

# Youth Newsletter

December 2010

## Youth Lead Congregation on Youth Sunday

On Sunday, November 7, our junior and senior high youth put their talents and gifts to use by teaching Sunday School and leading the Morning Worship service on Youth Sunday.

The day began at 9:45am, with the youth teaching Sunday School. The youth had been working hard for weeks preparing interesting and entertaining lessons for their classes.

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

Junior ushers Kayla Culbertson, Kate Jones, Ginger Tarkington, and Dustin Brown greeted worshippers as they arrived, counted the attendance, and collected the offering.

The Youth Handbell Choir began the service with two special songs. The youth along with the Praise Band then led the congregation in a number of praise and worship songs. During the service, the youth also led the congregational hymns.



The Youth Handbell Choir performs "Ode to Joy"

Laura Thornton read the Welcome and Announcements, while Ginger Tarkington led the congregation in the Morning Prayer and

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 5** Regular Meeting, 4:30pm-5:45pm
- December 22** Sunday School Children's Christmas Party/Living Nativity, 6:00pm-8:00pm
- January 9** Regular Meeting, 4:30pm-5:45pm

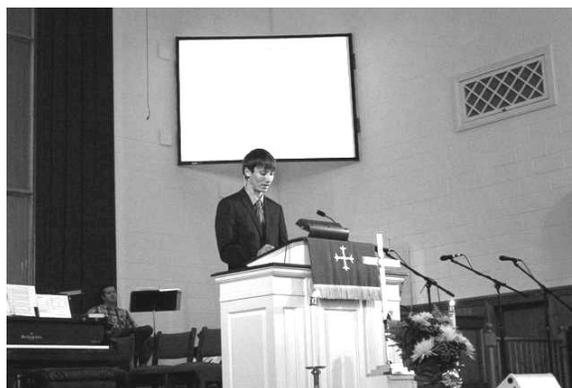
For more information about your club's schedule, including any special events planned for your individual club, please see your club's leaders.

Fellowship. Dustin Brown was the Lay Reader, leading the Congregational Call to Worship.

Several youth shared their gifts and talents through special music. Ariel Salerno and Laura Thornton performed a strings duet, while Stephen Lewis played a piano solo. The Youth Choir also sang several contemporary Christian songs.

Madison Davis and Ariel Salerno taught the Children's Sermon and helped with Children's Church. Tori Tarkington said the Offertory Prayer, and Melissa Lewis read the Scripture.

This year, high school senior Philip Barber delivered the Morning Message, entitled "Youth of Power and Promise".



Philip delivers the Morning Message

*(continued on Page 2, Youth Sunday)*

*(Youth Sunday, continued from Page 1)*

Based on the story of David and Goliath in 1 Samuel 17, Philip's message discussed how God has a plan and a purpose for each of us. Youth need not wait until some mystical day that they are deemed ready for service. God has given each of them gifts that can be used for His glory right now. As adults, we need to provide encouragement, and give our youth opportunities to put those gifts to use. Philip's message 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 Paula Thornton, Becke West, and LuAnne LaPoint for their help in preparing and leading the youth. Thanks also to the Praise Band 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 filled with power and promise. They are much more than "the church of tomorrow"—they are the church of today, ready to use their gifts and talents for God.

## *Thank You!*

Thanks to the support of the congregation, the Alpha and Omega Youth sold over 230 pies during their Pie Sale on Sunday, November 21. The proceeds will be used for the group's annual Ski Trip, as well as their other activities and projects. We hope you enjoyed your pie, and appreciate your support!

## Youth Fill 29 Shoe Boxes for Operation Christmas Child

On Sunday, November 14, the Youth Fellowship at Bethlehem hosted a special Shoe Box Packing Party for Operation Christmas Child. By the end of the night, the children had filled 29 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, son of evangelist Billy 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. The children packed and wrapped their shoe boxes, then enjoyed pizza and a special showing of the brand new VeggieTales Christmas movie "It's a Meaningful Life" on the big screen.

This was the third consecutive year that the youth participated in Operation Christmas Child. Altogether, 8 million children received shoe boxes last year. And, since 1993, children in over 130 countries have received shoe boxes through Operation Christmas Child.

"Operation Christmas Child is one of my favorite mission projects that we do during the year," commented David Salerno, Bethlehem's Youth Director, "because it allows children of all ages to demonstrate God's love to needy children around the world, and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ."



The children pose for a picture with their finished shoe boxes