

Kingdom Builders

"Partnering to provide tools to further the faith of our children for Christ's Kingdom"

All ages, stages to worship jointly

June/July 2008

By Valerie Tucker

"All the believers were together and had everything in common."

Acts 2:44

In the book of Acts, when the church first began, believers of all ages and stages came together to worship God, break bread and minister to one another's needs. What a picture of harmony and love as people united because of one thing they had in common...their following of Christ.

This summer, several parts of our church body also have the opportunity to come together to worship God as the elementary-age children join the adults in the church service each Sunday.

Once again, people of all ages and stages will be uniting as one to worship their Lord and Savior.

It's always interesting to watch God work. Frequently, He will give the same vision to multiple people to achieve His purposes. Such was the case with this idea.

For quite some time, Donna and I had pondered the idea of having the children join in the service several times throughout the year as an opportunity for our body to unite and for the kids to see how adults worship God. Without having discussed the idea with any of the leadership, the elders started to have the same vision. They desired to have more of a family atmosphere during the summertime when things are a bit more casual in church and there's more room in the sanctuary for children to attend.

Other people also approached us,

expressing their desire for more of a family ministry. God appeared to be at work!

The ideas culminated in a plan whereby beginning June 15, children in the first through fifth grade Sunday school classes will attend the first part of the service with their parents (participating in singing, offertory, and prayer), and then be dismissed to their classes before the teaching. Sunday school teachers will be standing in the back of the auditorium with signs and children will go to their designated spots to be taken to their classrooms. Following the service, parents will pick up their children in their classrooms.

Children can get restless during an "adult" activity such as this, so the following are some ideas you could use to keep them engaged.

◆ If your child struggles with staying focused, pick up a copy of the lyrics from the rack in the back of the auditorium and let the child use that to sing from instead of the overhead. The lyric sheet could also be helpful if your child is unable to see the overhead over those seated in front of them.

◆ If your child doesn't want to sing, ask them to draw pictures of what they think of when they hear each song.

◆ Allow your child to participate in the service by bringing money to put in the offering plate.

We're excited about this opportunity for our body to unite and will be praying that God will impact the children and adults through this experience.

Young and old worshipping God

Mark these dates ...

- 6/1 Sun.** Summer S.S. staff begin teaching
- 6/1 Sun.** Vacation Bible School registration begins
- 6/8 Sun.** VBS registration continues
- 6/15 Sun.** VBS registration continues
- 6/15 Sun.** Elementary-aged children begin attending first part of worship service with parents
- 6/23 Mon.** Vacation Bible School begins @ Cole 8:50 a.m. to noon lasts through Fri., 6/27

Any ideas for the newsletter?
Any parenting-related topic that you'd like to see written about?
Any article that you'd like to contribute?

If so, please contact Lisa McLean at 846-9376 or via email at colebuilders@yahoo.com.

"I thank my God every time I remember you. . . . I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Phil. 1: 3-6

Listed below are some of the staff members who serve faithfully in our Sunday school program. More names will be included next issue. Please pray for them. You could clip the list to use as a bookmark and reminder.

First service

2 year olds class

3 year olds class

- Jerry Nielson
- Russell Willerton
- Hillary Newville
- Katelyn Stevens

1st & 2nd grade

- Mike & Dawn Norrie
- Alaina Bredy
- Maria & Alanna Turner
- Ryan Roper

4th grade

- Tim & Annie Johnson
- Scott Wilson

Second Service

Nursery

- Bridget Barzee
- Amber Foster
- Lily & Shareya Tabor
- Ellen Rayburn
- Lauren Sichenze

4 year olds

- Cindy & Ben Crawford
- Marilyn Rayburn
- Cindy Mork

2nd & 3rd graders

- Kendall & Mark Nielson
- Kristen Rhymer
- Marty Ostrowski

Praise Him!



Our elementary-aged children join with their Sunday school teachers and some members of the adult choir to lift their voices and sing praises to our Lord, during both services on Palm Sunday. This picture was taken during the first service.

Vacation Bible School to start soon

In just a couple of weeks, more than 200 children are expected to converge on Cole Community Church to embark on a rainforest adventure!

Any four year old through fifth grader is invited to attend "Amazon Expedition," a week-long trek that will explore the seven "C's of History." Those "C's" will include creation; corruption—also known as the fall; catastrophe—the flood; confusion—the tower of Babel; Christ, cross, and consummation—God's plan of redemption and our hope for the future, as God prepares a new heavens and earth for His children.

The jungle journey will begin Monday, June 23, and end on Friday, June 27. Each day will begin at 8:50 a.m. and end at noon.

Registration is under way and will continue through Sunday, June 15. Parents can register their children this Sunday or next Sunday in the church foyer or they can pick up a registration form at the church during the week. There's no charge, but dona-

tions are being accepted.

For those adults who would like to help with Vacation Bible School (VBS), a handful of positions remain.

Melissa Freese, co-coordinator of this summer's VBS with Kim Moore, says the greatest needs include nursery workers and small group leaders.

Nursery workers are needed to care for the young children of other VBS volunteers. For those who couldn't commit to help all morning, the VBS team also needs nursery workers to watch children of volunteers who will be attending a prayer time starting at 8:20 a.m. until 8:50 a.m. each day.

If you're more interested in developing relationships with a small group of children and leading them each day from one station to the next throughout the morning, then you'd make a great small group leader.

Teenagers also are being sought to serve as assistants to small group leaders or to serve at specific stations.

If you'd like to help or need more details, contact Melissa.