



Fall Newsletter

Coming Soon

- Youth Cookout at the Church** - September 11th
- Sunday Fall Kickoff** - Sunday, September 13th @ 9:15am
- Parenting Seminar** - Sunday, September 13th @ 7:00pm
- Wednesday Night Kick-off** - September 16th @ 7:00pm
- Women's Bible Study** - September 17th & 18th
- Children's Self-Defense Class** - Saturday, September 19th @ 10:00am
- Youth Pancake Breakfast** - Sunday, September 20, between services
- Children's Dance Class** - Starting September 26 @ 10am
- Women's Self-Defense Class** - Saturday, September 19th @ 10:00am
- August 28, September 4 & September 14** - Cathedral Kitchen

A New Thing!

Have you ever walked into a room, and had one of those very nostalgic moments. It's the kind of moment that takes you back to times past, where all that you seem to remember are the good times that brought you to where you are today. It seems at those moments, that your senses become heightened to every unique feature of the room. A book on the table next to the chair in the corner, the spot on the carpet from where one of the kids spilled their juice, the indentions in the table where you spent many nights completing your homework. All of these things are so very small and yet they flood your mind with memories of times gone by.

All of us to some degree have had these moments, and sometimes we wish we could go back and revisit, and yet we know that we can't, so we sit for a while and reminisce. We realize that life goes on, and we need to keep on living, building more and different memories for the future.

Sometimes life in the church can be this way. We find ourselves longing for the past. We remember those moments of where God did something special in us, and we want so much to experience Him in the way that we once did. We want to go back to a place where He felt close, and yet just as we can't go back to the times of nostalgia, we find that we can't go back to those spiritual moments either. We can remember them and be encouraged by them, but they are in the past, and we find ourselves needing to look forward once again.

We read in Isaiah these words: "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! (Isa43:18-19)

Ours is a heritage full of great memories, and even through these recent years, we look back at friendships made, lives transformed, hopes restored, and victories won with great thanksgiving and praise to our God who has worked mightily among us. We need, however, to also remember that God is indeed doing "a new thing," and that our past serves as a faith builder for what God wants to do in us both now and in the future. The exciting thing in all this is we get to be a part of it.

It's great to be your Pastor,

Jamie

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September 13th, 2009



Regardless of when the last time you've been to church, if you've never been, or what you've been doing in the mean time, we'd like to invite you to come back and join us.

Services at 9:30 & 11:00 am

COMING THIS FALL...

Enjoying the Journey of Parenting

A parenting seminar about the privilege and rewards of parenting. Tips and strategies from Dennis Cesare - a teacher, counselor and Nationally Certified Parent Teacher.

Sunday, September 13th from 7:00 - 8:30pm

ESL

English as a Second Language kicks-off the same week as the kids programs. We meet in the library; all languages and all ages welcome. You can bring your kids for the kids programs while you take the class.

Starting September 16 from 7pm to 8pm

Women's Bible Study

Beginning September 17th and 18th.

We will be studying Beth Moore's "Esther - It's Tough Being a Woman". There are two class times to choose from - Thursday nights @ 7:00pm and Fridays @ 12:00pm.

Self-Defense Classes

Children's

Children will learn practical and simple escapes that can be used to keep themselves safe. Ages 4 - 12

Saturday, September 19th from 10 - 11 am.

Women's

Learn self-defense techniques that are easy to use, easy to remember and work for all sizes. For women of all ages including teen girls.

Saturday, September 26th from 10:00 - 11:30 am

Self-Defense Classes are taught by Eric Holmes, a 3rd Degree Black Belt, from Holmes Tae Kwon Do Martial Arts Center (visit www.holmestkdo.com)

Children's Dance Class

Children will learn basic dance and work on worship dance routines to be performed at special events or in worship services
Preschool - 2nd grade

Starting Saturday, September 26th from 10:00 - 10:45 am

Suggested donation \$10 for school year.

Fall Craft Show

The youth group will be hosting our annual fall craft show. We will have vendors, crafters, and a snack booth. Come out and support our youth as you get some holiday shopping done.

Saturday, November 14th from 9am to 1pm.

Fall Rummage Sale

Shop for everything from kitchenware to kids clothes. If you'd like to donate, email Janine@ashlandchurch.org.

Friday, October 23rd from 8:00am - 2:00 pm

Saturday, October 24th from 8:00am - 1:00pm

All proceeds go to missions.

