



Children's Ministry NEWS

Summer 2011

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CLUB 45

We had big fun at our pizza party and game night in June and our swim party in July. We welcomed our rising 4th graders and extend-

ed our good wishes to our rising 6th graders moving on up to confirmation. They will definitely be missed! We are in the midst of making plans for the fall. Erin Dennis, Phillip Bisette, Thaetra Withrow, Linda Curtis and I will be heading up the group. Our first gathering will be **September 11th at 5:00**. We will e-mail more details toward the end of the month.

Promotion Sunday

On Sunday, August 28, children ages 3 - 5th grade will gather in the Fireside Room at 9:45 for an opening celebration. Then they will go to their new classrooms to meet their teachers and hear about some of the exciting things we will be doing this year in Sunday school.

The fun continues after worship! Join us for a catered BBQ lunch, face painting, balloon animals and a dunking booth (for 50 cents you can try to dunk your favorite St. Stephen ministers!). All the money raised will go toward supporting our new partnership with Greenway Park Elementary School. You can make reservations for the lunch by calling the reservation line 704-364-3260 x3 beginning Friday, August 5th.
Wear your new Children's Ministry T-shirt!

C.M. T-shirts!

Beginning Sunday, August 7 we will be taking orders for St. Stephen Children's Ministry T-shirts (\$10 each). We hope that everyone will purchase one to wear on Promotion Sunday (August 28). To order, e-mail melissalamm@ststephenumc.net; order in the church office during the week; or in the preschool lobby on Sunday morning August 7 or 14. Please indicate the number of shirts and the sizes of each (children's small through adult XL).

CUB SCOUT Pack 118

Cub Scouts provides boys and parents consistent opportunities to spend time together nurturing family relationships. Every boy in 1st-5th grade can benefit from scouting activities by combining fun, educational activities and lifelong values. St. Stephen's Pack 118 meets the first three Tuesday nights of each month throughout the school year.



Our recruiting Expo will be at St. Stephen on Thursday, September 1 from 6-8pm. Please make plans to join us and check out the awaiting adventures. For more information or to ask a question, please contact either James Compton, Cub Master, at jpcampton@hotmail.com or 704-858-2190 OR Chris Withrow, Pack Committee Chair, at WithrowCA@aol.com or 704-502-5072.



Vacation Bible School

In the midst of recruiting volunteers and tending to the hundreds of details that go into VBS, I would

occasionally ask myself, "why are we doing this again?" However, as the teachers arrived on Monday, July 18th, donning their aprons and chef hats, and as the children arrived with big smiles on their faces, I was reminded exactly why we do this. We do this so that our children will know that God loves them, their church family loves them, and that they, too, can make a difference — and because it is so much fun!! I do believe the adults learned as much and had as much fun as the children did. We were reminded that God loves us just as we are, that giving and sharing brings us great joy, and that we need to celebrate the good news of Jesus Christ in all that we do so that others may come to know him. We did this through songs, art, Bible stories, games, science experiments, and, of course, sharing food together.

For our offering this year, we collected canned food for Loaves and Fishes. We also collected monetary donations to help fund our new school partnership with Greenway Park Elementary School. At the end of the week the children had collected over 325 pounds of food and close to \$200!

Thank you to all of our volunteers!! More than 50 adults and youth gave generously of their time and talents to help make VBS such a success. To those who worked behind the scenes: helping recruit volunteers, helping with decorations, food, shopping, and donating items — thank you!!!! And to our teachers, snack helpers, and youth volunteers: your enthusiasm was contagious, your patience was much needed. Thank you for your time and effort. You truly made this a great experience for everyone who participated. I am blessed to be a part of St. Stephen United Methodist Church.

St. Stephen United Methodist Church Children's Ministry

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Celebrating a



Davis Kroeger turned **6** on June 2
Sawyer Perry turned **1** on June 5
Chase Ketner turned **7** on June 7
Storm Hines turned **3** on June 8
Jackson Lathan-Adams turned **6** on June 10
Gabriel Briggs turned **11** on June 15
Preston Ketner turned **4** on June 17
Elle Brislin turned **9** on June 18
Pete Walls turned **7** on June 18
Stuart Graham turned **4** on June 25
Warren Ketner turned **2** on June 26
Duncan Moore turned **11** on June 27
Chandler Rea turned **5** on June 29
Evie Stewart turned **6** on July 4
Madison Pasko turned **9** on July 6
Ava Howard turned **6** on July 7
Mckenzie Briggs turned **7** on July 7
Ellie Cypert turned **2** on July 7
Mitchell Jones turned **12** on July 8
Pruett McCoy turned **6** on July 10
James Lathan-Adams turned **9** on July 11
Jackson Luckadoo turned **7** on July 14
Patrick Compton turned **9** on July 14
Paige Rhule turned **7** on July 15
J. T. Dodrill turned **5** on July 15
Aiden Loxton turned **7** on July 16
Grace Luckadoo turned **4** on July 17
Katherine Dodrill turned **3** on July 20
Allison Bell turned **11** on July 22
Eliza Matevie turned **4** on July 23
Grant Carpenter turned **2** on July 29
Jake Brockmann turned **10** on August 3
Justin Schroeder will be **9** on August 9
Ellie Prosser will be **7** on August 12
Kate Prosser will be **7** on August 12
Ella Matevie will be **2** on August 13
Matthew Cicco will be **8** on August 14
Liam Hammond will be **6** on August 15
Benjamin Huemmer will be **4** on August 16
Caroline Schnitzlein will be **8** on August 19
Lauren Sharpe will be **8** on August 26