

July - God Bless America

The fair, the parades, fireworks, picnics and bar-b-ques are all over. We celebrated our Nations Day of Independence. Now we need to bet back to giving thanks for our freedoms by celebrating and worshiping the one who makes it all possible.

Our last service in June was on Sunday the 29th. There were **106** in worship, **36** at 8:15, **70** at 10:45. It was our last sermon in the letter series. The letter was "S". The sermon was on Sanctification. Scripture from Phillipians 2:12-18. It's wonderful to hear the old organ played again, by Jim Negretti. Thanks Jim.

July 3rd was the first day of the summer school lunches. About 120 lunches were prepared and delivered by our mission volunteers.

July 6th. There were **86** in worship, **25** at 8:15, **61** at 10:45. Pastor and his family were on vacation. Myrna Johnson delivered the message "For The Good Times". Scripture was Ephesians 6:10-19.

July 10 was the second week for the delivery of the school lunch dinner. 120 meals were delivered.

July 11th was our first Bar-B-Que. Attendance was light. The food was good but we had a lot left over.

July 13th. There were **103** in worship, **29** at 8:15, **74** at 10:45. The Scripture was Romans 1:16-17, 3:22-31

July 17th was the third week for the delivery of the school lunches. We delivered to 115 persons.

July 18th was our second Bar-B-Que. It was a light day again. The total net amount from both of the barbeques was about \$1,000. It was lots of work and we had a low turn out.

July 20th. There were **102** in worship, **28** at 8:15, **74** at 10:45. The Scripture lesson was Romans 4:13-25. The Sermon was about Abraham and Sarah's Faith. At 5pm was the VBS Beach Party Kick off.

July 21st was the first day of the Vacation Bible School. From 9am until Noon. It continues through Friday, July 25th. There were lots of kids everywhere on the beach.

July 24th was the fourth week of the delivery of the school lunches.

July 26th we had the food stand at Jackie Summers sale. It has been a busy month. Won't you come and join in the services or help with the mission work. All help would be greatly appreciated.

Mission Focus for August

Since school will be starting up soon (what happened to summer, anyway?), our Mission Focus for August will be providing the necessary supplies that a student might need to start the school year off right. Please bring any or all of the following items to the church during August:

- One pair of blunt scissors (rounded tip)
- Spiral or tape-bound pads of 8" X 10.5" ruled paper (70 pages or more)
- Twelve inch ruler
- Hand-held pencil sharpener
- Large eraser
- New pencils
- New pens
- Box of 24 crayons
- Folders with pockets

These items will be given to the Meramec Community Mission, who will distribute them through their "Back to School" Program.

Thanks for your support of this important project!

VBS Beach Party "Caught the Wave"

It was a great week at Vacation Bible School. Thirty-seven children enjoyed surfin' through the scriptures and learning the beach be-attitudes. They sang beach songs, were amazed by science demonstrations, created crafts galore, heard spellbinding Bible stories, played fun games and ate delicious snacks. All of this was accomplished with the hard work of many people.

We are most grateful for the donations of money, time, craft and beach decoration items (like Jackie Summers' beach towel) which helped to make our Beach Party VBS such a wonderful success. Six teenagers donated a week of their summer vacation to work as hard as the adults in helping the children have an enjoyable week at VBS. Our thanks goes to Samantha Hearst, Mary Ryan and Sydney Williams, group leaders; Garrett Whitener, music assistant; Avery Griffin and Lane Blankenship, recreation assistants. Before they had surgery this summer, Linda Cuneio and Bob Wymer helped get our crafts ready to go. Jane Rohrer offered her expertise in decorating, taking pictures, and assisting the director. Other group leaders included Jo Palmateer, Ann Miller, Trudy Oberbeck, Sharon Alexander, and Jennifer Lindemeyer. Patt Bryan and Judy Studdard operated the Snack Shack all week, one of the most popular stops each day. Crafts were taught by Amy and Brian Immekus and Beth Neff. Recreation was led by Tracy Ward. Pastor Steve taught the songs. Diane Ward amazed us with science demonstrations, and Jim Negretti had us on the edge of our seats with his re-telling of the Bible stories.

Our mission focus for VBS was "Nothing but Nets". The kids were excited to keep families protected from malaria by supplying mosquito nets to Africa. They raised nearly \$200 to buy 20 nets and practiced one of the beach be-attitudes: BE KIND. It really was a great week at Vacation Bible School as many of us "caught the wave" of God's love. Thanks for all you do at Grace United Methodist Church to share God's love in Sullivan and around the world.

Rachel Williams, VBS Director