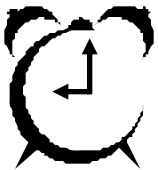


COMMUNITY CALL

Ministers: The People of God; Pastor: Rev. D. Matthew Stith
702 Sheyenne St., P.O. 546, West Fargo, ND 58078 701-282-4135 E-mail: office@cpcwf.org Web: http://cpcwf.org



WATCH OUT FOR NEW TIMES!

With the arrival of September comes the beginning of new schedules. On Sunday, September 7, Sunday School for all ages (That means babies, children, parents, AND grandparents are welcome!) will recommence at 9:00 a.m. followed by worship at 10:00 a.m.

PLANNING MEETING FOR WEST FEST ON SEPTEMBER 4TH

West Fest is just around the corner (Saturday, September 20th), and this year, word around the church is that several folks are planning activities. To coordinate this, Session would like to get people together on Thursday, September 4, at 7:00 p.m. for a planning meeting. Obviously, not everyone from every group need participate, but if you or your group is wanting or is just thinking about some activity at West Fest, please come or send a representative. This will be a very brief meeting, but it is important as we need to be a bit more organized this year since we are having more than just a hot dog stand; plus, we want to use this opportunity to really shine the Light. If you have questions, contact Steve Hanna at: 261-3150 or SEHAN-NA05@aol.com

PASTOR'S PEN



To write anything even close to complete about our recent trip to Kenya would probably need more like 6000 words than the roughly 600 that this column affords me, but I thought it might be worthwhile to share at least some "top of my head" reflections on Kenya, the trip, our partners, and other related subjects. So, just off the top of my head...

...Chogoria, the central town of the region where our sister presbyteries are located, and in which we stayed during most of our trip, is even more beautiful than I remembered. If your mental picture of Africa is of a hot, dry desert, or even of a rolling, brown savanna, you would be utterly shocked by the

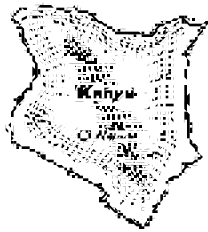
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luxuriant bushes, trees, and grass, the brilliant flowers, the vivid emerald green of the tea fields on the mountainsides, and the cool, clean air. Birds by the hundreds are everywhere you look, and every hillside and valley gives the overwhelming impression of lush fertility. It is a pleasure just to walk the grounds of the hospital complex where we stayed, surrounded by the beauty of God's good creation.



...It is an interesting, and overwhelmingly positive, experience to spend three weeks with the same small group of people, bound together by our shared purpose, our common schedule and living quarters, and by our being pretty much the only non-Kenyans we saw most of the time we were there. The intense common life that is bred by such a situation is both challenging and rewarding. I still, after a week back home, find myself looking around for my teammates on occasion. I trust that God did not bring us together just to share the trip, and that we, as a team, still have work to accomplish for the betterment of the partnership and the growth of God's kingdom.

...Some of the challenges and worries of Presbyterian churches in Kenya are astonishingly similar to many that we face here in the USA. Their membership is graying, they have trouble getting their men as actively involved as their women, and they are very concerned that too many of their youth are losing interest and drifting away from active involvement in the church. I was sorry not to have ready solutions to these problems when I was asked, but I did find some comfort in knowing that despite the many differences in our situations, we can face our mutual challenges together.

...I still don't like goat stew. And I'm also not fond of fermented millet porridge. But other than that, the staple diet of our friends, though it lacks the variety to which we are accustomed, agrees with me quite well. And that's a good thing, since by the "rules" of Kenyan hospitality, visitors must always be offered at least a little something in the way of food and drink, no matter when they stop by. There was one day on which we were fed, if memory serves, seven different times.

...Our partnership is in many ways the strongest it has ever been, and there is much potential for us to see great growth in our mutual service to God and to our world in the near future. But there are also many significant challenges remaining, some of them quite urgent, if this potential is to be met. The most pressing of these challenges, at least on our side of the partnership, have to do with revitalizing and expanding the sister relationships between the congregations of our presbytery and the congregations of Chogoria North, Central, and South presbyteries. There will be more information on this subject coming soon.

