

Youth Newsletter

December 2011

9th Annual Harvest Festival Draws 175 Visitors from Church, Community

On Sunday, October 30, Bethlehem hosted its ninth annual Community Harvest Festival. The festivities began at 4:00pm, with approximately 175 children and adults coming out for food, games, and fun for the whole family.

Visitors were greeted with a large number of activities outdoors. The Suffolk Fire Department was in the front parking lot with their Fire Safety House and Fire Engine No. 6. A Moon Walk was also set up in front of Graham Hall, courtesy of Triple T Sports.

George Fowler and Terese Neblett operated the Hay Ride, while Susan Lewis, along with help from several friends, brought out three ponies for the Pony Rides.

Indoors, Denise Smith gave out goodie bags and information about our church and its youth fellowship program at the welcome table.

The Alpha and Omega Youth helped operate the games in Graham Hall, including the Fishing Game, Mini Golf, the Pumpkin Bean Bag Toss, a Hula Hoop Toss, and Bobbing for Apples. All who played were rewarded with candy for prizes.

There was also a craft table, where Louise Snook helped children make a fun arts and crafts project to take home. Angie Salerno also did face painting.

Lots of food was served throughout the evening, including hot dogs and drinks. The Omega Youth also served popcorn and cotton candy.

Throughout the Festival, an old-fashioned Cake

UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 4 Christmas Cantata at Bethlehem
- December 11 Christmas Cantata at Hillcrest
- December 18 Children's Christmas Play
- December 20-21 Living Nativity

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

Walk was held in Graham Hall, and many people won delicious cakes, pies, and goodies brought by members of the congregation. Special thanks to all those who contributed to the Cake Walk!

At 6:15pm, a Costume Contest was held. Children and adults alike showed off their creative costumes. Everyone who participated received a medal, while the winner in each age category also received a special prize.

This year's Harvest Festival was a huge success! 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 an afternoon of good, wholesome family fun, and we invite every member of the congregation to join us again next year!



*Good job,
Youth!*

*Our children and youth combined to write
over 300 cards to Military Mail Call.*



For pictures of these and other Youth events, visit www.bccyouth.org.

Youth Lead Congregation on Youth Sunday

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

The youth spent several weeks preparing for the day, getting their Sunday School lessons ready, practicing music, and getting their various parts just right. A number of practices were held, including a special “dress rehearsal” on Thursday, November 3.

On Sunday, November 6, Youth Sunday began with one final practice at 8:00am. Then, at 9:30am, the youth headed off to teach their Sunday School classes.

After Sunday School, the youth then prepared to lead the Morning Worship service.

Junior ushers Michael Brown, Matthew LaPoint, Ginger Tarkington, and Madison Davis greeted worshippers as they arrived, counted the attendance, and collected the offering.

The youth opened the service appropriately enough with the song “This is the Day”.

Tori Tarkington then read the Welcome and Announcements, and delivered the Invocation and Lord’s Prayer.

Next, Ashley LaPoint led the congregation in the Responsive reading, while the youth sang along with the congregation to the Songs of Worship.

Kate Jones, Madison Davis, and Ricky Gossert then delivered the Children’s Sermon, a devotion about being prepared.

Next, Ginger Tarkington prayed the Morning Prayer, and the youth again led the congregation in Songs of Worship.

Ariel Salerno read the Offertory Prayer, while the youth sang “Above All” during the offering.

After the offering, for Special Music, the youth sang “You Raise Me Up”, with Ashley LaPoint performing a vocal solo and Ariel Salerno playing violin. Michael Brown then read the Scripture.

This year, high school senior Kayla Culbertson delivered the Morning Message, entitled “Time Matters”. Kayla’s message, which encouraged us all to use wisely the time that we have been blessed with, 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 Women’s Fellowship for serving lunch to the youth and their families after the service.

Youth Help Church Fill 105 Shoe Boxes for Operation Christmas Child

On Sunday, November 13, 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 34 shoe boxes with items for needy children all over the world at Christmas. When added to shoe boxes prepared by the Ladies Circles and other groups and individuals, Bethlehem contributed a total of 105 shoe boxes to Operation Christmas Child.

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 new VeggieTales Christmas movie “The Little Drummer Boy” on the big screen.

This was the fourth consecutive year that the youth participated in Operation Christmas Child. 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.