



The Epistle

VOL. 5, ISS. 2

WWW.FBCT.NET

SEPTEMBER 2011



COMING SOON:

- Sept 23—Camping Trip at Clinton Lake
- Sept 30—Movie Night at Savoy 16 "Courageous"
- October 8—Fall Festival 4-8pm
- October 23—Movie Night "Time Changer"
- October 26—AWANA Trunk-r-Treat
- October 30—Sing-spiration
- November 22—Community Thanksgiving Service

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

VBS 2011 2
continued

Nursery Remodel 2

A Politically Correct Church? 3

Movie Night at Savoy 16 3

AWANA Kick-Off 4

VBS 2011: Big Apple Adventure

By Kandy Woodcock

About a week before VBS started, our very own Baptist church began to transform into a big city with lots of lights, buildings, and landmarks. A small section of Tolono located on the corner of Holden and Pease Streets became New York City. All the children had to do now was to grab a cab and get ready for fun around every corner!



Our adventure in the Big Apple began Sunday, July 24 and continued through Thursday, July 28. As the children explored the big city they learned how to step out in faith and connect with Jesus—sharing the message of Christ with their world. Our theme verse was Romans 10:17 - "So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ."



Each day the children connected with God's Word as they rotated through several different sites. They visited Worship Rally at Times Square, Bible Study and Games at Battery Park, Crafts District, Mission Central, Midtown Snacks, Music Backstage, and Playground 1017. Our leaders did a great job reinforcing the Bible study and life applications at each stop.

On Day 1 the children Connected with Faith! Our Bible Story was The Centurion Acts in Faith (Matthew 8:5-13) and we learned that we can have faith in Jesus.

Day 2 the children Connected with Love! Our Bible Story was A Woman Responds with Love (Luke 7:36-38, 44-48) and we learned that we can love Jesus.

Day 3 the children Connected with Trust! Our Bible Story was Nicodemus Chooses

to Trust (John 3:1-18, 19:38-42) and we learned that we can trust Jesus.

Day 4 the children Connected with Others! Our Bible Story was The Samaritan Woman Tells Others (John 4:1-30, 39-42) and we learned that we can tell others about Jesus.

Day 5 the children Connected with Life! Our Bible Story was The Disciples Receive Instruction (Acts 1:1-11) and we learned that we can live for Jesus.

Our attendance this year was great! We had 69 children enrolled and an average attendance of 54. Our biggest night we had 59 children!

We had 44 workers enrolled this year and never had less than 40 workers on any given night. Isn't our church AMAZING? But best of all, we had 3 children give their lives to Christ! What a great week! Praise & glory to God!



Join us next year for VBS 2012 "Amazing Wonders Aviation: Encountering God's Awesome Power"

VBS 2011 (continued from page 1)

We finished our week on Friday with a Central Park Themed Family Night. The church was packed to maximum capacity!

The parents enjoyed a program with songs and games from each class and got a chance to tour the church and classrooms. We also gave out a lot of prizes including a 5 foot tall blow-up Statue of Liberty. We ended the night with an outdoor social. Everyone

enjoyed New York style hot dogs, nachos and cheese, delicious desserts, freshly popped popcorn, and sno-cones. The church yard looked quite a bit like a New York City scene with all the people. It was great getting to meet so many parents of the children who attended VBS.

Even though the hustle and bustle of the big city is now over, our work is not done yet. We need to do



what we taught the children to do and step out in faith share the message of Christ with our surrounding communities.

Thanks to all those that served during VBS. We hope the week inspired your faith and helped you grow closer to Jesus.



Nursery Remodel

By Holly Metesh

This summer the FBCT nursery staff gave the church nursery a facelift! We stripped the wallpaper, painted the walls, doors and trim, and enlisted a very skilled seamstress in the church to create the perfect window treatments.

Along with the new paint and fabric, the staff went through coloring books, toys, and children's books to make sure everything was age-appropriate, clean, and in working order. The time it took to go through the toys was well spent, as we plan on donating many of the good toys to local families during the Give-Away garage sale on September 17.

The remaining toys were cleaned by some of the church youth. On their last days of summer before heading back to school, they spent several hours scrubbing and polishing toys. How about a hand for our dedicated youth?

The nursery also received two new gliders, a new infant seat, infant bouncer,



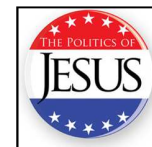
toddler push toys, new toy storage and two new pack 'n play cribs to replace the cribs which had been recalled by the manufacturer.

We're so grateful to the volunteers who spent their free time this summer making the nursery a clean, updated place for our church's young children to spend Sunday school and worship services! Because of them and the money allotted to this project, we now have more space, less clutter, and many new and exciting toys for our little ones to play with.





