



PRAISE GOD FOR EXCITING MINISTRIES THIS SUMMER

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:

“**Armor of God**” was the theme this year for Vacation Bible School. This year’s VBS June 16-20 from 9:00 A.M. until 12:00 noon. Parents brought their children that are

going into K–6th grades. Almost 30 adults and 25 youth were a blessing in the children’s lives as we put on the “**Armor of God**”. Thanks to all who led, helped and especially to the children who attended and to Vikki Mock and Elena McFaden, Coordinators.

SUMMER YOUTH CAMP, July 6-10 at Twin Oaks Ranch near Buda, TX featured guest speaker, Bobby Kohler, encouraging the youth to “Do All for the Glory of God.” Most of the youth were from LVUMC, but several came from Universal City UMC, FUMC in Junction, TX and two from Parker Lane UMC in Austin. The Joyful Noise Praise Band led worship and each of the members shared their testimony and ministered to the many youth who committed their lives to Christ for the first time or rededicated themselves to Christ. Many of the adult counselors took vacation time from work to participate. This year we had a kitchen crew dedicated full time to preparing and serving the food. Several parents also assisted in providing transportation to and from the camp.

TRIP TO WALES: The Joyful Noise Praise Band has finally

August is upon us. For our teachers and students, this means the end of vacations and getting back to a structured routine of waking up and getting off to school. For me, I am planning many fall programs. The big events I want you to keep in mind are the following: our Confirmation Class, our Laity Banquet and a Wednesday Night Bible Study.

Although I have not confirmed a date for our Confirmation Class, I can share this with you. We will meet in the chapel on Wednesdays from 6:00pm to 6:30pm. The curriculum for the class will include the following: What we believe about the Bible; God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit along with studies on the history and structure of our Church. I would like for everyone in the 7th grade and above, who have not attended a confirmation class, to join us. Please keep this class in mind for your fall schedule.

Our First Annual Laity Banquet is scheduled for the evening of September 20, 2008. PLEASE CIRCLE THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR! This is a time for us to celebrate what God is doing in our (His) church. I am encouraging each and every ministry area and small groups to participate. Let us celebrate what God has done

embarked on their evangelistic mission to Wales where they will share the Gospel in music, song and their testimonies and witnesses. Please pray for us daily as we follow this itinerary:

Flight # 196 leaves at 8:00 p.m. nonstop to London arriving at 11:05 a.m. Sunday, July 27th.

While in Wales we will be in the town of Risca helping Agape Community Church.

Monday – Street ministry in the morning / service at The Manor, Thistle Way in the evening

Tuesday – Street ministry in the morning / service at The Risca Rugby Club in the evening

Wednesday – Free time in the morning / service at Rogertone AOG, Newport in the evening

Thursday – Helping Bethel Community Church in Newport

Friday – Helping Bethel Community Church

Saturday – Tent Outreach in Brynmawr

Sunday – Open for now

We will return Monday, August 4th.

Flight # 197 leaves at 1:15 p.m. nonstop to Houston and arrives at 5:30 p.m. the same day at Houston International Airport.

I believe this trip will have a lasting impact on the people of Wales with whom we visit, especially the Joyful Noise Praise Band, but also many members of our congregation.

SHALOM! Pastor Harry.



COMING THIS FALL

in your ministry or small group this past year and what you perceive God WILL BE DOING THROUGH YOU in the near future.

Nominations will be our way to celebrate ministries and small groups. Each area will be asked to nominate one person to represent their area. A short narrative of the ministry/small group’s past and future endeavors will begin the nomination. This will include any accomplishments the representing individual has contributed to the group, church, community or beyond. Each submission will be celebrated at the banquet and in addition, our Lay Leadership Committee will review each submission for consideration of 1 of 4 special awards. At this time, titles of awards are not chosen but we intend to tie the titles to historic laity leadership.

