



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ROCKPORT

4 HIGH ST.
ROCKPORT
MA 01966

978-546-6121

Table of Contents

Pastor's Message	1
Danielle's Story	2
Handbells	3
VBS Parade Pictures	4
Parade, Cont'd	5
Vacation Bible School	6
VBS, Cont'd	7



Schedule, Di-
rections 10



HIGH TIDINGS Online

FIRSTBAPTISTROCKORT.ORG

JULY 2010

VBS - Not just for kids...

Vacation Bible School was a fun filled week at the First Baptist Church of Rockport. Central to each day was a Bible story and accompanying Bible verse. The rest of the days were spent reinforcing the central idea of these Bible stories through engaging crafts, snacks, games, music and dramas. This issue of the *High Tidings* includes several pictures from this fun week. While the event was primarily focused at reaching out to kids, it is important to remember that the basic truths and lessons taught throughout the week have great relevance to people and "cosmic explorers" of all ages.

The lessons taught to children are not simply for children, but rather key to the life-long growth that should be experienced and evidenced in the life of all Christians. In Jesus' ministry (Matthew 18:1-6) He praised the humble faith of children in contrast to the arrogance and stagnancy of the religious bureaucracy of his day. This call does not say faith is childish or that we should always remain in a child-like state of faith, but rather that child-like humility is key in following the invitation made by Jesus. Child-like faith should eventually lead to a maturity, which is continually growing in light of the truths that the children were taught at Vacation Bible School and that we, as adults, are hopefully understanding and displaying more fully with each passing year.

Bible stories taught at VBS: the Creation Story (Gen 1-2); God's Provision for the Israelites (Exodus 16-17); Jesus' healing of the paralyzed man (5:17-26); Jesus walking on water (Matthew 14:22-23) and Jesus' resurrection (John 19-20).

The five 'Live Its' (or the main points of each lesson) are below and are of great value for people of all ages:

God is Awesome! I can worship him.

God is Awesome! I can count on him.

God is Awesome! I can believe in him.

God is Awesome! I can trust in him.

God is Awesome! I can tell others about Jesus.

--Matt Wigton, Pastor

The Live Its, VBS theme and curriculum, are use by permission from David C. Cook Publishing Company.

Our Little Girl

Over six years ago, our family was blessed with a new addition to the family. She was almost seven years old, loved to sing, and was visually impaired. Adopting Danielle was a leap of faith, but we had no doubt that she was our little girl. God had made that clear in the beginning. However, we knew this child had lived six years in an orphanage and we had no idea what her life had been like. Since then, we have learned, cried, healed and rejoiced with her. The following is a part of her story she would like to share with you.

--by Beth Sturgeon

The Blessing of Not Running Away



Life in an orphanage was lonely and scary. I had very few toys to play with and I had a bath every two months. There was a little park up on top of our building and we got to play up there once in a while. There was no grass or trees or flowers. I never touched an animal before. I was very scared at night time when kids would come sneaking around our beds because you never knew what they were going to do. One time a few kids asked me if I wanted to run away. I wanted to run, but something told me not to and of course I was too tired to run anyway.

There are some nice people who are your friends and some who would be your friend one day and then decide you are fun to pick on. It hurts me when I think about the kids who are still there suffering and the orphans all over the world.

Coming to the U.S. was one wild ride I will never forget. Maybe it was God who told me not to run away from the orphanage. It must have been Him because I am so glad to have a family that cares. I am so blessed to be here and share my story with you. Without the help of God and my family, I would not have been able to come this far. Thank you God. Thank you family. Thank you Rosenows and The Shepherd's Crook Ministry.

--by Danielle Sturgeon

Editor's Note: Danielle is 13 years old and came to America to be part of the Sturgeon family six and a half years ago. She spoke no English when she arrived and now speaks it fluently and without accent. She says she came from a very cold part of northern China and now doesn't remember any Chinese. According to Beth, her mother, her vision has improved considerably since she arrived. She will be attending a three-week camp for vision-impaired students this summer. She reads both in Braille and in print, with some text enhancement. C.S. Lewis and Tolkien are among her favorite authors. Danielle, along with her siblings, is home-schooled and will be doing seventh grade work this fall.