Donations accepted starting Wed. October 21st

October 31st Outreach

Stop by while trick-or-treating for the BOX MAZE, food, candy, games and lots of fun!

From 5:30pm - 8:00pm

Every Sunday

Sunday School - Age appropriate and fun Christian Education for everyone (from infants to adults) at 9:30 AM. There is also an adult class @ 11:00 AM for those who attend the 9:30 AM service.

KIDS Church - Elementary children are dismissed during the 11 AM worship services for a multi-media, Biblical and (of course) fun lesson during the sermon time of the worship service. *Children whose parents are in Sunday School or worship team can sit in the front left pew and will be supervised 'til KIDS Church starts.*

Nursery - While their parents worship at the 11:00 AM service, infants through Pre-K have a fun playtime and lessons at their level.

Parents - the Sunday Children's Programs are set up so that you can be in a Worship Service and an Adult Education Class on Sunday mornings so please feel free to take advantage of this.

Upcoming Events

Youth Cookout at the Church - September 11th

Leadership Night - September 10 at 6:30 pm

All Ministry Leaders (including Session, Deacons, Trustees, Women in Ministry, Teacher's, Small Group Leaders, Children & Youth Volunteers etc.) Potluck dinner at 6:30 followed by a joint meeting and separate meetings afterwards for some groups. Babysitting provided from 7-8 (end of joint meeting).

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Parenting Seminar - Sunday, September 13th @ 7:00pm

Wednesday Night Kick-off - September 16th @ 7:00pm

Women's Bible Study - September 17th & 18th

Children's Self-Defense Class - Saturday, September 19th @ 10:00am

Youth Pancake Breakfast - Sunday, September 20, between services

Dance Class - Starting September 26 @ 10am

Women's Self-Defense Class - Saturday, September 26th @ 10:00am

August 28, September 4 & September 14 - Cathedral Kitchen

Adult Christian Education

John Tait will be teaching a 9:30 am Sunday Adult Christian Education class continuing with the book of Revelation. This class will also be repeated at 7:00 pm on Sunday evenings. Do not miss part 1 "**A Revelation Primer**" - a study of the significant terms and concepts of this book.

Dennis Cesare will also be teaching a 9:30 am Sunday Adult Christian Education class, beginning September 20th, on "**Practical Parenting Tips for Today**". This class will continue to explore the privilege and rewards of parenting using a Biblical basis.

Greg Goss will teach the 11:00 am class on Sunday mornings.

Always Going On...

Wee Worship & Bell Choir - age 4 - 2nd grade starting Wednesday, September 16th @ 6:30pm

Kid's Worship - grades 3 - 6 starting Wednesday, September 16th @ 6:30pm

Youth Choir - grades 6 - 12 starting Wednesday, September 16th @ 6:00pm

Adult Choir - starting Wednesday, September 16th @ 7:30pm

Wednesday Night Kids - starting Wednesday, September 16 from 7:00 - 8:00pm

English as a Second Language - starting Wednesday, September 16th from 7:00 - 8:00 pm

FougCrew - starting Wednesday, September 16th from 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Middle School Youth Group - every Sunday @ 6:30 pm

Sr. High Youth Group - every Sunday @ 7:00 pm

Blanket Making /Knitting - starting Monday, September 14th @ 9:30am and continuing on the 2nd Monday of each month

Prayer Shawl Ministry - starting Monday, September 21st @ 7:00pm and continuing on the 3rd Monday of each month

Men's Prayer Group - every Tuesday from 6:00 - 7:00 am

Worship Team - every Tuesday @ 8:00pm

Future Events

Fall Rummage Sale - Friday, October 23rd @ 8:00am & Saturday, October 24th @ 8:00am

Fall Craft Show - Saturday, November 14th @ 9:00am

Annual Women's Christmas Dinner - Friday, December 4

Annual Christmas Play - Sunday, December 13th

Saturday, February 6th - Women's one day retreat titled "Sweet Life Café". Cost is \$20 which includes lunch.

Sunday School Kick-off/Move Up

Join us as we kick off our new Sunday School year (classes for infants - adults) on September 13th at 9:15 am to introduce our kids to their new teachers, for those that are moving up this year.

Small Groups

Small Groups Kickoff is coming this fall. If you have not yet joined a small group, but would like to, this is a great opportunity for you. All the groups will be doing the study, "First John: Christian Holiness and Love" by Tim Keller. More information will be announced in the bulletin and website regarding the "who-what-where-when" of each group, and when the study will begin. Stay tuned! If you are interested, please contact Darrell Proctor or Claudia Tahan.

