

# Youth Newsletter

November 2011

## Youth Groups Begin Fall with Pool Party, Movie Night

The Youth Groups at Bethlehem officially “kicked off” their new youth group season on Sunday, September 11, with a pool party at River Point Club House and Pool. The children swam and played games in the pool from 3:00pm to 7:00pm, and enjoyed pizza in the club house for dinner. Over 25 youth and adults came out to enjoy the food, fun, and fellowship.



The youth enjoy a sunny day at the pool

On Sunday, September 25, the junior and senior high youth had a special Pizza & Movie Night before revival. The youth watched the Christian film “Cutback”, the story of a surfer who, after a devastating accident, learns that there's much more to life than riding waves. Afterwards, the youth attended the 7:00pm revival service together.

We are excited to be starting another activity-filled youth fellowship season here at Bethlehem, and the children and youth are busy getting ready for a number of upcoming events.

The youth group schedule for the entire year is now posted on the Youth Group Web Site at [www.bccyouth.org](http://www.bccyouth.org), and is also available at the church. Once again this year, Regular Meetings will typically be held on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 6** Youth Sunday
- November 13** Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Packing Party, 4:30pm-5:45pm
- November 27** 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.

each month, with special events to be scheduled at various times throughout the year.

For the past eleven years, we have held Pioneer Clubs for our younger children here at Bethlehem. This tradition continues this year with the all-new Pioneer Clubs Discovery Club program. Specifically designed for smaller churches, this program allows kids of all ages to meet together to study God's Word, memorize Scripture, and enjoy fun activities. The Discovery Club program's structure builds on the strengths of the small-church setting to create the perfect environment for a life-transforming ministry.

Special events and mission projects are also being planned for all age groups, including Youth Sunday, Operation Christmas Child, Military Mail Call, the annual Junior and Senior High Ski Retreat, the World Vision 30 Hour Famine, the Suffolk Rockin' Relay for Life, and a return to Camp Piankatank for summer camp in 2012. Also, we're planning to schedule visits to our shut-ins and the nursing home, as well as fundraising and mission projects for our older youth.

We're currently hard at work planning for our ninth annual Community Harvest Festival. This has been one of our largest and most successful

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outreach events, with over 150 children and parents in attendance last year. But we need the help of everyone in the congregation for this event to continue to be successful. Please contact David Salerno to let us know in what area you would like to help.

Our youth fellowship program has a calendar filled with opportunities for growth, service, and fellowship, and has much to offer children of all ages.

We invite you and your children to participate in the Youth Groups at Bethlehem, and hope you will join us for an exciting and active new youth group season! And, please, invite all your friends!

## Youth Attend Summer Camp at Piankatank

This summer, five of our youth spent an action-packed, life-changing week at Camp Piankatank.

Located on a 90-acre site on the Piankatank River just north of Gloucester, Camp Piankatank is a full-service Christian summer camp owned and operated by the Virginia Baptist Mission Board.

The camp featured brand-new air conditioned cabins with indoor bathrooms and showers, a dining hall, an activity and meeting building, a waterfront area, volleyball and basketball courts, a swimming pool, and a rock wall and ropes course.

Each day began and ended with a praise and worship service led by the camp staff and a weekly Camp Pastor.

During the day, campers engaged in a number of camp activities, such as swimming, kayaking, canoeing, rock wall, v-swing, team sports, and arts and crafts.

"I liked canoeing," said camper Benji Salerno. "It was fun being on the water and seeing the shore."

"I like the people at Camp Piankatank, the campers and the counselors," replied Teen Week camper Tori Tarkington. "I liked seeing friends I haven't seen in a long time."

In addition to the daily activities, campers experienced a number of special events throughout the week, including the dockside service and the island campout.

"My favorite thing about camp was the dockside service," commented camper Madison Davis. "Everyone goes out onto the dock, and the moon's out reflecting over the water, and we sing songs. It always makes me feel closer to God."

Special thanks to all who helped support summer camp for our youth, either through generous and kid donations, or by supporting their fundraising efforts.

**9<sup>th</sup> Annual**

# **Community Harvest Festival**

**Sunday, October 30**  
**4:00pm-7:00pm**

Moon Walk • Hay Ride • Games • Cake Walk • Crafts  
Hot Dogs • Popcorn • Cotton Candy  
Candy • Prizes



 **Fun for the whole family!** 

## 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 working very hard to get ready for Youth Sunday on November 6.

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

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!

## Youth to Participate in Military Mail Call

Bethlehem's children and youth will be joining the congregation in supporting Military Mail Call.

During their regular meetings in October and November, the children and youth will be writing cards of thanks and encouragement to our military men and women serving overseas at Christmas time.

# Youth Sunday

**Sunday, November 6**

**Sunday School • 9:45am  
Morning Worship • 11:00am**

**Please come out and support our youth as they teach Sunday School and lead the Morning Worship service!**

*Alpha Youth Group/Omega Youth Group*

## Pie Sale

*Freshly baked pies using only the finest ingredients and time-tested recipes*

Chocolate Chess • Coconut  
Lemon Chess • Pumpkin  
**\$7.00 each**

See any Alpha or Omega youth, or call 539-1966

**Orders taken through Sunday, November 13**

Pies ready for pick-up on Sunday, November 20

**Order yours TODAY!**

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

On Sunday, November 13, 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.

The children will wrap and pack their shoe boxes, and then will be treated to pizza and a special viewing of the brand new VeggieTales video "The Little Drummer Boy" 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 fourth consecutive year.

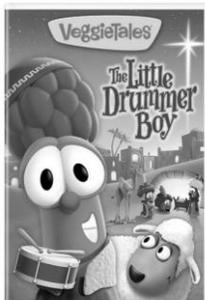
"I'm thrilled that once again this year Big Idea Productions has teamed up with Operation Christmas Child to make special 'shoe box packing party' materials available to local churches," commented David Salerno, Bethlehem's Youth Director. "This brings even more excitement to an already fun and unique mission project for our children."



## Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Packing Party

### Sunday, November 13 · 4:30pm-5:45pm

featuring a special screening  
of the new VeggieTales Christmas video



plus pizza, 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!