There are five children in Ken and Beth's family, ranging from Eliza, age 14, through middle son Christian, age 10, to Harry, age 3. Kimi, age 8, will appear on stage in August at North Shore Music Theater's 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' in the children's chorus.

They sound so beautiful, the occasional ringing of the Hand Bell Choir at Sunday morning services. All the ringers are concentrating, but it looks like they play so easily. I wanted to be part of that glorious making-of-music.

So I joined the Bell Choir two years ago. Ruth only gave me two notes to play, plus the sharps and flats that go with them (that's 4, sometimes 5 bells), plus the gloves, the mallets that are occasionally needed, and also the chimes that match my bell notes. Oh, and also a one page list of the symbols used in hand bell sheet music, a whole new notational language. Oh well, I thought, everybody starts somewhere. I could read music.....I thought. And I only had to ring two notes....I believed.

At my first few rehearsals all the ringers were supportive and complementary: "oh, you're a natural," "you're really learning fast," "don't worry...you'll pick it up soon." Then there were the rehearsals when I missed whole sections of ringing because I'd lost my place on the music....and kept losing track of whether the "D" was in my left hand and "E" in my right, or vice versa. My hands seemed to work independently of my well-intentioned brain. Or the times when I'd loudly ring the WRONG note... alone...after the piece was done.

As rehearsals progressed I was aware that while I rang my duo of middle notes, others were ringing pairs of bells in each hand, with an apparent flick of the wrist. Down in the bass section the ringers seem to play a dozen bells apiece, dancing up and down the table like they were doing the samba...in tandem. (Good thing they're related.) I could NEVER do that. It's all I can do to ring my two (plus) bells. But that thought represented progress. I was actually getting through whole pieces, managing to ring all the important notes at the right time and had started paying attention to what other ringers were doing.

Then came my first Sunday service Ring. How bad can it be, I fussed. I can always just hide under the table and maybe Ruth won't notice. No, she'll notice. She hears everything. How does she do it?? Well, OK, I can (and did) play the music and nobody (noticeably) cringed.

The second year began better and we had two new ringers...I wasn't the (only) newbie. At least some of the music was familiar. Then Ruth pulled out a piece that had (at least) a million accidentals (sharps or flats where they're not called for in the rest of the line), used lots of new techniques, and was FAST....or at least supposed to be. Heaven help me!

We started working on small sections of the music. It sounded pretty bad....and not just because I couldn't move fast enough to get to all my notes. Others were having a hard time, too. Even Elizabeth, whose music is a work of visual art....carefully marked in special colors for her notes and symbols...was challenged. Though we practiced this piece over and over during the year, I was SURE I couldn't master it....ever.

And on the last Sunday of June we played it...*Nocturne* by Michael Helman. The congregation really seemed to love it and we played it all without major disaster. In fact Ruth even smiled, her highest form of praise. She knew with enough work we COULD do it.

The moral to the story is: if I can do this so can you. Join us to make beautiful music....after some practice.

--by the "D⁵ and E⁵ Ringer"



VBS Blue on Parade

Shortly after 6 pm on July 4th, a sea of over 50 blue shirts set off from the school parking lot as the First Baptist Church's entry in the annual Firemen's Parade.