Busy and Amazing Summer !

We are most of the way through our summer youth schedule and it is good to take a bit of time to stop and reflect on where we have been before we look to where we are going. During Summer 09 we have logged over 1000 miles to Ohio where we attended the camp Velocity for our fourth straight year. Four vans made the trip and we had a great time bonding with each other and building great friendships with kids from the other churches that are scattered across the country.

The speakers at Velocity challenged us to live out our faith in a Revolutionary manner and the final night really capped off a great week. Phil Wing and the rest of the worship band lead us in a concert of prayer where we took the lessons learned and really applied them to our lives in real ways. Students and adults alike were wrestling with God and learning to forgive others just as we have been forgiven by Christ Jesus. It was really a beautiful sight to see.

The day after we returned from Velocity we had our Germantown Hope Street Camp Training Weekend, hosted here at Ashland. We had all the groups that were going to be involved in the month long summer camp gather here to get to know each other and to be trained and get prepared for the four weeks of summer camp. It was a huge help in being ready for G. Hope and it was great to really get to know the other workers involved. We then had two weeks off before we joined in for the last two weeks of G. Hope.

Our weeks of service were set on Tacoma St. right off the 5000 block of Wayne Ave. The whole street was closed down for us and we held what I like to call "VBS on Steroids" right there in between two long red strips of row homes. We set up pop tents and tarps for class rooms and had games and some bigger activities at a local park a ten minute walk away. Lunch for the kids was provided through the city's food for kids programs and we had a blast getting to know these kids and their families.

I personally find it so important that I get to know the families since, from where we live life in, the inner city seems so dark and dangerous. But contrary to the flood of news reports we found kids and families who have love for each other and their community. This isn't to say that there aren't challenges or differences between our communities, but there are also many similarities and good things to be found. The weeks there were tiring but rewarding. Just ask the kids who went or Dennis and Barb Cesare, Janine Fleming or Terri Dyck who also went and served. Next year you should consider taking one week and serving the kids of Tacoma St. in Germantown!

As we wrap up the summer we are getting our rest. This summer has done many good things, among them being building a core group that really loves each other. We have so much more room to grow in our love for each other, but this summer was one giant leap towards getting there. We look forward to this next school year as we will have a large sixth grade class moving up and with them bringing all their great gifts and energy. We are also looking forward to the older students looking out for the younger and passing on the culture of what it means to be the Ashland Church Youth to the younger.

Ken Buck

Youth Ministries Director

Foug's Crew starting Wednesday, September 26th, 7:00pm to 8:30pm for 5th & 6th graders

Attention All Parents: I think we can all agree that it is a major challenge raising children in these current conditions in which the economic situation is not optimistic and attitudes are changing in the wrong direction as well as your child's outlook on the future. What is there to do? Give up? Absolutely not!!!!!! Welcome to Foug's Crew where we learn to put the power of the Holy Spirit to help us take on life's challenges by being prepared for the enemy. My name is John Fougeray and it will be my privilege to mentor, teach, and share my strong faith and love for Jesus with your child as we start our 5th year of Foug's Crew. There are challenging lessons and great discussions on the Bible. We also will help your child to share their own experiences and train them not to be afraid when you have Jesus on your side. Your child will receive their very own personal Bible (boys or girls design) as my gift. We have different snacks each week to teach your child not only to pray and give thanks for food but to experience the privilege of talking to God anytime - anywhere. We also have a parent and child Phillie Phan Phan game at the end of the year and we celebrate your child's birthday with their choice of cake, again, as my gifts to them. Most of all, we have awesome fun learning about what our creator wants to reveal to your child at this important and critical time in their lives; right before becoming a teen. We also will have a Christian contemporary concert that you can share in attending right here in Horner Hall at Ashland Church. And, as an added bonus this year, your child (with your permission) will have the opportunity to be on my radio program "FOUG CREW" which currently airs every Monday night on WNJC 1360 A.M. and on the world Wide Web @ WWW.WNJC1360.COM from 6:00pm to 7:00 pm and you can be right there with them in the studio for a unique experience, live on the radio.

See you in September!!!!!!!!!!