As I said, there is far more to be said than can be said in this space. But I hope this at least offers you a tantalizing glimpse. And I'm betting that you wouldn't have to work very hard to get any of us to tell you a whole lot more.

HANDBELL SCHEDULE

Senior Bell Choir will begin on September 8th with a reading session at Olivet Lutheran Church from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Please watch upcoming bulletins for more details on times for other handbell and chime group schedules.



BLAIR'S AFRICAN NEWS



Instead of writing this from an office building overlooking one of Nairobi's biggest highways, I am writing it from a house overlooking a gravel road south of West Fargo. I'm home! Actually, now that word is hard to use definitively. Is Fargo home? Is Nairobi? Before I left ND the first time, I looked forward to the YAV year in Kenya so much as an exotic "year abroad after college," but it has become real life, so much so that now I'm torn as to where home is. Either way, right now I am with my parents, my family, and enjoying a change of scenery. Even living on the equator can become too routine.

Let me spend the rest of this letter telling you a bit about the long weekend spent with my mom in Kenya when she traveled with the group from our church and the Presbytery of the Northern Plains. Thursday the group came to the AACC to hear a bit about the African church and experiences of church workers in the AACC and Kenya. Arranging a panel discussion the day after people have flown for approximately 24 hours was probably not the smartest thing I've ever done, but I think those who were conscious enjoyed the dialogue.

Friday we traveled up to Chogoria in a matatu (a 14 seater [a cozy 14 seater] bus). I didn't mind so much, but watching everyone pile in to what was doubtless the most crowded vehicle they'd ever been in for that long made me realize that my attitudes toward public transportation have definitely changed in the last year. Last August, I might not have been so nonchalant about riding 4 hours crouched over so as not to hit the ceiling. Everyone was also very con-

cerned about matatu driving, but not only could I not really see so much from the back, but I also think my standards for road conduct have been transformed.

After arriving in Chogoria the group learned that instead of spending all day Saturday planning their church school activities, they would actually be performing their church school activities. So we spent Friday night in groups of six planning and getting excited for meeting 100 kids with crafts and games.

Saturday we walked into the church to begin the day, and for a moment I lost the ability to breathe. Instead of leading a group of 100 kids, we probably had about 350, and my carefree "we can do it; we don't need a whole day to plan" attitude instantly disappeared into the sea of many, many pairs of eyes staring back at us from the church pews. The kids split in two groups by age, and my mom, Matt, and I began to teach the kids with the gracious help of pastors and teachers translating and providing crowd control. There was nothing to do but throw ourselves into the activities and try to make some kind of connection across language, cultural, and number barriers.

Our first activity involved writing down your name (you are unique and special to God!) and then gluing sequins on the paper. Matt, Mom, and I decided to avoid the glitter that came along with the activity kit and only let the kids use the larger shiny objects for decor. It went well, we shepherded the kids through the activity - again with help from amazingly patient teachers - sang some songs, and then broke for lunch. While were eating, I sort of noticed that

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

all the teachers were in the lunch hall with us, and it did cross my mind that children weren't under their custody. But I didn't think too hard and kept eating my maize and beans.

Until . . .

We left the lunch room and walked back to the church to find large and small children mingling outside the doors, their faces and hair COVERED in glitter. I believe I heard the sound of Matt and my mom's jaws dropping behind me, but I was too busy laughing hysterically to be sure. I stopped laughing when I saw the glitter COVERING the church floor and then started worrying how and when we would be escorted off the church premises. I will never forget that first sight of hundreds of miniature Kenyan David Bowies.

Needless to say, we didn't actually get kicked out of the church, and it sounds like the group had a great rest of their trip. I know that I spent most of it counting down days to come to ND. Now that I am here, I am trying to reacquaint myself with the US, the concept of vacation, with Dairy Queen, the Jonas Brothers, and generally take a moment to reflect on how blessed I have been in the last year. I don't imagine the tension between my two homes will ease in the next two weeks in the US, nor do I expect it to. Having two homes is a challenge I look forward to facing for the rest of my life.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Blair Moorhead is currently serving in Nairobi, Kenya with the PC(USA)'s Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program. For more news about her work in Africa, Go to Blair's blog at:

<http://blairinkenya.blogspot.com/>

ATTENTION SOUL TRAIN



Below is a description of an activity coming soon that we should all enjoy together. Barb Worman, Pastor Matt, and Pastor Dave (from Jamestown) all highly recommend this speaker. Please read over the information and plan to attend. We will meet at our church at 6:30 p.m. and drive downtown together. Let us know if you can come so we can plan for drivers.

