

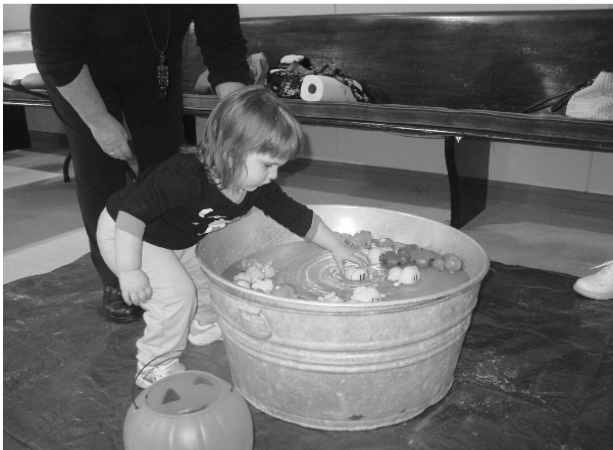
Youth Newsletter

December 2009

Nearly 200 Children, Parents Attend Harvest Festival

On Sunday, October 25, Bethlehem hosted its seventh annual Community Harvest Festival. The festivities began at 4:00pm, with children from the church and the community coming out for food, games, and fun for the entire family.

Various games of skill were set up in Graham Hall, including: the Touchdown for Jesus Football Toss, Bowling, the Pumpkin Bean Bag Toss, Mini Golf, the Fishing Game, and Corn Hole, all operated by the Alpha Youth; and the Duck Pond, sponsored by the A.C.T.S. Class. All who played were rewarded with candy and prizes.



Emily makes her choice in the Duck Pond

The A.C.T.S. Class also operated a craft table, where children could make a number of arts and crafts projects to take home.

There were a large number of activities outdoors as well. The children loved playing 9-Hole Mini Golf and bouncing on the Moon Walk, set up in front of Graham Hall courtesy of Triple T Gymnastics. The Suffolk Fire Department was also on hand with Engine Number 4 on display in the front parking lot.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 6** Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm
- December 13** Children's Christmas Play
- December 20** Christmas Cantata
- January 3** 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.



The Moon Walk and 9-Hole Mini Golf were big hits with the children

Melvin Smith and Bill Duplissey operated the Hay Ride, carrying children on an exciting ride around the church in a trailer filled with hay.



The Hay Ride is loaded and ready to go

(continued on page 2, Harvest Festival)

(Harvest Festival, continued from page 1)

And, Susan Lewis, along with help from Kate Dennis and her sister, LuAnne and Ashley LaPoint, Ginger Tarkington, and several others, brought out miniature ponies for the Pony Rides.



Kate leads Makenzie on a pony ride


Lots of food was served throughout the evening, including hot dogs, hamburgers, corn dogs, and drinks, thanks to help from Johnny West, Jim Bryant, Johnathan Mizelle, and Pansy Aston. The Omega Youth also served popcorn, snow cones, and cotton candy.




Emma and Lauren pop up a fresh batch of popcorn

Throughout the Festival, an old-fashioned Cake Walk was held in Graham Hall, and many people won delicious cakes, pies, and goodies brought by members of the congregation.

C C the Clown was also on hand this year with face painting, balloon animals, and a special show for the children.



Pioneer Clubs News & Notes



Scouters finished their first unit, Our Special Bible, and have begun their next unit. The children have participated in a number of table activities, games, and crafts.

The **Voyagers** finished their first unit, Learning to Use the Bible, and started their second unit, God's People. The children talked about Paul, Barnabas, and Joshua, and about trusting God.

This past month, the **Pathfinders** worked on Military Mail Call, and started their next unit, Getting Along With Others. The children will be working on their Masks and Trail Hikes activity awards.

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.



The infants through 4-year-olds show off their costumes

This year's Harvest Festival was a huge success, with an estimated attendance of nearly 200 people. Plus, a large number of children and families from the community came out to join the fun as well.

Special thanks to the Youth Advisory Committee, and to 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 again next year!

Youth Lead Congregation on Youth Sunday

The first Sunday in November each year, the youth of the church take on the responsibility of leading both the Early Morning and the Morning Worship services, as well as teaching Sunday School.

This year, on Sunday, November 1, nearly 20 Junior and Senior High youth participated in Youth Sunday.

The day began at 8:00am, as the youth practiced and then sang the opening worship songs with the Praise Band for the Early Service.



The youth sing with the Praise Band during the Early Service

After leading the Early Service, the youth headed off to teach their Sunday School classes. The youth had been working for several weeks to prepare interesting and entertaining lessons for their classes.

After Sunday School, the youth then began the task of leading Morning Worship.

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

The youth began the service by leading the congregation along with the Adult Choir in a number of hymns. During the service, this group also led the congregational hymns, and sang the Special Music.



The youth sing "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" with the Adult Choir for Special Music

Philip Barber read the Welcome and Announcements, while Ariel Salerno led the congregation in the Morning Prayer and Fellowship. Kayla Culbertson was the Lay Reader, leading the Congregational Call to Worship. The newly-formed Youth Choir also sang for Special Music.



Kayla Culbertson leads the Congregational Call to Worship



The Youth Choir sings "We Want to See Jesus Lifted High"

(continued on page 4, Youth Sunday)

(Youth Sunday, continued from page 3)

Ginger Tarkington and Ashley LaPoint taught the Children's Sermon, while Melissa Lewis and Ginna Grady helped with Children's Church. Emma Salmon said the Offertory Prayer, and Dominique Hilbert read the Morning Scripture.



Ginger Tarkington and Ashley LaPoint give the Children's Message

This year, high school senior Emma Salmon authored the Morning Message, entitled "Setting Examples".

Based on 1 Timothy 4:12, her message discussed Paul's instruction to Timothy, and the five ways that young people, or people of any age for that matter, should be examples to those around them. Emma's sermon can still be heard online on the church web site at <http://www.bccsuffolk.org>.

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

Special thanks to Lisa Tarkington, Paula Thornton, Becke West, and LuAnne LaPoint for their help in preparing and leading the youth. Thanks also to the Praise Band and the Adult Choir for their role in Youth Sunday, and to the Women's Fellowship for serving lunch to the youth and their families after the service.

Once again, Youth Sunday has shown us that we have much to be proud of with our youth at Bethlehem. Our youth are much more than "the church of tomorrow"—they are the church of today, ready to lend a hand and be an active part of the church's broader mission.

Youth Fill 44 Shoe Boxes for Operation Christmas Child

On Sunday, November 15, the Youth Groups at Bethlehem hosted a special Shoe Box Packing Party for Operation Christmas Child. By the end of the night, the children had filled 44 shoe boxes full of items for needy children all over the world at Christmas.

Operation Christmas Child is a ministry of Samaritan's Purse International Relief, a Christian relief and evangelism organization led by Franklin Graham.

Children arrived at the party with their shoe boxes and re-usable plastic tubs, along with useful items such as school supplies, socks, t-shirts, toys, candy, and gum.

After dinner, the children packed and wrapped their shoe boxes, then enjoyed a special showing of the brand new VeggieTales movie "Saint Nicholas – A Story of Joyful Giving" on the big screen.

"This marks the second consecutive year that the youth have participated in Operation Christmas Child," commented David Salerno, Bethlehem's Youth Director. "This year was even more exciting because of the Shoe Box Packing Party and the special screening of the new VeggieTales video. I'm so proud of the kids for helping to bring the love of Jesus to needy kids all over the world this Christmas!"



The children pose for a picture with their finished shoe boxes