

BAPTIST CHURCH

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July 2023

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A Note From Abby McPherson..



Each year as VBS approaches, we spend countless hours preparing, praying, and

Abby McPhersonPraying, anDirector of Preschoolgetting& Children'sexcited. ItMinistryoften feels

exhausting, but after each VBS, I always feel a sadness that it is already over.

This year, VBS was called *Keepers of the Kingdom*, a theme centered around the battle between God's Kingdom (the good kingdom) and the enemy's kingdom (the bad kingdom). The kids also learned about different pieces of the Armor of God each day from Ephesians 6. We spent our days focusing on the purposes and importance of each piece, and how necessary this armor is in the battle.

Through Bible lessons, singing songs, creating crafts, eating delicious snacks, running around outdoors, missions time, and the daily skit, the truths of Ephesians 6 were being drilled into the kids over and over. Each specific activity they did had a purpose: to teach them the Word of God.

Children can grasp more than we give them credit for, and VBS is a specific opportunity to watch them comprehend deep Biblical truths at an age-appropriate level. When they are dancing or reading or learning or eating, it is with purpose. The work is worth the potential reward—children coming to know the One who has always known them.

VBS is such a special week in the life of a church for numerous reasons. It is an opportunity for so many giftings and talents to be used—cooking or baking, teaching, singing, administration, decorating so many diverse skillsets are needed to pull it off.

We also get the chance to welcome many people into our building that either do not go to church, or attend somewhere else. This year, we had multiple children come to us from other religious groups. What an opportunity to teach God's truth to those who may not be hearing it regularly, or at all!

VBS brings us together and also stretches us out in the most unique way. It is a week of serving, giving, loving, teaching. We raised almost \$2,000 this year for Re:Center ministries! The reach of this one week goes so beyond a single group of kids.

So, what's next? We pray. We pray that our efforts have and will bring more people into the Good Kingdom. We pray that those who heard the good news of the gospel would be drawn in. We pray that we would love and care well for those who are new to this special family of God and for those who begin coming to church.

Thank you for your effort, your time, your love, your prayers. I so clearly felt the prayers over this VBS. Hurstbourne family, you are blessing, and I thank God for how you partnered together to make VBS so exceptional.

- Abby McPherson

May 21	May 28	June 11	June 18
Budget \$28,117.02 Annie Armstrong Offering \$160.00 Fred Tucker \$70.00 Missions Support \$100.00	Budget \$18,035.80 Annie Armstrong Offering \$105.00 Missions Support \$100.00 Media Ministry \$580.00	Budget \$43,973.68 Annie Armstrong Offering \$75.00 Lottie Moon Offering \$25.30	Budget \$32,636.72 Annie Armstrong Offering \$1,102.00 Eliza Broadus Offering \$1,000.00 Media Ministry \$668.00
TOTAL: \$28,447.02	TOTAL: \$18,820.80	TOTAL: \$44,073.98	TOTAL: \$35,406.72
Weekly Budget	Weekly Budget	Weekly Budget	Weekly Budget
\$32,244.00	\$32,244.00	\$32,244.00	\$32,244.00
Year to Date Budget	Year to Date Budget	Year to Date Budget	Year to Date Budget
\$1,225,281.00	\$1,257,525.00	\$1,322,013.00	\$1,354,258.00
Received to Date	Received to Date	Received to Date	Received to Date
\$1,248,421.00	\$1,266,457.00	\$1,338,418.00	\$1,371,055.00
+-,=,.		Difference from Budget	Difference from Budget

Recent Giving



July 1 John Veltman Iris Armstrong

July 2 Myra Butler

July 3 Pat Duncan Deanna Henry

July 4 Rozy Snider Will Embry Davis Leverett Lois Sibley

July 5 Laura Landgrave

July 6 Eleanor Collins Victoria Gowans July 8 Carolyn Holm Gina Embry Jody McChesney Dashiel Solomon

July 9 Easton Barham Jennifer Ringstaff

July 10 Chuck Lewis Bailee Embry Bill Hillen Bruce Parks Declan Price Reed McIntosh Rachel Smith

July 11 Craig Grant

July 12 Grant Coleman Carol Ann Nelson July 13 Amy Dreisbach Kelly Nall Knox Armstrong

July 15 Sherry Feldpausch Carl Head Joyce Collins

> July 16 Pam Helton Hadley Baird Sharon Shaw

July 17 Garrett Craig

July 18 Cindy Anderson Denver Leverett Nancy King **July 19** Julia King

July 20 Kim Rinker

July 21 Penelope Rinker Sandra Murphy Eleanor Craig

July 24 Joe James Jenny Solomon Kathryn Hughes

July 25 Betty Stewart Victoria Wilkerson

July 26 Candyce Eatherly July 27 Bob McNeil Chris Deaton Ted Rich

July 28 Kaitlyn McMichael

> July29 Will Hughes

July 30 Adaline McDonald Margie Cowden Vic Chesser

July 31 Kim Mitchell-Clark



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