John Fougeray

On the Beach

My missions trip to Ocean City Maryland this year was amazing! God showed up in so many ways, I was blown away. I learned so much about Him and His character and was so eager to share it. The way the project went we all had to have full time jobs, where we shared our stories and lives with our co-workers. We also had meetings such as Bible study and prayer on every night after work. On the weekends we held mass outreach events, such as sports tournaments, large testimonial videos in parking lots and plenty of other things. We also were able to serve all the international students breakfast and dinner weekly. We were blessed with getting to see God work through the communities hearts and really come to see His power.

Personally, God really worked in my life to help me realize everyday is a day worth surrendering, and it was amazing to allow God to transform my heart. I have felt led to go to Africa for many years now on missions, and this summer only helped affirm my Heart and desire to spread God's word there. Hopefully, God willing, next summer I will be venturing over there, and Trusting God to use me in any way possible! I am so grateful for everyone at Ashland who have been so supportive and encouraging in my life. you all have really helped me Trust the Lord and grow tremendously. Thank you!

Sarah Ryan

Worship Arts Program

It will soon be time to resume music and arts ministries that have taken a little break during the summer. Choirs for all ages will once again rehearse on Wednesday evenings beginning September 16th.

If you have been considering being a part of this ministry, now would be a great time to join. Other music and arts ministries to consider would include instrumental and vocal music, video, dramatic reading, and dance.

I hope that we can add to these ministries, so please contact me if interested. It is our desire at Ashland to glorify God with all of our talents and abilities!

Carol Holmes
Music Director

Annual Church Picnic

The annual summer picnic was a huge success thanks in part to all who volunteered their time and talents.

Once again we were blessed with beautiful weather which included a nice breeze which put us in the mood to enjoy the good food, wonderful worship and the fellowship with our Christian family.

An afternoon of fun filled activities awaited us which included games for all ages.

I will cherish the memories from this years event and I eagerly anticipate next years event .

Dana Herman

Ashland - An Incredible Experience

Working with/at Ashland this past summer was an incredible experience for me that allowed me to approach youth ministry with an open mind. I began my summer expecting to see an old show with new actors. By this I mean that I have taught several youth groups and help lead trips in the past. So I expected to do and see the same things but with different personalities. God's ways are higher than ours and what He so chooses for us happens.

Rather than simply see the same show, I was shown the whole theatre. I experienced and interacted with a wholistic view of ministering to youth through the institution of the church. Youth ministry is not teaching on Wed night/Sun night/ and Sun morning; it is not leading events (even some of the best ones); it is not even relationships with students.

Wholistic youth ministry is the culmination of all these aspects umbrellaed by this driving conviction from the Holy Spirit to train youth up to become more human. In Gen. we see a depiction of what a "True Human" looks like. Upon sin entering the world, this real "Human" was tainted. Since then, through Christ, God has provided a means for us to grow more like him (more truly human). Rather than seeking to send your students on a "Spiritual High" where they place so much foundation in their emotions or a "Running Program" where they simply do youth group, wholistic youth ministry seeks to make students more human through all of these means.

This summer, the prominent theme I saw/experienced was how/what is wholistic youth ministry. I saw it in Ken's interaction with Kay and Kurt; I saw it in His position to Jamie and their ministry's co-existence in that relationship; I experienced it while longboarding through Collingswood or sitting in my car while crazy students played in the rain; I saw/experienced it through playing with a worshipping team that desire to truly lead others in worship to God and not themselves; I saw how the children's ministry and your aid in it directly effects the youth ministry; I learned through trial and error how to adapt to a culture for the purpose of ministering to youth and not to be cool; yet most of all I learned what it looks like to truly lead a youth ministry for Christ by making youth more human.

I truly and whole-heartedly love you at Ashland Evangelical Presbyterian so immeasurably much. May God's Spirit find you in Peace, Unity, and Love.

"Pride is a Phoenix",
Andy Gross

Women in Ministry

Cathedral Kitchen

Mark 10:45, "Even the Son of Man did not come to be served. Instead, he came to serve others." God calls us to serve one another.

Going to the Cathedral Kitchen was a great opportunity to serve. We all know that there are needs around us, and often times we say that we would like to do something to help but are unsure of what we can actually do. Well this is one easy way to plug in and help out. The kitchen serves dinner five days a week to 200-300 homeless and/or struggling individuals and families in Camden. The workers at Cathedral Kitchen run a well oiled machine and have everything prepared, they just need hands to do the actual work of serving meals and simple clean up. It is honestly so easy, and takes such a short bit of time out of your day, 2-3 hours, that it didn't feel like I could really be doing much, but the workers assure us every time that without our help, they couldn't do what they do. They rely on some 300 volunteers that take time out of their days to serve dinner a few times a month. I challenge anyone in our congregation, 16 to 100, to take this opportunity to serve the least of these right here in our own backyard.

