

# Youth Newsletter

November 2009

## Nearly 50 Youth, Adults Attend Opening Cook-Out

On Sunday, September 13, the Youth Groups at Bethlehem kicked off the 2009-2010 youth group season with a cook-out at Bennett's Creek Park.

The youth and their families started to arrive around 3:00pm on a perfect picnic afternoon.

The younger children enjoyed the playground, while several of the youth played tennis on the tennis courts. Throughout the picnic, the children participated in games of kickball, softball, and "corn hole".



Emily goes down the slide on the playground at Bennett's Creek Park



Ian kicks one out of the park, while the younger children play "corn hole"

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 1** Youth Sunday, 8:30am-12:00noon
- November 8** Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm
- November 15** Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm  
*Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Packing Party*
- November 22** Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm
- November 29** Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm
- December 6** 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.

Shortly before dinner, several of the youth went nature walking, while others went to the river and walked on the fishing pier.



Stopping for a picture on the fishing pier

Around 5:00pm, the group stopped for dinner. The meal consisted of grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, chips, drinks, and cookies.

The cook-out ended shortly before 7:00pm. Special thanks to all those who helped to make this cook-out happen.

*(continued on Page 2, Cook-Out)*

*(Cook-Out, continued from Page 1)*



The group enjoys dinner under the picnic shelter



Everybody gathers for a group photo

## Children, Youth Preparing for Youth Sunday

Each year, on the first Sunday in November, the youth and children of the church are given the responsibility of teaching Sunday School and leading the Morning Worship service.

Youth Sunday allows the youth of the church to participate in all aspects of the church service, and gives them the opportunity to learn how to teach a Sunday School class and lead a worship service. It's a great learning experience for our young people, and essential in order to train up the Sunday School teachers and church leaders of the next generation.

Over the past several weeks, our youth have been



## Pioneer Clubs News & Notes



The **Scooters** have been working on their first unit, Our Special Bible. The children have participated in a number of table activities, games, and even a special Bible Treasure Hunt to learn more about God's Word.



In October, the **Voyagers** finished their first unit, Growing in God's Love, and earned their Using the Bible, Music to Praise the Lord, and Outdoor Activities awards. To earn their music award, the children made musical instruments and went to a choir rehearsal.



The **Pathfinders** finished their In God's House unit, and earned their Bible Exploration award and Clay Modeling activity award. Next month, the group will be working on their Being a Friend Bible exploration award, and earning their Masks and Trail Hikes activity awards.

working very hard to get ready for Youth Sunday on November 1.

The junior and senior high youth have been planning their Sunday School lessons, while over a dozen youth have been getting ready for their special roles during the Early Morning and Morning Worship services.

Immediately following the 11:00am service, the youth and their families are invited to a special luncheon in Graham Hall, provided by the Women's Fellowship.

We encourage everyone to support our youth by attending Sunday School and the worship services on Youth Sunday!

**THE  
HARVEST  
IS PLENTIFUL  
BUT THE  
WORKERS  
ARE FEW**  
MATTHEW 9:37

## Alphas, Omegas Visit Judgement House



Real people. Real choices. Real consequences.

For the second consecutive year, Bethlehem's junior and senior high youth traveled to First Baptist Church to visit Judgement House, a dramatic walk-through presentation about the truth of people's choices and their consequences both in this life and the next. Since 1983, an estimated 3.9 million people have attended one of nearly a dozen different Judgement House dramas in 37 states and 7 foreign countries.

On Sunday night, October 18, eighteen youth and adults attended First Baptist's presentation of "Unexpected". This Judgement House drama follows the busy lives of the Endicotts, a typical American family with busy schedules and people going in every direction. Everything is carefully planned—work, school, football practice, and church—to keep the family running on all cylinders. But, in the blink of an eye, they learn that not even mom's trusty day planner can help when it comes to the unexpected.

After arriving at Judgement House, the group was led through the presentation by a guide, who described each scene as it unfolded. The youth witnessed the scenes leading up to the Endicotts' dinner at a popular outdoor cafe, and the accident that claimed their lives without warning.

Next, the group was taken to a scene depicting the characters' final judgment, after which they were sent to their eternal reward or punishment.

