

Board Report

Bible Camp held at First Church of Christ, Scientist, Austin, TX

July 27-30, 2015

Dear First and Third Church Members,

We want to sincerely thank you all for your support of our 8th Annual Children's Bible Camp, which is a joint effort between First and Third Churches.

Our Mission Statement is: "To nurture the goodness already within each child, and to have each one discover this for himself." Our theme this year was "Love is Liberty". We met Monday through Thursday from 10-1 at First Church. We had 33 kids from pre-K to high school, divided into 5 classes, and 24 adult staff and other helpers (see list below). The Bible stories we learned about this year were Jesus Healing the Man at the Pool of Bethesda, Daniel in the Lion's Den, Joseph and his coat of many colors, and Esther.

We started and ended each day with singing. Then each morning we had a storyteller relate the Bible story of the day. The storytellers used a great mix of puppet shows, acting, and interactive speaking presentations. After that, the four younger groups met in their classes, where they talked more in depth about the Bible characters and stories.

The older class (7th-12th grade) was our largest class with 10 wonderful kids. They learned more about the Bible stories through writing and acting. They also spent time with each of the younger classes playing games and helping with crafts.

After class time, the younger kids participated in various activities and crafts that supported the Bible story and character for that day. A theme-based snack was provided.

We also did a food drive that tied into the story of Joseph saving Egypt from starvation. Thanks to all the generous giving, we were able to donate 77 pounds of food to a homeless shelter called Caritas of Austin (which means love/charity, in Latin).

As an added bonus to our week, we arranged to have a group visit the Principia Solar Car team at the Circuit of America's Grand Prix race track, after camp on Tuesday. We were able to get a "behind the scenes" tour and close-up look at the car. We learned that the Principia team's goals are to glorify God and to help others.

Mind's unfolding was clearly evident in all of the planning and in each day of Bible Camp. Everything came together in such a harmonious way to make this a fun and inspiring week for the children-and for the adults! It also couldn't have happened without all of the generous donations from each church, parents, and members. We are especially grateful for the supportive and uplifting metaphysical work generously given by our local practitioners.

Our hope is that each child learned more about the Bible and their relationship to God. We couldn't have done it without everyone's help and support, and we are very grateful! Thank you very much!

With love and gratitude,

Cary Heroy

Bible Camp Chairman

Bible Camp staff/helper list:

Teachers- Jill McDaniel, Charlotte Jackson, Susan Baldwin, Beth Jones, Niki Donoho, Barbara Cowart

Co-teachers- KC McDaniel, Kathy Lupher , Renee Sutton, Deb Aupperle, Joy Booth, Claire Kyllonen

Storytellers- Cy Young, Mari Dove, Marjory Hawkins, Charlotte Jackson

Photographers-Barbara Coombs, Barbara Houston, Kayla Merrell, Gary Lupher

Photo Collages-Marty Merrell, Barbara Coombs

Crafts/Activities-Marty Merrell, Sherina Warstler

Music-Barbara Coombs

Flyer/t-shirt logo-Jill McDaniel

T-shirts-Marty Merrell, Cary Heroy

Snacks-Cary Heroy

Helpers- Joyce Langford, Nicole Jackson, Barbara Newton

Metaphysical support- Becky Barrett-Alford, Sunny Scott-Luther, Sammie Gray, Laura Moliter

Chairman-Cary Heroy

Church logistics-Susan Yenne, Carol Cox