

AUGUST 2023

The Suburban Connection

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Babylon: Daniel's Courage in Captivity Vacation Bible School 2023

So Long Babylon!! We all took a trip back in time to Babylon and met Daniel who went through some pretty tough times during his life in King Nebuchadnezzar's palace. The main theme all week during Vacation Bible school was **GOD IS WITH US**. **When things change** - Daniel & his friends were taken by the King from Jerusalem to Babylon. **When we need help** - Daniel had to interpret the King's dream without knowing what the dream was. **When we're afraid** - Daniel's friends faced the fiery furnace because they refused to bow to the King's statue. **When you're lonely** - Daniel prays, even though it means he might get into trouble. **When you're thankful** - God saves Daniel from the lions! **GOD IS WITH US!!!** Believe me when I tell you that we all felt at least one or all of these at some point during the week. God was certainly with us as we had an average of 37 kids per night.

I want to thank all those who showed up to help us set up & break down. You were invaluable in getting this production going. It was a lot of prep work that was done so fast I kept feeling like we were forgetting something! Our sets looked AMAZING!!! Brian Super always does a magnificent job in getting our sets up. I think he had an extra bounce in his step this year because he didn't have to build or construct anything!!!

Thank you to all who donated this year. You really don't know how much it is appreciated. It not only cuts down on costs but saves one of us from making several extra trips to purchase things.

This was one of my favorite years in VBS because I LOVE a good marketplace. I may be a little biased, but we had **THE BEST** shop owners and assistants out there! They kept the kids engaged and even challenged them on what kind of God Daniel believed in and why (remember these were Babylonian shop owners so they didn't always believe in the one true God). The kids never backed down though and preached about how our God is a fair and loving God, not like their false Gods. Thank you to our snack group, Ms. Charlotte, Ms. Betty Owens & Marsha Utley for keeping the portions under control. We had some really snacky kids as the week progressed, so the oversight was needed.

Babylon continued inside...

Save the Date!

Men's Breakfast
August 5th & 19th

8:00 am
Fellowship Hall

Senior Luncheon
August 17th

11:00 am
Fellowship Hall

Sunday School
Teacher's Mtg

August 12th
10:00 am

OCC Luncheon
August 12th

11:30 am
Fellowship Hall

From the Pastor's Desk: When I Am Afraid!

Psalm 56:3

"When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God, I trust; I shall not be afraid." (Psalm 56:3,4)

David penned these words as he reflected on a time when his life was in constant danger. David fled Israel and Saul, thinking he might find refuge among the Philistines. However, instead of finding safety, he is filled with fear when Achish, king of Gath, doesn't provide David with the warm welcome he was seeking. David was afraid! David realized that his life was at risk. If we were in David's shoes, we also would have been afraid.

We have all experienced things in this life that have caused us to be afraid. Whenever we believe that something threatens our safety or well-being, the natural human response is fear. Fear is a human reality we all experience. As Christians it is God's will for us not to live in fear (2 Timothy 1:7). Fear keeps us from trusting, and obeying God. Just like fear kept the Israelites from trusting and obeying God when they refused to enter the promised land, because there were giants in the land. Fear has a way of disorienting and distorting reality. Fear tells us that whatever is threatening our well-being is invincible and all powerful. But the word of God is the ultimate source of reality, and it tells us that only our God is eternal and all powerful.

Thankfully, in Psalm 56, David shows us how to successfully fight fear! When David was afraid, he deliberately chose to trust in God! David made a conscious choice not to focus on the source of his fear, but to focus on the promises of God's Word. God had promised David that he would one day be king of Israel. David knew that God was faithful and keeps his promises. Even though David's life was threatened by powerful forces he knew that God and his powerful promises were greater. David walked by faith and not by sight.

None of us know what tomorrow holds... what potential sources of fear are just around the corner. But we do know **WHO** holds tomorrow! In order to overcome the fear in our lives, we need to fill our hearts with the powerful promises of God's word. Here are a few promises that were shared during a recent midweek power.

