

# Youth Newsletter

April 2009

## Youth Starve for Food, Participate in World Vision 30 Hour Famine

On Friday, February 27, fifteen junior and senior high youth and recent graduates, along with four leaders, gathered in Graham Hall for the start of World Vision's 30 Hour Famine.

Until 6:00pm the next day, the youth pledged to eat or drink nothing but clear liquids, to challenge themselves personally and spiritually, and to gain a better understanding of what children living in poverty face on a daily basis.

A brief opening video and devotion illustrated just how serious the problem of hunger is, and how we as Christians are called to help others in need.

Throughout the Famine, the group participated in the game of Tribe. Created by World Vision, Tribe engages famine participants in a number of "Survivor"-like challenges, simulating the real challenges children in poverty are faced with every day. Each tribal challenge is followed by a topical devotion and time of discussion.

This year, the focus was on learning about the plight of the children of the Amazon. The youth learned about the challenges faced by children in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. Each famine participant was given a new identity as a child living in the Amazon, and assigned to one of four different tribes.

After their first Tribal Challenge of the Famine, "Food Grab", the group went on its Fellowship Activity—a trip to Franklin for bowling. Several of the youth found it challenging to concentrate on bowling while others around them were enjoying pizza, nachos, and soft drinks.

The group returned to church around 11:45pm

## YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

<b>April 5</b>	<b>No Regular Meeting</b> <i>Easter Egg Hunt</i>
<b>April 12</b>	<b>No Regular Meeting</b> <i>Easter Sunday</i>
<b>April 19</b>	Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm
<b>April 26</b>	Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm
<b>May 3</b>	Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm

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

and, after a candlelight devotion, spread their blankets and sleeping bags to rest for the night.

The youth awoke the next morning around 8:00am and, after showers and some free time, participated in their next Tribal Challenge, "Amazon Quiz Race".

Between the tribal challenges and other activities, the youth watched movies, played video games, read books, and played board games to help pass the time.

Shortly after noon, the group participated in its third Tribal Challenge of the Famine, "Hide".

At about 2:00pm on Saturday, the group made meals and delivered them to our area shut-ins and other church members. The children helped prepare the plates of baked chicken, potatoes, and string beans, and spent time visiting and talking while delivering the meals.

After returning to church, the group participated in its final Tribal Challenge of the Famine, "Health Scramble".

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*(Famine, continued from Page 1)*

At 5:30pm, the group gathered for their closing Bible study. The youth read several Scripture passages, including Matthew 15:29-39, James 2:14-17, and 1 John 3:17-18, and discussed how those passages applied to our lives. The famine participants were challenged not to let the experience end, but in the days to follow, to continue the spirit of the 30 Hour Famine, and to use the one life they have been given to make a difference in the world around them.

Finally, after a group prayer at 6:00pm, the hungry famine participants were treated to a dinner of steak and lasagna, baked potato, and tossed salad, prepared by Johnny and Becke West.

Although the final totals are still being calculated, thanks to the support of the congregation, nearly \$500 in pledges has already been collected to date.

Special thanks to all who contributed to World Vision, and a great job to the youth who fasted so that others might eat.

## Youth, Families to Participate in Relay for Life

This year, the Youth Groups at Bethlehem will be actively participating in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. The Suffolk Rockin' Relay will be held May 15-16 on the track at Nansemond-Suffolk Academy.

Cancer has affected virtually everyone at some point or another, either directly through their own personal battle with the disease, or indirectly, through the struggle or loss of a family member or friend.

Our team name this year is the Bethlehem Christian Church FaithWalkers. In 2 Corinthians 5:7, Paul reminds us that we walk by faith, not by sight. Sometimes, it is difficult to see with your eyes what lies ahead. The future can seem uncertain, even scary, especially if you or someone



## Pioneer Clubs News & Notes



In March, the **Scooters** finished their Growing unit. The children made "God Made Me" books, and planted seeds so they could watch flowers grow. The Scooters also made "God Loves Me" containers and decorated them with mosaic patterns.



The **Voyagers** worked on their Honoring My Family unit this past month. The children earned their Family Helper and Puppets activity awards. To earn their Puppets award, the Voyagers made Easter story puppets. The children also attended the Answers in Genesis conference and learned the truth about the dinosaurs and the Bible.



Last month, the **Pathfinders** worked on their Home and Heart unit. The children earned their Home Helper and Carpentry activity awards. For their Carpentry award, the children made wooden bird houses and boats.

you love has just learned that they have cancer. But if we trust in God, who holds the future in the palm of His hand, he will guide us through.

You can register online for Relay at [www.sufflrockinrelay.org](http://www.sufflrockinrelay.org), or by seeing David Salerno for a registration form. This will be a great time of family fun for all ages, and entire families are encouraged to register along with their children. Cancer survivors are encouraged to register as well, in order to be honored at the Survivors' Banquet and the Survivors' Walk.

And please don't forget to take part in our Relay fundraiser. We are taking orders for Krispy Kreme donuts and their signature coffees, all to benefit Relay for Life. Please see David Salerno for a fundraising sheet, or to place your order.

We look forward to seeing you on the track at Nansemond-Suffolk Academy!