

**Vacation Bible School**

St. Vincent de Paul Parish and the Methodist Church of Shepherd recently completed a joyful week of Vacation Bible School. Over 40 children and 18 adults participated in stories, music, and activities that reminded us that God is good when life changes, when life is sad, when life is scary, and when life is good. The support we got from both churches was wonderful. The prayer, the time, effort, money, and other donations made this a team effort. We are all so grateful for your help and support. God Bless You!

**God Sightings**

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An important part of our VBS day was spent learning to be aware of God sightings. God sightings happen when we are made more aware of God's presence in our lives. Sometimes they come through the natural world. When we see the beauty and power of creation and the infinite variety of its nature, and the fact that the more we know about the natural world the more wonder and questions we have, we know we have a God sighting. Everyone from child to adult can have God sightings.

There are also God sightings that happen in our everyday human world. Many times they are not dramatic or even noticeable to anyone else but they are times when we are moved in a new way by God's presence, and this results in a change in the way we see or do things. It may be a slight change but God is moving through us. When we see or hear someone loving or serving others with no motive of self gain or recognition that is a powerful way to see God. When we are moved to help or serve another we are part of a God sighting.

Sometimes the love and service offered comes out of our own poverty and vulnerability. Those offering help can be just as needy and broken as those receiving the help. We don't have to have large amounts of time or money or learning to be part of a God sighting. We don't have to have all the answers or have life figured out. {No one ever does.} What we do need to do is to make ourselves available to God and we should do it first and not last. We think sometimes we should put ourselves at God's disposal after we have done other "important stuff" —finished school, made some money, raised a family, lost some weight, etc. Making ourselves available to God is a choice we make every day as we go through our ordinary lives working, playing, learning, dreaming, running errands, talking with friends. The way we do these tasks, the way we feel about them, the way we relate to others are influenced by the extent to which we open our hearts to God's love and mercy and trust in his leading.

How do we open our heart? By prayer and receiving the sacraments and worship as part of our community and reading scripture and watching and listening we become more open. Is this easy? No. Do we fail sometimes? Yes. But God's love and mercy are always available to us.

Peace.

Mary