

Maupin
Avenue ARP
Church

Maupin's corner

Volume 4, issue 8

August 2009

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Appalachia Mission Trip a HUGE success!

At 9:00 am on Saturday, July 4, 2009 a caravan of 14 youth and leaders pulled out of Concord ARP parking lot and was off for a week of adventure. It would take 7 hours of traveling to reach our destination of Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, TN where we resided for the following week. When we arrived at the campus we learned that our dorm accommodations were extremely better than last year. The entire group was on the same hall and we had much larger rooms and private bathrooms. It may not sound like much but when you go a week without hot water, you appreciate the hot water and private bathrooms. We later met up with the third part of the group, from Trinity ARP Church in Tampa, FL.

On Sunday morning we attended worship service at our VBS site for the week, Thornhill Baptist Church, in Thornhill, TN. It was a wonderful service and allowed us to visit and fellowship with the church members who we would spend time with during the

coming week. After church, we sat up our decorations and got together with the people we would be working with for the week to strategize on how best to approach our topics.

The theme of the bible school was 'Christ is King'. We taught about Creation, Adam and Eve, Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, the fulfilling of God's will through Jesus' crucifixion, and about Lazarus being raised from the dead. The different bible teachers prepared different skits to portray what the kids would be learning in their lesson. Each day, the kids made crafts and had time to play games outside. We started and ended each day with singing and worshipping God. The children were excited to see us back this year and it was so rewarding to have them hang all over you and follow you around, not wanting to let you out of their sight. These children look forward to VBS all year, and through God's grace, we are able

to provide it for them. We averaged between 30-40 kids plus adults at VBS daily.

During the week, we had two brothers, Jeremy and Jaidyn, accept Christ into their hearts. They didn't have a bible at home, so Nick, one of the VBS teachers from Tampa gave them his bible. They carried it around with them everyday and told everyone about it. Just the impact that we made on those two boys lives made the entire trip worth it. It didn't matter how tired we were experiencing worth it, just to have two more names be written down in the book of life. Please pray for Jeremy and Jaidyn, that they will be a positive influence on the rest of their family and that God will continue to strengthen them spiritually.

During the evenings we had worship services with everyone that was doing VBS around the area. This year there were 475 youth and leaders that came from many different states to put on VBS at different churches. Our church was



The name of our three churches. CONcord, TRInity, mauPIN. We signed the parking lot before we left Thornhill on our last day of VBS.

Appalachia Review continued...

about 45 minutes away from the campus, and that was one of the shortest drives for the groups. One group drove two hours (one way) to a small church in Kentucky. When they got close to the church, they found a tree blocking the road that a storm had blown down the night before. There was no other way to get to the church. Two hours later, after waiting on people from the town to get there and help them remove the tree, their VBS got started. One group's van broke down on the way to VBS one day. A guy from another group had his toe pinched by a crawdad. One of the leaders from a group broke her wrist. We had a few scrapes and bruises and grass allergies of our own. Satan tried his best to prevent us from having successful bible school but we didn't let that happen. And when Jeremy and Jaidyn got saved, God looked down on Satan and just smiled.

During our nightly worship services we had wonderful messages on the Lord's Prayer brought to us by Evan English, pastor at Clover Baptist Church in Clover, SC. He took the Lord's Prayer and dissected it line by line and gave us so much meaning to the prayer that we pray every Sunday and probably don't even think about what we are saying. But now we have a whole new outlook on the prayer that God gave us as an outline of

what we should pray daily.

We had a wonderful time teaching God's word to these children at Thornhill. We had an amazing time and became closer as a group. It's great to see how God brought us together to be with these kids for a week, and how well we all worked together. We would like to thank our church family for the prayers and support, and we can't wait 'til next year!

Brittany Harris

The preschool class working in their activity books.



Some of the kids waiting to sing!



The middle school class having their lesson.



Worship time Friday afternoon.

CONTRIPIN at an overlook outside of Thornhill.



Pastor Jack Coad from Trinity ARP, on Friday, decided he would try being a red head for a while.



The cookout the church provided Friday afternoon.



Everyone enjoying the slip and slide Friday afternoon.

August is already here...

August is already here with another school year about to start, and whether you or your children are going back to school or beginning at a new school, there is always so much to do, to think about and to buy.

Thankfully July has given us both a break from the routine and a real shot of caffeine for the 5 days of Crocodile Dock, this year's VBS which saw over 30 kids sign up and attend. What a blessing to have 10 toddlers attend, really great crafts, Bible teaching, snacks, drama (Miss Gale and Skeeter with his eyes closed), games and music. Next year our Bible teachers suggested a class for adults.

We have seen many church improvements this summer. Beginning with the kitchen ranges and cabinetry work, a new door for the furnace room, continued landscaping efforts that have made such a noticeable improvement, and painting. Painting always gets things cleaned because you have to move everything so our classrooms upstairs, especially in the library classroom, look great. Many have remarked how much larger the sanctuary looks with its new color I call cream. We have also added some new audio visual equipment which greatly enhanced VBS, and the new sound system, when connected, will allow everyone to hear what is spoken, sung and played much more clearly.