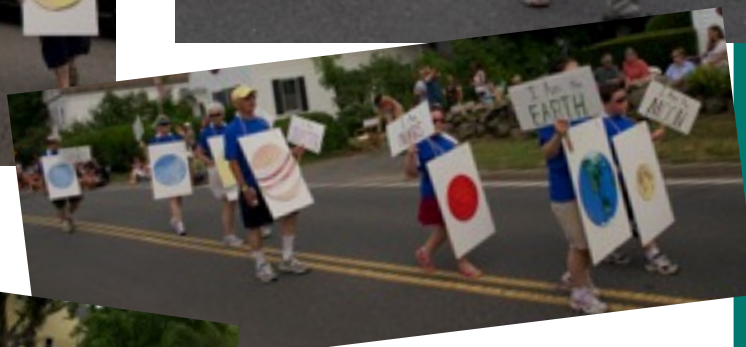
After the banner announcing Vacation Bible School, whose theme is "Cosmic

- Exploring the Awesome Wonder of God", came the

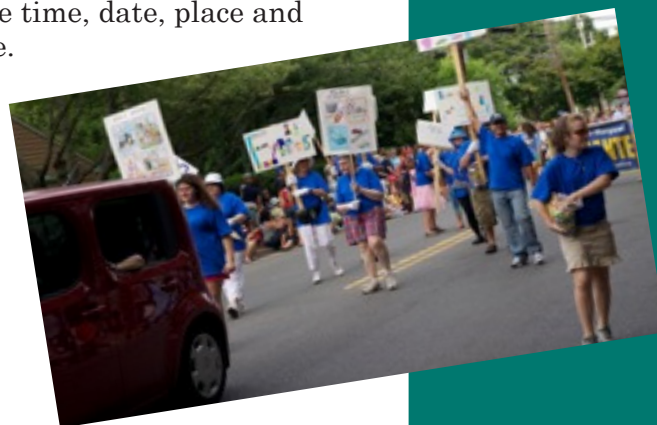
younger children who represented comets. Some were in wagons decorated as Halley's Comet and the Milky Way and others passed out candy from little blue pails splashed with swirls of "white clouds" while others dashed around the "universe" on their scooters!



The Solar System followed and, when the parade halted from time to time, the planets orbited the large bright sun to the music of the VBS theme song bursting forth from the boom box.



Next came the red cube car, which carried supplies and volunteers and then the bevy of signs, carried by both adults and the youth group, indicating what happens at VBS and the time, date, place and website.



Those marching ranged in age from 3 to 75 years! Our entry was not just about advertising Vacation Bible School, it also gave a snapshot of what life is like at our church - despite age differences, we work as a team and can have fun together.

Prior to the parade, there was a lot of "behind the scene" activity. Folks made phone calls, shopped, helped financially, made posters, lifted, lugged and gave encouragement. Those with past parade experience, helped with logistics and determined how much candy to purchase. How much? About ninety five pounds!! Slips of paper, stating the information for Vacation Bible School, were taped by hand to each piece of candy!

On the 4th, volunteers car pooled the marchers from the church to the parade site and then met the folks afterwards to take them and all the wagons and signs back to church. A parade consists of spectators as well as those marching. Many of our church family were there on the roadside, cheering us on! They were truly part of the team!

What an awesome team. What a great event!

For more pictures of the parade, go to the church website firstbaptistrockport.org



God's intergalactic message reached over eighty children, youth and adults during VBS week this year. More than 37 'space voyagers' attended, eleven 'space rangers' (MS and HS) assisted, and more than 35 adults led, cooked, crafted, prayed, coordinated and supervised throughout the week.

The drama troupe, made up of all ages, helped us to visualize the Bible stories that explored the awesome wonder of God.

And we memorized a new bible verse every





The craft time gave us the opportunity to illustrate the lessons of the day and were fun to do. The results showed the individual touch of each child.



The science lab experiments illustrated our lessons about God's creation.



And those most welcomed snacks energized us for really getting into the relay races and active games!



2010 Late Summer and Fall Events

In addition to the normal weekly schedule, the following are a list of special events occurring at the First Baptist Church of Rockport. Additional information will be provided during weekly services, on the website and in the church bulletin.