Finally, I ask you to consider joining a Bible Study Group this fall. I intend to lead a Wednesday Night Bible Study group from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. Although it might not be possible for this group to meet at our church, I am exploring the availability of space in facilities near our church. God Bless

Pastor Jerry

Ministries of our Church

SCHOLARSHIP FOR LYDIA PATTERSON INSTITUTE SECURED

Lydia Patterson Institute is a United Methodist secondary and preparatory school in El Paso, Texas, where students from Mexico come to learn English-as-a Second Language and a high school education. Ninety-five percent go on to college and university. Pastor Harry and Belia served there for 14 years and Pastor Harry has been on the Board of Trustees there since 2000.

Praise God! Due to the generosity of several donors, we will be able to provide a FULL SCHOLARSHIP PLUS = \$3,600 FOR A DESERVING STUDENT AT Lydia Patterson Institute for this coming academic year of 2008-2009. Several weeks ago, Dr. Socorro DeAnda, President at Lydia Patterson Institute visited our 11 AM worship service. A family member of one of our parishioners was visiting and was led to make a large donation, so instead of the \$1,300 half scholarship, we are blest to send a \$3,600 check to support a Full Scholarship Plus. This is another example of God blessing us beyond our (my) expectations. I hope and pray we can make this an annual mission outreach contribution.



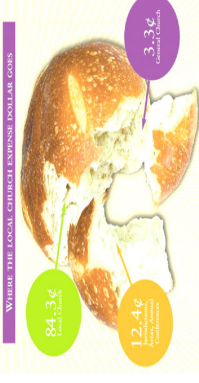
My family and I cannot find the words to express how much we appreciate your kindness and generosity. Our pastor and this congregation immediately responded to my family’s needs. Even thou many of you may not know us personally, you still sacrificed your time, money, and gifts. All we can say is thank you, thank you so much. This experience and your support has given my family a new appreciation for what is truly important in this world, God’s Love, Blessings and a Peace that truly passes understanding. May God continue to bless this church, this community and His people. In Christ’s Love and Our Gratitude, The Bass Family

HOLY LAND ORIENTATION 7 PM, Tuesday, August 12, 2008

Pastor Harry has been asked to lead a trip to the Holy Land sometime during 2009. Normal tours are about ten days with options for extended tours to surrounding areas. Prices begin around \$1,800 depending on dates and options selected. Our meeting on 8-12-08 will be an orientation to see who may be interested and what time of the year is preferable. Some who have been before will share videos, pictures and experiences. Dessert refreshments will be served in the Family Life Building.

A PORTION MEANT FOR OTHERS

Each month we will feature information about where the apportionments from La Vernia UMC goes to support ministry regionally and around the world. Every four years General Conference, made up of 500 elected Lay Delegates and 500 elected Clergy Delegates vote on a budget for the entire United Methodist Church. The General Council on Finance and Administration uses a formula to distribute funding request to each of the 65 Annual Conferences in the UMC. In 2008 the request for the entire UMC is \$161,577,500. The Southwest Texas Conferences takes the amount requested of it adds what it needs to operate along with what each district needs to operate and divides it among the 348 local churches according to a formula based on how much each spends on itself, mainly salaries and programs, excluding capital expenditures and giving to mission causes. For 2008 the entire amount for the SWTC is \$9,419,477. In 2006 LVUMC’s apportionment was \$39,298. In 2007 our apportionment was \$45,406. In 2008 it will be \$48,130. Below continues an explanation of a portion-meant for others:



CONNECTIONAL FUND

This apportionment enables the conference to pay equitable salaries to and moving expenses for pastors and supports the District Superintendent Fund and Episcopal Fund. The District Superintendent Fund pays the salaries and office expenses of our seven district superintendents. The Episcopal Fund, a denominational apportionment, pays salaries, housing, office expenses and travel costs for active bishops and pension benefits for retired bishops and their spouses. **The total apportioned to all churches in the Southwest Texas Conference for The Connectional Fund in 2008 is \$1,726,142 of which La Vernia UMC’s share is \$8,100.**



Mission Trip to Chiapas

There will be a mission trip to Chiapas Mexico in the Fall. If you would like to go you will need a passport. It will take about two months to get a passport so you need to start the process now. You can obtain a passport at your local post office. If you have any questions call Richard Good at 210-647-2675 or the church office.