Kathy Buck

I have, and I am sure others have wanted to get involved with a soup kitchen for quite some time. Our desires were recently put into motion in a very real, basic way when a group of women went on a rainy Wednesday to serve at Cathedral Kitchen, located in Camden just 15 minutes away. When I arrived I was not really sure what to expect but I was quickly put at ease. I found the kitchen to be large, totally safe, and very clean. I discovered several other adults from local neighborhoods donating their time and services. We were greeted by Sister Jean, who clearly takes serving seriously. She runs the kitchen in an orderly and efficient manner. I was deeply touched and inspired by her desire to serve the needy with dignity and respect. The people who we served seemed to be local families, homeless people, and a few mentally ill people. I was humbled and grateful to serve others. Men and women sixteen and over are invited to serve; 3:00 pm home by 6pm

Nancy Cominsky

Thank-You To all the women for whom it was my privilege to serve as President of Women in Ministry, I thank you.

When I was given the position as President, four years ago, I was a new member of only four years in the church. When I joined Ashland EPC, I knew that God had a plan for me. I just had no idea what that plan was.

Claudia talked about mentoring at the Women's Tea on Saturday, May 16th. I prayed to God for guidance and he gave me all of you. Through your prayers, support, encouragement, and faith in me, and my Faith in God, I was able to serve in capacity that I never thought possible of me.

There were times when I thought I was not the right person for this job, but God said differently. It was only through prayer and perseverance that I was shown His love and I put my trust in Him.

Psalm 25:1&2: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul, in you I trust, O my God.

My special thanks and thank God for putting them in my life go to Elynor Smith, Grace Mackin, Carol Thron, and Sam Spina who, for the majority of my Presidency, have been there for me.

Congratulations to Claudia Tahan as the new Director and Terri Dyck as the new secretary. My prayers and support I give to you. May our Blessed Lord be with you, and guide you, through all you do.

In Jesus Holy and Precious Name, Amen.

Your Sister in Christ,
Judy Saltzgueber

Summer Reading Book Club

Our first annual summer reading book club was a blessing to many women. We met twice this summer in the home and relaxed atmosphere of our gracious host, Terri. It was a great opportunity for women who don't normally gather in the same circles to get to know one another and we had some great discussions about the book, *Dead Women Walking*, by EPC's own Jennifer Su. It got many of us thinking about the struggles missionaries go through and our own struggles in the mission field God has given us - our neighborhoods and the people we come in contact with on a regular basis.

Claudia Tahan

Amazing Book!

'*Dead Women Walking*', by Jennifer Su, was an intense read by any standards. It's the true story of three women in Taiwan who were taken to the brink of death through physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, increasingly losing hope in life and in themselves. It was heartbreaking to imagine living in a situation where there truly was no way out.

Living as we do here, this book really opened up my eyes to the tragic fact that in some areas of the world, women do face the choice to stay with an abusive husband or risk most likely losing their children (as men have all rights to keeping their children). I was horrified to read that police would witness domestic violence and could only suggest the husband not beat his wife to death.

But there were uplifting parts that helped me realize how strong is God's hand in our lives. Women (and men) overcame obsession, addiction, physical disability, and mental illness by believing in our Lord. The perfect example was when Mei rid her mind of tormenting demons by calling Jesus' name. Without doing any good works, giving of herself, or living a holy life, she was able to receive God's protection by believing in Jesus' gift of forgiveness. From this she went on to help others and walk God's path. If someone who had hit such a bottom as Mei can turn herself around, I really believe there is no one who shouldn't have hope.

This story really inspired me to get involved, as Elizabeth did. Working to deliver Christianity in such a foreign land as Taiwan, she drew up unimaginable strength, patience, and perseverance. I hope I have the strength of character to speak up the next time I see something wrong happening, instead of thinking it's none of my business or assuming someone else will step in. I think for everyone who read this book, bringing a little of the pain, as well as the hope, home with us helped open our minds to the incredible pain in our world, but also how far is God's reach to touch each person.