Isaiah 41:10, "Fear not for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Psalm 23:4, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, because you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me."

Romans 8:28, "And we know that for those who love God, all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

Philippians 1:6, "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

Proverbs 3:5 & 6, "Trust in the lord, with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

Romans 8:31 & 32, "If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?"

The next time, fear comes knocking at your door, be sure to answer it with the powerful, fear-silencing promises of God's Word!

Trusting in the Lord with you,
Pastor Todd

Seniors Ministry

At the July meeting our speaker, Gary Zalas, spoke on senior safety. He encouraged us to be careful of our surroundings when we venture out for routine errands plus gave us some tips on credit card safety. We also enjoyed an all-American lunch of hotdogs, chips, and many sides.

On Thursday, August 17, we will be hearing a wonderful message from Rabbi Derek Blumenthal (with Chosen People Ministries) about "Messiah in the Fall Festivals." We enthusiastically invite everyone to attend! We will enjoy a delicious lunch of Chicken Tortellini, just bring a salad or dessert to share. We will also be taking up an offering for Chosen People Ministries. Please come prepared. See you then!



Operation Christmas Child Corner

We have a responsibility to take the message of the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Every shoebox gift is delivered in Jesus' name to give a child in need of a glimpse of God's love. Many of the boys and girls who receive shoebox gifts are then invited to participate in our follow up discipleship program, "The Greatest Journey". This is 12 exciting lessons taught by in-country trained volunteers. The lessons encourage the children to faithfully follow Jesus and to tell others about Him. Through this study many children and their families come to know Jesus and ask Him into their hearts.

Our participation in filling and shipping off hundreds of shoebox gifts each year, help to reach hundreds of individual children in Christ's name. Keep up the good work. Every donation of a toy or of funds to help ship the boxes is important.

YOU ARE INVITED

To our first **Christmas in August Luncheon**

To support Operation Christmas Child

Saturday, August 12, 11:30 – 1:30 pm

At Suburban in the Fellowship Hall.

Invite your friends and families to come too.

Have some fun, some good food and great fellowship!

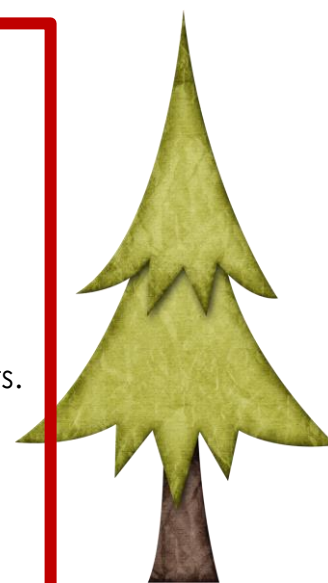
As well as hear and see some video testimonies from shoebox recipients.

Your cost is only an item to help fill a shoebox gift.

(Please sign up in the foyer by the church office.)

August collection items are still: **crayons, washcloths and notebooks.**

Lynn Cooke



PROMOTION

SUNDAY

We're Moving Up!

September 3, 2023

More information to come

SCC Church Staff



Rev. C. Todd Haynes
Senior Pastor



MISSION: WHY DO WE EXIST?

To glorify God, by making disciples of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

VISION: WHAT WILL THAT LOOK LIKE?

A growing faith in God
A growing love for God
A growing love for others

ACTION: HOW WILL THIS HAPPEN?

Drawing near to God
Pursuing community
Reaching our world

Visit us on Facebook! Search for "Suburban Christian Church" on www.facebook.com

We want to hear from you! Contact us at newsletter@sccvb.org

Babylon continued...

To our Tribe Leaders.... Once again you made this week wonderful!!! I know this was a different and confusing schedule but overall, you made it work and the kids were able to enjoy every aspect of the marketplace (this was a learning curve for both of us!). I loved being able to look out at our Tribes during the worship songs and seeing you dancing right along with the kids! My favorite time though is when you had your Tribe Time. I knew that some of those conversations were pretty deep and meaningful. It means a lot to kids to be able to share things about their lives to people they can trust and I think you all built that trust very quickly. Thank you for stepping up to fill the most crucial role in vacation bible school.