There is much more to do, but so much has already been done and for that we are thankful. As

summer winds down and the new school year begins we can be sure that fall is about to start. Fall traditionally is that time of the year we begin new bible studies, small groups, and new studies in our youth group, to prepare for Thanksgiving and Christmas worship and activities.

For our Wednesday Evening Bible Study this year we will be studying "Biblical Doctrine." Now most of us think 'doctrine' is a dirty word. We think what is really important is the way we live, that life is short and there is too much arguing in the church already.

Thinking that way makes the practice of our faith the important thing, but Jesus said it is not our works that saves us, it is our faith. So what is faith? More important what do we have faith in?

Well that is where *Understanding Biblical Doctrine* comes in. But Biblical doctrine that doesn't get into our hearts does no practical good. So I'm asking everyone who can to read a book of fiction called "The Shack" by W Paul Young of which Eugene Peterson (author of the Message, the Bible in contemporary English) said "The Shack has the potential to do for our generation what John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* did for his.

The Shack handles the problem of pain better than any book I have read, but more importantly it will open our hearts to want to learn about God and when we do to be able to carry His Word in our hearts. Biblical doctrine is essential to faith for

it is what we believe, but we must after understanding as we can with our minds carry it in our hearts. The Shack will in a profound way challenge us to a biblical faith of relationship with Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

So I encourage all who will come to the bible study to read this book that Chris Buckwell first made me read. I promise that any inconsistencies of theology will be talked about, but I also promise your heart will be opened to a God that is good all the time. In all circumstances of our lives He is good, for when His Ways become our ways we will be most satisfied in life.

Doctrine is quite the thing to learn, understand and articulate (a nicer word than argue or debate). It is only effectual when we give our hearts to it and then it can provide us comfort, solace, peace and joy because it will be what God intended it to be, that which determines our lives.

I hope you will join us for our Fall Bible Study which will begin the first Wednesday after Labor Day, September 9th. You can find *The Shack* in paperback for \$9 and *Understanding Biblical Doctrine, the Workbook by Covenant and Crown Publications* will cost \$6.

See you there and enjoy what is left of what has been a truly blessed summer,

Pastor Randy

Missions In Our Backyard Conference, Sunday August 2nd

Alan Avera, Director of Outreach North America, will be our speaker for this years Mission Conference this coming Sunday August 2nd. He will be speaking at 10:00AM for all Sunday School classes, sharing what ONA is doing in America and will be preaching in our 11:00AM worship service. Please invite family and friends for this exciting time of worship and fellowship as we will have a **covered dish lunch immediately after worship in the fellowship hall.**

We will also celebrate Jubilee Birthday August 2nd. Jubilee Birthday is a Women's Ministry that raises funds to support two missionaries of World Witness, Melaine Seeger in Pakistan and Pam Brunson in Russia. .

Women's Ministries

The **Day Circle** will meet Monday August 10th at 2:00PM in the church fellowship hall with Ruth Coley hosting.

The **Night Circle** will meet Monday August 10th at 7:00PM in the church fellowship hall with Alice Stokes hosting.

Annual Meeting of Women's Ministries First Presbyterial will meet at the 1st ARP Church in Burlington on Saturday August 15th beginning at 10:00 AM until 2:00PM. If you plan to attend please notify Jean Phelps and plan on meeting at the church at 8:00AM. Registration begins at 9:30AM.

Prayer Breakfast

The Men's Prayer Breakfast is undergoing an overhaul! It will now be called **The Maupin Prayer Breakfast** and will be open to all church members and guests. The 1st meeting will be August 1st at 800 AM. We are redirecting the focus of the meeting toward praying together as a church. We pray that everyone will be able to attend.

VBS with Miss Gale and Skeeter



August 2009

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1 Prayer Breakfast 8:00am
2 <u>Missions Sunday</u> 10:00am—Sunday School 11:00am—Worship/ Children's Church/Covered dish	3 Pastor's day off	4	5 Choir Prac- tice 6:30pm	6	7	8 Session meets 8:00am
9 10:00am—Sunday School 11:00am—Worship 5:30pm-Youth Night	10 Circles meet Pastor's day off	11 Deacons meet 6:30pm	12 Choir Prac- tice 6:30pm	13	14	15
16 10:00am—Sunday School 11:00am—Worship/ Children's Church	17 Pastor's day off	18	19 Choir Prac- tice 6:30pm	20	21	22
23 10:00am—Sunday School 11:00am—Worship 5:30pm-Youth Night	24 Pastor's day off	25	26 Choir Prac- tice 6:30pm	27	28	29
30 10:00am—Sunday School 11:00am—Worship/ Children's Church	31 Pastor's day off					



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**MAUPIN AVENUE ARP
CHURCH**

We're on the web!
www.maupinavenuepresbyterianchurch.org

August Birthdays	
August 19	Ken Rufty
August 30	Jill Rufty

A Personal Note

The Sheets and Harris families would like to thank everyone for helping make Jim's surprise party such a huge success. We are blessed to have such a wonderful church family! We love you all.



The T-shirt contest →