Andrea Matthews

African Book Challenge (ABC)

In this newsletter, the ABC committee brings you a status update on the two special projects the ministry has been focusing on lately in Ghana. First, an **electric power supply project** for the Kwabeng Presbyterian JHS/Middle School. In June, ABC received the additional donations needed to pay the full cost of the electrification project. The contract was awarded last July and the project has just been completed. When schools re-open in early September, the students will, for the first time in the school's history, have lights in their classrooms. *The ABC committee thanks everyone who made this project possible.*

ABC Scholarship Fund - For generations, the highest level of education attained by many intelligent students at the village has been Middle School diploma. Many kids are unable to get high school education simply because their parents cannot afford the average, annual cost of about \$500.00. This modest fee pays for tuition, books, uniforms, room, meals, etc. The numbers below tell the sad story that unfortunately, repeats itself each academic year.

2008 JHS/Middle School Graduating Class Statistics

122 Students graduated

96 Students (**79%**) passed the external exam (similar to SAT) to attend High School

61 Students (**64%**) were able to enroll in various High Schools across the country

35 Students (**36%**) could not afford the fees for High School education

61 Students (**50%**) whose education ended after Middle School

The ABC committee acknowledges with sincere thanks an amount of over \$1,800 raised for the fund in August by the VBS as their Service Project. Please, prayerfully consider donating to the Fund. You may also choose to offer through ABC, a full 3-year scholarship for a student to attend HS. You will be able to keep in contact directly with him/her, if you so desire.

For more information about the scholarship, please contact either Janine or Fred.

"Education is the most important weapon which we can use to change the world"

– (Nelson Mandela)

*Fred Twum-Acheampong
(For the ABC Committee)*



Preschoolers

We had such a great year at VBS this year. We had about 30 preschoolers but with a little organization, you would have never known that there was that many at one time. It was great working with the other teachers and kids. It is nice to see the same kids that come every year. It takes a lot out of you but to see the kids happy, singing, and praising God, it is all worth it and I look forward to it every year.

Jen Zuck

Grades 2 & 3

The week spent with the second and third grade at Son World Kids Camp at Ashland was a fun and interesting week. It was much different from my experience with the kindergarten and 1st graders. Comparatively: they have matured so much; they follow directions, and have their own identities. I really enjoyed the opportunity to work with this age group.

My favorite snack was the campfire treat with tootsie rolls for logs, pretzel "sticks", licorice "fire", and best of all cookie crumbs "ashes", I loved watching each child's creation.

Every day after the snack we had a Bible story, the kids were able to hear the stories and have some discussion about what they thought, or questioned. The best part for me was; when we had some free play time and afterward I was able to make some connections with individual children, sharing the Gospel.

Next it was time for outside games when the kids could run and play, getting wet was the highlight, for some of the kids at least! Thankfully the weather cooperated and we were able to go outside each day.

By mid morning the kids needed a break, and, OK...I did too; at that time we were able to sit down in the classroom, discussing the story again and doing some pages in the Journals to reinforce the lesson from the story.

My favorite part of each day was craft time, I enjoyed being able to watch each individual child create their very own masterpieces. I am not sure if I have a favorite, but the zip line shadow boxes were really cool...I only wish we had more time!

A special thanks to all those that taught, helped, donated, decorated, cleaned, and generally made VBS a success. Special thanks to Janine for making Ashland's VBS possible.

Kathleen Randall

ASHLAND YOUTH

Germantown Hope Street Camp

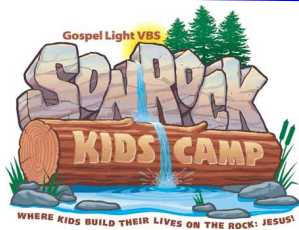
For two weeks in the summer individuals from the youth group and from the church family go to Germantown in Pennsylvania, where we run a VBS camp for the children that live there. We worked alongside the Gateway group, which is a group of college students that run the camp. The camp is broken up into 3 different age groups, the eagles 10-12, the sixers 6-9, and the Phillies which are around 3-5. In the first week I was with the Eagles, which are better behaved, but in the second week I moved over to the Sixers, which was a more rambunctious group of children. I grew very close to a lot for kids there, just like they were my younger brothers or sisters. Still, I was an authority figure to these children so when things got out of hand I was still there to break things up and settle problems. I love the kids, and I love Germantown, I'm going back next year for sure to see them all again. Andy C.

I worked with the Sixers (ages 6-9) and they were the hardest group. Even though they were challenging I grew to understand their ways and help them in what they were doing. I found that I learned how to reason with the kids better as the weeks went on and I became more effective in helping the kids enjoy and get the most out of their camp experience. I really liked seeing how the kids responded to the month of Christian teaching. I could really see that it was sinking in and that the teaching was making a big impact on the kids! It has really helped me grow and I can't wait for next year.