A special thank you to Christen Haynes who every year sits all alone in the sound booth just waiting to play songs or videos and she does it without grumbling (or if she does I can't hear it because she's in the sound booth). You are AWESOME!

Our very own Lou Miller was Daniel & Pastor Todd was his comic relief in the form of the King's Chief Advisor Ashpenaz. They were fabulous and really should be nominated for Academy Awards...I'll look into that.

Dana Mosteller is now our official First Aid nurse during VBS. I don't think you had to perform any triage this year but Thank You for being willing to set up in the back hallway where it was quiet-er. Maybe you're on to something here....

Games were a HUGE hit, led by Pete Schnurr & his 2 assistants, Will & Nathaniel Schnurr. You guys were absolute troopers out there in the heat every night! Thank you for agreeing to try out this role this year.

I wouldn't be able to do any of this without my 2 sidekicks: Stacey Super & Wendy Haynes. You guys are my right AND left hands, and I wouldn't be able to function June through July 21 if it wasn't for you! Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Carol Brooks



Vacation Bible School
friends, fun, fellowship



Men's Ministry

The Saturday Morning Men's Prayer Breakfast and Bible Study continues to meet on the first and third Saturdays of each month. In August, it will meet on the 5th and 19th.

Last month's study in I Samuel concluded Chapter 19 and introduced Chapter 20. It involved Saul's jealous anger against David because of his growing popularity with the people and with Saul's continued attempts to kill him.



This month, on August 5th, the study will continue in Chapter 20 in which Saul's son, Jonathan, will confirm his loyalty to David by revealing his father's plans to kill him and helping him escape. Saul's anger was then directed toward Jonathan and he told him, *"For as long as (David) lives on earth, neither you nor your kingdom shall be established"* (20:31). In his anger, Saul then hurled his spear at him. Nevertheless, Jonathan continued to aid David.

On August 19th the study will look at Chapter 21 which is centered on David's escape from Saul and his visit to the shrine at Nob (north of Jerusalem) where its priest, Ahimelech, extended hospitality to him and gave him Goliath's sword for his protection. (When Saul learned of that, he had Nob's priest killed, 85 of them. That will be studied in Chapter 22) David then fled to Gath (in Philistia, on its border with Judah) where he feared its king and pretended to be insane. From there, he escaped to the cave of Adullam in Judah's hill country. Those are fascinating accounts.

The Men's Prayer Breakfast and Bible Study is an outstanding opportunity for the study of God's Word, prayer, and fellowship for men of all ages; church members and non-members. The breakfast and the Bible study are open to all men, and all are invited to enjoy a good, homemade breakfast of eggs (scramble and fried), sausage, corned beef hash, pancakes, waffles, biscuits, grits, sausage gravy, fruit, orange juice, and coffee. Come and enjoy good fellowship, and the Good News found in God's Word. It all begins at 8:00 AM and concludes around 9:30, or so.

Bob Grymes

PLEASE JOIN US



Music Notes

*We are writing a gospel
A chapter each day.
With deeds that we do,
By words that we say.
Men read what we write,
Whether faithless or true.
Say, what is the gospel
According to you?*



We do write God's word with our actions each day. Let your reflect His love and sing a song of joy and adoration for ever hear of your love for Him.