A Politically Correct Church?



Political correctness is definitely invading the Church in America. The effects of this are seen in the downfall of many once strong theological denominations. For example, the Methodist Church once held many of the traditional views that marriage was restricted to a man and a woman. However, today the church welcomes homosexual couples and openly expands the definition to include same sex couples. The Episcopal Church is following a similar course of action by ordaining homosexuals into the ministry. The American Baptist Church has made major changes in recent years by ordaining homosexuals and women to the ministry.¹ While I chose these three particular

denominations as recent causality of this movement; the list could be easily expanded to include Presbyterians, Anglicans, Pentecostals, Church of God and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship which broke from the Southern Baptist Convention. So, why are so many mainstream denominations changing course on the institution of traditional marriage, embracing the homosexual movement and ordaining women to ministry?

The answer is simple. They are embracing the "political correctness" mindset of the culture. The church is trying to reach the modern culture and unfortunately, is becoming the modern culture. The church has embraced these lifestyles, which

the bible condemns, because they don't want to offend anyone. I don't believe the "political correctness" environment in the church is going to slow anytime soon. I believe major theological foundations are being attacked from those within the church: the Inerrancy of Scripture, the Creation Narrative and the Depravity of Mankind just to name a few. So, what should our response be in light of these dangerous developments? Again, the answer is simple. Paul declares, "So, then, brothers, stand firm² and hold to the traditions³ that you were taught by us, either by spoken word or by our letter" (2 Thessalonians 2:15).

In Christ,
Pastor Mike

Notations:

1) I believe the ordination of women to the pastoral ministry is not only a theological error (1 Thess. 3:1-7), but is a by-product of embracing same sex marriage. That is, one perversion leads to another perversion.

2) The Greek word *steko* (stand) is an active imperative verb which means to continue to be. Coupled with the *karteo* (firm) which means to hold onto an object, the message is clear — Paul desires is that we continue to keep a tight grasp on his teaching.

3) "Traditions" (*paradosis* in the Greek language) refers to instructions given by the Apostle Paul and not those outside the apostolic scope of authority. Therefore, Paul views the authority of Scripture as the final source of all teachings which comes directly from the Father and must be upheld at all cost.

See also 2 Thessalonians 3:6 and 2 Timothy 3:16.

FBCT Movie Night Out - "COURAGEOUS"

Friday, September 30 around 7:00pm at Savoy 16 Theater

"Filled with action-packed police drama, "Courageous" is the fourth film from Sherwood Pictures, the movie-making ministry of Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia. Riveted moviegoers will once again find themselves laughing, crying, and cheering as they are challenged and inspired by everyday heroes who long to be the kinds of dads that make a lifelong impact on their children.

Protecting the streets is second nature to these men. Raising their children in a God-honoring way? That's courageous.

Four men, one calling: To serve and protect. As law

enforcement officers, Adam Mitchell, Nathan Hayes, David Thomson, and Shane Fuller are confident and focused. Yet at the end of the day, they face a challenge that none of them are truly prepared to tackle: fatherhood.

While they consistently give their best on the job, good enough seems to be all they can muster as dads. But they're quickly discovering that their standard is missing the mark.

When tragedy hits home, these men are left wrestling with their hopes, their fears, their faith, and their fathering. Can a newfound urgency help these dads draw closer to God ... and to their children?"

www.courageousthemovie.com





Come Worship

with Us!

Sunday:

Early Service—

8:15am

Sunday School—

9:30am

Morning Service—

10:40am

Evening Service—

6:00pm

Youth Group—

6:30pm

Wednesday:

Prayer Meeting—

6:00pm

AWANA—

6:30-8:00pm

First Baptist

Church of Tolono

204 W. Holden

PO Box 247

Tolono, IL 61880

Pastor

Michael J. Frazier

pastor@fbct.net

AWANA Family Night



By Evan Simpson

Cubbies? Sparks? TNT? No, I'm not talking about that baseball team in North Chicago or other names for dynamite. Those names all have one thing in common—AWANA.

Wednesday, September 7 saw the church populated by AWANA Clubbers and their families. A good time was had by all in attendance. Dinner included hot dogs right off the grill, nachos and cheese, chips, freshly popped popcorn, and several delicious desserts.

With full tummies, parents registered their children for the upcoming AWANA year. Over 20 kids had signed up by the end of the evening. The AWANA staff were around to meet and converse with the parents and children.

After eating, playing in the yard, and getting registered, everyone was invited to watch an indoor movie. Those that stayed refilled their popcorn bags, piled into the sanctuary, and enjoyed the animated version of "Ten Commandments."