Samantha D.

I went to Germantown in Philadelphia this past year and my experience was amazing. It was really cool to interact with kids I knew from last year and kids I just met this year. I worked with the "Eagles" which was the age group from 10-12 years old. We would go around with our group and keep them focused and under control. I loved being with my group because as our relationships became stronger the more they would cooperate with me and the other leaders. Since the kids in my group were the oldest in the camp I would ask them to help me sometimes and they would cooperate with me because if they felt they had sense of leadership they would help. It was an overall a great trip and I can't wait to go back next year.

Jon G.



Grades 4 & 5

We had a great group of kids for VBS, starting the week "small" with only 16, and growing to 27 by mid-week. Meghan and I worked well as a team and had a lot of fun with the kids. The 4th and 5th graders have a lot of energy, but also a lot of eagerness to learn and grow. We were very encouraged by our week at VBS. Kathy Buck

Grades 2 & 3

Teaching and speaking about

Our Lord with our children is an incredibly rewarding experience. It's a time when everyone's faith is deepened.

We looked to the scriptures to learn about Simon who became Peter. We saw how believing in and following Jesus Christ is a life changing experience. Together as a church community we learned what it means to be Accepted, Protected, Saved, and Forgiven by Jesus. On the last day we explored what exactly it means to Live for Jesus. Our Son Force Kids also ran around having a blast during games, worship, making crafts and eating creative snacks. It was an honor and privilege to be a part of VBS. Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow.

Son Force Kids!

Nancy Cominsky

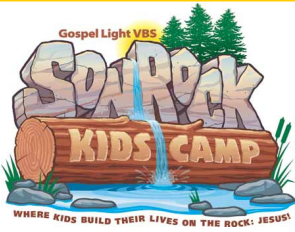
Kindergarten & Grade 1

Our Kindergarten & 1st Grade VBS class was led by Barb Cesare and Linda Tait. Our two able assistants were Jake C. and Tyler M. who were both helpful through the small details of the week. We had a challenging group (numbering 25-30) who displayed different levels of skills so, by Friday, we were just getting familiar with every ones uniqueness. Our puppet friend, Reggie the Raccoon, who came to visit at story time as we sat around our pretend camp fire, always had a great reception! Another excitement was our praise band session where kids played instruments to accompany the songs that they later sang in the Sanctuary as they assembled with the other groups. We hope to see these kids come back to Ashland soon.

Linda Tait

Junior High

During the week of VBS, I had the great opportunity of being the Junior High school teacher. God worked through the lives of our wonderful kids at Ashland and really helped me learn so much. It was amazing to get to see our kids grow and have interest in learning about Jesus and all He has done for us. Every day there was a new amazement by these kids in their maturity and spiritual curiosity. I enjoyed getting to watch them grow and have no doubt that their spiritual walks will flourish with the amazing support the Ashland family has provided. Of course we did have PLENTY of fun during the week, getting soaked with water games, giggling over the game "tutie ta" and playing icebreakers in the youth room. I absolutely loved my week with our Junior Highers! Sarah Ryan



What a week! Through worship, memory verses, wacky skits, crazy stunts, fun games, delicious snacks, beautiful nature crafts and thought provoking Bible lessons our SonRock Kids Camp kids

experienced Christ's love through the life of Peter. Kids learned that they are Accepted by Jesus, Protected by Jesus, can be Saved by Jesus, Forgiven by Jesus and that they can Live for Jesus.

Volunteers - *You all gave over and above, not just during the VBS week but with all the prep-work before. I am so grateful to you for your willingness to serve and give of yourselves, sharing Christ's love with his children. May God bless you.*

Janine Fleming
Children's Ministries Director

Hey SonRock Kids !

We hope to see you again next year at our SonQuest Rainforest VBS! You are also welcome to join us at anytime. We will continue our SonRock adventure this fall with Rock Solid Followers, helping kids to discover Jesus' love for them and the world, on Wednesday nights (7-8pm) starting Sept 16. We hope to see you there.