Our second Praise and Worship Night has not occurred at the writing of this article, but I'm praising God already for what I know will be an outstanding night of sharing our musical talents with each other while we shout praises to God. The ice cream social that is to follow will just be the sweet ending to a night of Christian fellowship with music! Thank you to all who participated in any way.
Lynn Cooke



Nursery News

Date	Sunday School	Worship Service	Service Helper
8/6/23	Melissa Tucker Betty Owens	Stacie Raymer Ravyn Thomas	Nathaniel Schnurr
8/13/23	Melissa Tucker Betty Owens	Jeff Herring Susan Haynes	Donavan Saucedo
8/20/23	Stacey Super	Nancy Herbst Chris Bulaski	Abby Devell
8/27/22	Melissa Tucker	Laura Tyler Teresa Birk	Nyssa Rakes



The Suburban nursery is bustling once again during the Sunday school hour and the 10:15 church service. Many thanks to the wonderful volunteers who care for the young children. Anyone who is interested in helping one Sunday per month during Sunday school or church service, please contact Stacie Raymer (sraymer@odu.edu; 757-589-5731). We could still use two volunteers for those months when we have 5 Sundays! Young teenage helpers are also welcome to help.
Stacie Raymer

**“But Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them,
for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.” (Matt 19:14)**

Suburban Kids Children's Church News



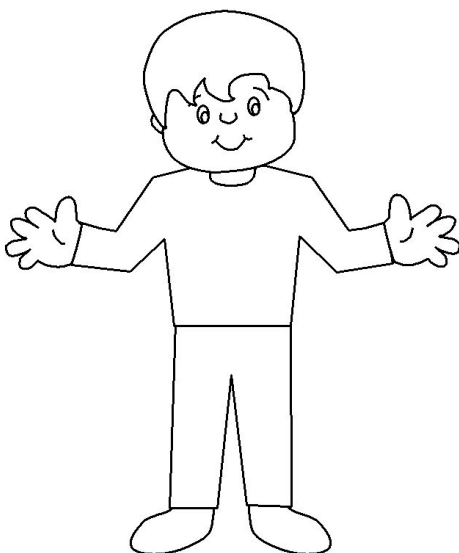
Children's church has started their study of the Armor of God. We began with a lesson about the power of God through the story of Jesus calming the stormy sea. Our next lesson was about temptations and how we can push back when we are tempted. We heard the story of how Jesus was tempted three times by Satan and He was able to push back. We discussed what armor is and how it can be used to resist the Devil. We look forward to learning more about God's armor and how it helps us resist sin. We've had fun with experiments and games. All children in grades K - 3 are welcome to join us each Sunday. Mary Justis

August Schedule for Children's Church

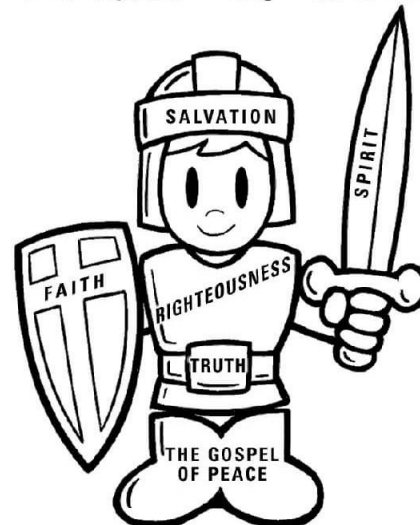
Date	Lead	Assistant	Helper
8/6/23	Mary Justis	Jeff Herring	Sophia Deuell
8/13/23	Lois Ritger	Jeff Haynes	Samara Saucedo
8/20/23	Mary Justis	Susan Haynes	Elena Tyler
8/27/23	Lois Ritger	Jeff Herring	TBA

See if you can draw the Armor of God on the young boy!

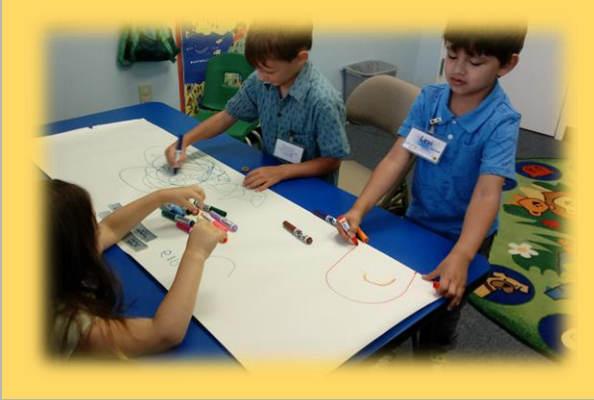
Put on the Armor of God!



