

Youth Newsletter

January 2008

Over 100 Attend Fifth Annual Community Harvest Festival

On Sunday, October 28, Bethlehem hosted its fifth annual Community Harvest Festival.

This year, the festivities began at 4:00pm, and children from the church and the community came out for food, games, and an evening full of 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 Pumpkin Bean Bag Toss, courtesy of Paula Thornton; the Ring Around the Scarecrow Game, sponsored by the Olivers; and the Fishing Game, provided by Robert Lewis. All who played were rewarded with candy and prizes.



At left, the Omega Youth sponsored the Pop-A-Verse Dart Throw
At right, aiming carefully at the Ring Around the Scarecrow game



This year, the Moon Walk was set up outdoors in front of Graham Hall, along with a Bounce 'N' Slide and Mini Golf, all provided by Triple T Gymnastics.



At left, the children enjoyed bouncing in the Moon Walk
At right, Ben and Benji played a round of Mini Golf



While all of the activities were going on indoors

YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULES

ALL CLUBS

January 6	Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm
January 13	Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm
January 20	Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm
January 25-28	Alphas/Omegas Ski Retreat
January 27	Pioneer Clubs Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm
February 3	Regular Meeting, 12:15pm-2:00pm <i>Souper Bowl Sunday – youth are asked to bring non-perishable food items for Bethlehem's Food Pantry mission</i>

and in front of Graham Hall, George Fowler and Cathy Allsbrook were outside taking children on an exciting Hay Ride around the church in a trailer loaded with hay bales.



George prepares to get the Hay Ride underway, while Cathy secures the trailer and riders

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

(continued on page 2, Harvest Festival)

(Harvest Festival, continued from page 1)



Top left, the C.O.F.F.E.E. Class serves hamburgers, hot dogs, and more
Top right, Philip prepares the popcorn
Bottom left, Kayla and Janis have a blast making the cotton candy
Bottom right, Shane serves up a snow cone

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



Merry Heart poses with Christina after painting her 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 medals.



Left to right, the infants and young children show off their costumes

**Sunday, February 3 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**

Coming up

Next Month:
• Pioneer Clubs News & Notes



The older children and adults compete in the Costume Contest

Throughout the Festival, a Cake Walk was held in Graham Hall, and over 40 people won delicious cakes baked by members of the congregation.

This year's Harvest Festival was a huge success, with the attendance estimated at more than 100 people. A large number of children from the community were in attendance.

Special thanks to Robert Lewis, 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!

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 4, 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. Kelsey Greene delivered the messages to close the service.



The Youth Praise Band leads the congregation in a praise song

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 Carol Choir and I.D.E.A.L. Singers each

performed a song during the service, and the Youth Chorus performed the popular praise song "God of Wonders". The Junior Handbell Choir also played "Ode to Joy" for the Offertory.



Left to right, the Carol Choir and Junior Handbell Choir perform for Youth Sunday

Shane Culbertson was the Lay Reader, leading the Congregational Call to Worship and delivering the Offertory Prayer. Brooke Crumpler and Kelsey Greene welcomed visitors and read the morning announcements, and Brooke also led the congregation in the Morning Prayer. Emma Salmon taught the Children's Sermon, while Philip Barber and Dominique Hilbert helped with Children's Church. Olivia Graham read the Morning Scripture.



Top left, Shane leads the Call to Worship
Top right, Kelsey and Brooke read the Announcements
Bottom left, Emma delivers the Children's Message
Bottom right, Olivia reads the Morning Scripture

This year, Kelsey Greene delivered the Morning Message, entitled "Sandpaper People". Using Ephesians 4:2 as her scripture reference, Kelsey encouraged us all to be humble and gentle, and bear one another in patience. Kelsey's sermon can still be heard online on the church web site at <http://www.bccsuffolk.org>.

(continued on page 4, Youth Sunday)

(Youth Sunday, continued from page 3)



Kelsey delivers the Morning Message

We are fortunate here at Bethlehem to 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 Praise Band for their role in Youth Sunday, and to the Women's Fellowship for serving lunch to the children, youth, and their families after the service.

Alphas, Omegas, I.D.E.A.L. Singers Christmas Activities

On Wednesday, December 19, the Alpha Youth delivered Angel Tree gifts to the residents at Nansemond Pointe Nursing Home. Before delivering the gifts, the youth had dinner together at Santa Fe Grill. The children spent about an hour-and-a-half visiting with the residents before returning to church.

On Thursday, December 20, the Omega Youth enjoyed their group Christmas dinner at Olive Garden. The group had planned to take angels off of the Angel Tree at Chesapeake Square Mall and buy gifts for families in need. However, after looking at four different locations in Chesapeake and Suffolk, the youth found that all of the angels were already taken. Instead, the Omegas found and helped one of our church families in need this Christmas season.

On Saturday, December 22, the I.D.E.A.L. Singers went Christmas caroling in Springfield, Oak Ridge, and Bethlehem Court. After over an hour of caroling door-to-door, the group returned to Cozette Holland's for dinner and refreshments.

Alpha Youth and Omega Youth

Fundraising Luncheon

Sunday, January 13 • 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 • 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 for the group's Christmas mission project, and for the Omegas' ongoing mission projects and activities.