Sunday, August 1 – Adult Sunday School will resume meeting

Friday, August 6 – High School Camping Trip

Sunday, August 8 – 3:30 PM, Lead Worship at Den-Mar

Wednesday, August 11 – 7:00 PM, VBS Debriefing

Saturday, August 14 – 5:00 PM, Second Annual Potluck Party at the Parsonage

Friday, August 20 – 7:00 PM, Hymn Sing

Saturday, August 21 – 7:00 PM, Middle School Lock-In

Saturday, August 28 – 7:00 PM, High School Lock-In

August TBA – Baptisms at Old Garden Beach

Sunday, September 12 – Rally Sunday ~ Elementary and God's Family Sunday
Schools Resume Meeting

Sunday, September 12 – 3:30 PM, Mock Ordination Council

Thursday, September 16 - High School Group Resumes Meeting

Friday, September 17 – Middle School Group Resumes Meeting

Sunday, September 19 – 3:30 PM, Lead Worship at Den-Mar Sunday, September 26 – 3:30 PM Ordination Council

Saturday, October 2 - 9:00 – 11:30 AM, Fall Church Work Day

Sunday, October 3 – 12:00 PM, Thirdly Meeting

Saturday, October 16 – Church Participates in Rockport's Harvest Festival

Sundays, October 3, 10, 17, 24 – 6:30 PM, Exploring Christianity Class for persons interested in church membership or reviewing the basics of the Christian Faith

Sunday, October 31 – 3:30PM, Ordination Service

Dates subject to change

On the first four Sundays in October, starting at 6:30 PM, the Deacons and Pastor will be teaching a class for persons interested in church membership or simply interested in exploring the basics of Christianity. The class will meet in Ventres Chapel. As a supplement to the class, interested attendees are encouraged to read one of the following books: *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis, *Simply Christian* by N.T. Wright or *Basic Christianity* by John Stott. For more information or to register for the class, please contact Matt Wigton.

Scripture Selection and Sermon Title

<u>Date</u>	<u>OT Reading</u>	<u>NT Reading</u>	<u>Sermon Title</u>
8/1	Psalm 49:1-12	Luke 12:13-21	The Parable of the Rich Fool
8/8	Genesis 2:15	Rev 11:18	Caring for God's Creation
8/15	Texts to be determined		Why do bad things happen to good people?
8/22	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Luke 13:1-10	The Call of Jeremiah
8/29	Jeremiah 2:4-13	Luke 13:11-17	Healing on the Sabbath
9/5	Jeremiah 18:1-11	Luke 13:22-30	The Narrow Gate
9/12	Text to be determined		The Importance of Catechesis
9/19	Psalm 14	Luke 13:31-35	The Forsaken House
9/26	Psalm 146	Luke 14:7-24	Feast Parables

Bold implies text for sermon



A special thanks to photographer Silvana Diniz for being our faithful and expert picture taker throughout VBS week.

Boston Area Directions

Take Rte. 93 North from Boston to Rte. 95 North. Follow Rte. 95 toward Gloucester. Route number changes to Rte. 128. Continue to end of Rte. 128 and turn left at traffic light at Eastern Ave. in Gloucester. Proceed on same street to Rockport. The Church is at the end of Broadway in Rockport on the right.

High Tidings Online is published by the First Baptist Church of Rockport, and is edited by Gail Zeman and friends.
Email: newsletter@firstbaptistrockport.org

FBC Mission Statement
*Follow Jesus and proclaim
Him to the world*

Summer-Fall Schedule

Sundays	9:15 AM Sunday Schools 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Fellowship
Tuesdays	7:30 PM Bible Study, First and Third Tuesdays
Wednesdays	6:30 AM Morning Prayer 9:30 AM Bible Study
Thursdays	7:00 PM High School Group
Fridays	6:30 PM Middle School Group

Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. For additional church calendar information, see CALENDAR tab on website and pages 4 and 5 in the *High Tidings*.



The Dan Tuck family welcomed Allison Lynne in May.

Return Address:
First Baptist Church, Rockport
c/o Zeman
3 Penzance Road
Rockport, MA 01966