Armor of God



Sunday School Update



It is no mistake that Daniel has been studied throughout our church lately. Some of our children would call that a God sighting. A God sighting is a way they see God in their everyday lives. Daniel has been taught by Pastor Todd on Sunday mornings, during our VBS week, and now in Kathy and Chris' Pre-K and K class. During the month of July, the children started by learning how Daniel and his friends obeyed and worshipped the One true God. Next, they read the story of the handwriting on the wall. They finished the month by hearing about Daniel in the lion's den. How awesome that God alone could orchestrate the details of our church so that Daniel was taught to all age levels this summer!

Laura Tyler



Attention all Sunday School Teachers!
There will be a teacher's meeting on Saturday, August 12th, at 10:00 am.

Sunday School
 teacher meeting

Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. 1 Timothy 4:12

Belong Women's Ministry

I thoroughly enjoyed having the ladies in my home on Saturday, June 24th! We enjoyed a relaxing time of refreshments and just hanging out. Amie Mitchell and Susan Williams gave us a quick lesson in planning for a cruise and what to expect which left us wanting to go with Susan on her cruise just to see if it was going to be as hilarious as the preparation! Amie also shared with us her quick vacation plans to see The Ark in Kentucky (she left after our get together). All I can say is that it was just a good ole time of fellowship. We concluded with a time of prayer for our church family and for the prayer requests mentioned during our time together. I meant to take pictures, but I had so much fun that I forgot to snap any. If you weren't able to join us this time, please make sure to sign up for our next food and fellowship.

I can't believe that summer is quickly coming to a close. Before we know it, kids will be heading back to school. With that in mind, our Belong Women's Ministry will be hosting a fall Bible study titled *Church of the Small Things*. If you would like to join us, please sign up in the foyer near the church office. The only thing you will need to purchase is the study guide (available on Amazon). The study will begin after Labor Day!



The Belong Gang is also in the process of planning a couple of fall activities. Keep your eyes open for more information and remember – **there's always a place for you!**

Wendy Haynes



VBS Highlights





Suburban Kids



Jesus Walked on Water Word Search

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be right to left, up and down, or diagonally.

V	R	L	T	D	R	E	J	I	S	P	P	Y	N	M
Q	S	K	U	B	I	R	Z	M	A	Z	R	P	T	I
D	E	N	K	J	U	S	C	W	A	Z	A	W	S	R
W	A	L	K	E	D	O	C	Y	M	O	Y	T	T	A
W	T	N	S	W	V	E	D	I	K	F	Q	Q	S	C
J	A	D	N	W	I	N	D	G	P	N	O	O	C	L
O	S	V	O	K	X	Z	C	Y	A	L	S	Y	O	E
D	U	U	E	C	N	X	R	U	F	A	E	D	D	S
L	V	F	X	S	O	S	K	D	H	F	X	S	E	V
K	M	A	O	J	K	B	O	A	T	R	M	M	J	A
E	U	I	C	E	G	R	C	B	O	A	N	X	F	R
I	I	T	P	E	T	E	R	U	A	I	Z	M	M	P
S	N	H	S	K	C	F	G	E	T	D	A	D	B	C
C	O	F	T	N	S	H	D	W	E	I	K	I	B	Q
F	R	W	A	T	E	R	B	Z	G	D	O	U	B	T

AFRAID
FAITH
WALKED

BOAT
MIRACLES
WATER

DISCIPLES
PETER
WAVES

DOUBT
PRAY
WIND

Directions: Look up these Bible verses and fill in the blanks.

Ephesians 6: 1-3

Children, _____ your parents in the _____, for this is _____. Honor your _____ and _____ (this is the _____ commandment with a _____), that it may go well with _____ and that you may _____ in the.

Jesus Walks On Water. Matthew 14:25