The group then witnessed a scene depicting eternal separation from God in Hell. Dark, loud, hot, and filled with smoke, the room displayed the characters' suffering as a result of their choice not to accept God.

Next, the youth were taken to a scene depicting Heaven. Each member of the group was given a white sash to symbolize their new body in Christ. The characters that chose to accept God's offer of salvation were then welcomed to their eternal reward by Jesus and a host of angels.

Lastly, the group was led to a room where a speaker discussed the drama, gave a brief message, and invited the youth to accept Jesus, or to rededicate their lives to Christ.

"The experience at Judgement House left an impression with many of the youth," commented David Salerno, a high school youth leader and Bethlehem's Youth Director. "Some were greatly impacted by the scenes they witnessed, and it made them all think more about their relationship with God."

## Junior High Youth See "The Secrets of Jonathan Sperry"

On Sunday September 27, the Alpha Youth traveled to Hampton to see the movie "The Secrets of Jonathan Sperry".

Gavin MacLeod, famous for his role in "The Love Boat", plays the title character in this faith-based family film for all ages.

Set in 1970, best buddies Dustin, Albert, and Mark are three 12-year-olds looking forward to a summer of fun. Dustin has a crush and wants to ask her out, but his friends aren't much help, and offer some terrible (and hilarious) advice. Complicating matters is the town bully, who also likes the same girl. But when Dustin meets 74-year-old Jonathan Sperry, a unique friendship develops, and the boys are changed forever in this touching multi-generational tale of first love and life lessons.

"The Secrets of Jonathan Sperry' moved me with its message of the weight of eternity and the difference one faithful man can make in the lives of many," commented Christian actor Kirk Cameron. "I recommend this inspiring movie for any family to watch together."

## Children to Hold Shoe Box Packing Party for Operation Christmas Child

On Sunday, November 15, during our Regular Meeting time, the youth groups will be hosting a special Shoe Box Packing Party for Operation Christmas Child.

A ministry of Samaritan's Purse International Relief, a Christian relief and evangelism organization led by Franklin Graham, Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God's love. Since 1993, more than 61 million shoe boxes have been packed, shipped, and delivered across the globe.

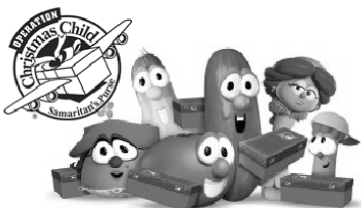
Children are asked to bring a shoe box or plastic storage box, and useful items for their box, such as toys, school supplies, candy, gum, and other needed items, to the party.

After dinner that evening, the children will wrap and pack their shoe boxes, then enjoy a special viewing of the brand new VeggieTales movie "Saint Nicholas – A Story of Joyful Giving" on the big screen. There will be balloons, stickers, puzzle pages, and plenty of fun for all ages.

After the party, the shoe boxes will be delivered to a local distribution point, and shipped to needy boys and girls all over the world.

The Youth Fellowship program is participating in Operation Christmas Child for the second consecutive year.

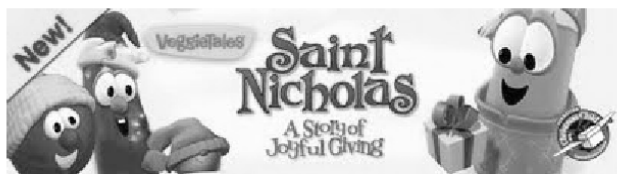
"It's exciting that Big Idea Productions has teamed up with Operation Christmas Child this year to make special 'shoe box packing party' materials available to local churches," commented David Salerno, Bethlehem's Youth Director. "This will bring an even greater sense of excitement to an already unique mission project."



# Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Packing Party

## Sunday, November 15 • 5:30pm-7:15pm

featuring a special screening  
of the new "VeggieTales" movie



plus balloons, stickers, puzzle pages,  
and more!



Please bring a shoe box or plastic storage box to the party, along with useful items for a needy child to put in your box.

Suggested items include toys, school supplies, candy, gum, etc.



We will wrap and fill the boxes during the party. Wrapping paper and tape will be provided.

After the party, the filled shoe boxes will be taken to a collection point, where they will be shipped to needy boys and girls all over the world!

