael Boyce led the congregation in the Morning Prayer. Matt Greene

Sunday, February 4 is Souper Bowl Sunday!

Special regular meeting time

12:15pm-2:00pm
(following morning worship)

LUNCH PROVIDED

Please bring a non-perishable food item to help restock Bethlehem's food pantry for the needy in our community

and Jacob Oliver taught the Children's Sermon, while Olivia Graham and Emma Salmon helped with Children's Church. Kelsey Greene read the Morning Scripture.

This year, Claudia Graham, Michael Boyce, and Brittany West delivered the Morning Messages. Claudia shared her personal testimony, while Michael reminded us how important it is we make the right choices in life. Brittany closed out the service by discussing how a person can be sure that they are truly saved. All three of their sermons can still be heard online on the church web site at <http://www.bccsuffolk.org>.

We have much to be thankful for here at Bethlehem. Most importantly, we have an incredible group of young people who are ready, willing, and able to take on responsibility, as well as leadership roles, within the church.

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

Special thanks to the Women's Fellowship for serving lunch to the children, youth, and their families after the service.

Alphas, Omegas Deliver Angel Tree Gifts, Go Christmas Caroling

Each year, members of Bethlehem take the name of a shut-in or nursing home resident off the Angel Tree in the sanctuary, purchase and wrap a special gift just for them, and leave it under the tree to be delivered.

On Sunday, December 17, the Omega Youth visited several of the church's shut-ins, and delivered their Angel Tree gifts.

The group left church after the Morning Worship service, and spent several hours visiting Thad Williams, Lane Salmon, and Mildred Speight before returning to church later that afternoon.

Then, on Thursday, December 21, the Alpha Youth went to Nansemond Pointe Nursing Home to deliver Angel Tree gifts to eight residents there.

On their way to the nursing home, the group of five youth and two chaperones stopped by Kelly's Restaurant for dinner.

The youth arrived at the nursing home shortly after 7:00pm, delivered the presents, and spent time visiting each of the eight residents.

"Visiting the nursing home is something we try to encourage all of our clubs to do on a regular basis," commented David Salerno, Alpha Youth leader and Bethlehem's Youth Director. "It is really meaningful to those that you're visiting, and it shows the children that they can make a difference and brighten someone's day."

Finally, on Thursday, December 21, the Omegas enjoyed their annual Christmas Dinner and Caroling.

The youth met at the home of Omega Youth leader Becke West at around 5:00pm for hors d'ouvres and fellowship.

Then, the group left to go Christmas caroling around the Oak Ridge neighborhood. The youth visited a number of people, including Kenny and Trish King, Art and Patricia Forrester, Danny and LeighAnn Graham, Ryan and Mary Beth Johnson, and Bill and Debbie Parker, before returning to Becke's house for dinner around 7:00pm.

The group enjoyed a dinner of grilled London broil, hash brown casserole, snap beans, and rolls.

Before closing for the evening, Becke surprised each Omega with the gift of a lighted Christmas ornament.

Alpha Youth and Omega Youth

Fundraising Luncheon

Sunday, January 21 • 12:00pm–1:30pm

Baked boneless chicken breast • Parsleyed potatoes
Vegetable • Dinner Roll • Dessert • Tea

\$6.00 adults, \$4.00 children 10 & under
Eat In or Take Out

Tickets available January 7 • see any Alpha or Omega youth or leader to purchase your ticket!

Proceeds to help cover transportation and lodging for the groups' upcoming Ski Retreat, and for their ongoing mission projects and activities



Special thanks to everyone who supported the Omega Youth Group during their recent Fudge Sale.

Nearly \$450 was raised to help put together care baskets for Bethlehem's shut-ins, and for the Omegas' ongoing mission projects and activities.