Getting to Know Our VBS Volunteers

1. I swam with a dolphin in Mexico.
2. I once caught myself in the back of the head while fishing.
3. I was born in Spain
4. I am still a Girl Scout; 12 years and counting.
5. I play and teach multiple instruments.
6. I used to work as a "copy goddess" at a printing company.
7. I climbed down a canyon in Gunnison Canyon, Wyoming.
8. I have Native American roots.
9. I used to play a drum.
10. I know the years go by too fast.
11. I had a great kitchen crew; they had to be saints to put up with me all week. Thanks!
12. I hope to travel the world with my friends.
13. I got to hang out with Dizzy Gillespie
14. I kayaked with whales in Glacier Bay National Park, Alaska.
15. I have Spanish roots.
16. I used to work with launch vehicles and satellites in the Air Force.
17. I love kickboxing.
18. I love kids and I want to be a doctor.
19. I went power sailing in Puerto Rico.
20. I broke my collarbone tripping over one of the campers.
21. I went scuba diving in Mexico.
22. I was born in and adopted from Romania.
23. I cut my thumb in the sink while cutting broccoli and had to get 5 stitches.
24. I was a camp counselor for 4 years while I was in college.
25. I played the bassoon in High School.
26. I cut off the tip of my finger while trimming bushes with electrical trimmers.
27. I have never broken a bone.
28. I've toured the South Pacific.
29. I have an Associates Degree in Elementary Education.
30. My hometown is Waynesboro, PA.
31. I was in the Honors Choir and performed in Echelon Mall.
32. My father declared I was French at birth, although I'm not.
33. I never fail to be surprised, amazed, and delighted by the kids each year, especially the first timers.
34. I walked across the Edmund Pettus bridge.

Additionally...

Mae Valenzuela, Jon G., Samantha D., Elaine Lopilato, Jon T., Paulette Wong, Manny D, Tyler M., Rachel A., Andrew W

And anyone who's name is not listed who gave their time and talents to make VBS a success!

Sports and Arts Camp and Preschool Playgroup

If you stopped by the church any Thursday evening in July you would have seen little ones playing, young athletes brushing up on their soccer, basketball and taekwondo, and our budding artists painting or working on their drama presentations. We then met together for some crazy, multi-media lessons on Ephesians. We learned how God has adopted us into his family through the gift of Jesus, and not by anything we had done to deserve it but because of how much he loves it. Each Thursday night we had from 40-70 kids from our church and local neighborhoods. We were able to do all this thanks to our dedicated volunteers who stepped up and were willing to serve God's children.

To the volunteers - *thanks for giving of your time to make a difference in the lives of children. What a wonderful gift!*

Janine Fleming
Children's Ministries Director

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Our Mission

To seek the lost and grow disciples
who worship and enjoy our Lord.

Our Vision

To be a Covenant Family in our community which is transformed by the
Gospel, empowered by the Spirit, and focused by our Mission.

Coming Soon

Youth Cookout at the Church - September 11th
Sunday Fall Kickoff - Sunday, September 13th @ 9:15am
Parenting Seminar - Sunday, September 13th @ 7:00pm
Wednesday Night Kick-off - September 16th @ 7:00pm
Women's Bible Study - September 17th & 18th
Children's Self-Defense Class - Saturday, September 19th @ 10:00am
Youth Pancake Breakfast - Sunday, September 20, between services
Children's Dance Class - Starting September 26 @ 10am
Women's Self-Defense Class - Saturday, September 19th @ 10:00am
August 28, September 4 & September 14 - Cathedral Kitchen

Answers to "Getting to Know" 1.Linda Tait 2.Ken Buck 3.Tamera Cupschalk 4.Sarah Ryan 5.Brian Fleming 6.Kathleen Randall
 7.Nancy Cominsky 8.Gloria Proctor 9.Elynor Smith 10.Norma Quirk 11.Judy Saltzgueber 12.Ashley M. 13.Lynn Beasley 14.Terri Dyck
 15.Alicia S. 16.Dawn Tracey 17.Megan T. 18.Lauren H. 19 Krystal B. 20.Andy C. 21. Kelsey K. 22.Jake Cominsky 23.Stephen C.
 24.Kathy Buck 25.Barb Cesare 26.Jamie Cupschalk 27.Allison W. 28.Janice Hart 29.Jen Zuck 30.Kitty Gleeson 31.Victoria Z. 32.Noah K.
 33.Deb Ford 34.Ed Smith

Next Issue ...

Thank-you to all who contributed to this newsletter. Our next newsletter is scheduled to go out in early November. If you would like to write an article to include in the next newsletter please email it to terridyck@yahoo.com or drop it in Janine's mailbox in the office, by the end of October, for staff approval. We love to receive articles from people of ALL ages! Thank-you and God Bless.