

Vacation Bible School Recap

From Faith Formation Director Mary Moomey

We recently completed Vacation Bible School which we did jointly with the United Methodist Church of Shepherd. It was a great experience! We had over 40 children enrolled. Youth and adults from both churches helped and everyone had fun and learned some new things.

I want to thank everyone who worked so hard on this. It was a team effort. I also want to thank Joyce Feltman for organize things for our V.B.S. dinner and Joshua Lukens for setting up the sound system for our program that evening. Also, Steve Gall for setting up the hall.

One of the themes for Bible School was "God created you for a purpose." Most of us world agree with a general statement that God created humans to love and glorify him, but does it mean more than that?

The Bible tells us that God knows the number of hairs on our head and that he knows us before we are even born. This points to a very particular and intimate knowledge of each of us as an individual.

What kind of purpose does God create us for? I imagine the specific purposes are as varied and diverse as we are. God is endlessly creative in his universe and with his people. We do know that God acts only out of love and goodness even if things are not immediately understandable. Some of us might be called to do something noteworthy in the public eye. Perhaps to be a leader of some sort, or a writer, or an artist, or a musician, or someone who fights for justice.

I suspect most of us have a quieter call. Something to be lived out in our daily lives. Something that does not get special attention – like being a good friend or parent or spouse – like being a good listener or generously giving to others without counting the cost. Perhaps it is forgiving a grievous injury or patiently carrying a burden.

We also assume God's purpose for us is not a one-shot deal. It is carried through many events in our life. Each opportunity to grow and to fulfill God's purpose is provided for us according to God's loving and specific plan.

Sometimes these opportunities are not so welcome. We can be presented with a difficult or even frightening situation. In Vacation Bible School we learned about people in the Bible who had some surprising and difficult tasks given to them by God. Sometimes they were very reluctant and even questioned and argued with God. Sometimes they were tempted to run away. But God was always with them and eventually worked out his purpose in his time.

If everything is so individualized, how do we know if something is God's purpose for us?

If something is obviously against the Ten Commandments and the Golden Rule to honor and love God and others, we know that is not God's purpose.

If it honors the Commandments and the Golden Rule, we can see it is within God's framework.

For all the gray areas in between, we pray and we ask the Holy Spirit for discernment. We speak to spiritual advisors and we walk forward in faith.

Peace,

Mary