Becky (281-8122) and Lisa (282-5308)

FAITH IN A FAST FOOD WORLD with speaker Rodger Nishioka

As young people, how can we hear or understand God's call to us in the midst of competing messages? How do we live faithfully in a fast food world? How can we live so that others see Jesus in all that we say and do?

Sunday, Sept. 7th

7:00 - 8:30 pm

at First Presbyterian Church of Fargo,
650 2nd Ave. North, Fargo

for all youth - middle school, junior high,
senior high

Event will include games, worship, music,
food and hanging out.

Rodger Nishioka specializes in ministry with youth and young adults. He currently serves as an associate professor at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA. He has published several articles, chapters, and books largely focused on ministry with young people.

**For more information call the Fargo
Church at 293-6311**



AUGUST CLERK'S CORNER

Session met on August 20, 2008. Previously approved requests to hold a baby shower for Eddie & Mandy Sheeley on Saturday, August 9th, and to have a Vacation Bible School sign displayed in the back of a pickup in the front parking lot were reported.

Pastor Stith stated that he would like to look into the possibility of taking a sabbatical leave in the near future to teach in a seminary in Nairobi. Session approved this plan. Approval for the sabbatical will be sought from the congregation when further information is available. The presbytery policy is that pastors are eligible for sabbatical leaves after serving 5 years at a church.

The Stewardship Committee is looking for ideas for activities that could be held in the parking lot during West Fest to publicize our church. Anyone wishing to propose an idea can contact Steve Hanna. There will be a book fair during West Fest featuring books from The Rainbow Shop, and the Music Program will be sponsoring a brat sale.

The Stewardship Committee reported that they have received 19 pledges so far for Project Open Door II totaling approximately \$45,000 of which \$17,000 has been received. They urge members to send in their pledges.

Pastor Stith reported that Sheyenne Crossings and Tom Pederson's family are holding a 100th Birthday Party for Tom in the afternoon of September 13th. Church members are urged to attend or send cards in his honor.

A luncheon was held at the church on August 18th for the family of Mary Gunst. Mary's daughter passed away recently at Emily, Minnesota, and the interment was at Sunset Memorial Gar-

dens on the 18th. Mary Gunst moved from the High Rise to the Hillsboro Health and Rehabilitation Center recently, and the family requested that they be allowed to hold the luncheon in the church narthex. Service and Fellowship Committee was in charge of the luncheon.

Delores Horn, Clerk of Session

YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL REPORT



BUDGETED 2008 GIVING:
\$153,280.00 / 52 WEEKS
\$2948/WK

	NEEDED GIVING	ACTUAL GIVING
<u>WEEK</u>	<u>TO DATE</u>	<u>TO DATE</u>
8/17/08	\$97,284	\$80,659

As of August 17, 2008, the year-to-date actual giving to CPC's general fund is \$80,659 compared to the \$97,284 needed for the same time period.

These figures do not include the mortgage payments which are funded from the building fund money market (Project Open Door II giving).

Thank you to all who have used the envelopes provided with the contribution reports to mail in your summer giving! Summer is not over yet...our lower giving trend marches right into September. Our note this summer is now \$9,400, lower than previous years, but we are definitely needing to borrow to meet expenses.

With the awareness created about this cycle of lower summer giving, and the fact that you can still use those envelopes to mail in your gift, with your help we could end the summer cycle in pretty good shape. We are looking to "break the cycle" of summer borrowing, and at the least would like to curb it!

FOCUS ON MISSION WELCOME BASKETS FOR PATH



PATH is an accredited private, non-profit agency that provides therapeutic foster care to children and families. At age 13, PATH youth are able to go out on their own, but they need help with this big transition in their lives.

Welcome Baskets are laundry baskets filled with basic household needs for those young people leaving foster care and moving out, usually into an apartment, for the first time.

A year ago in September, due to the generosity of our congregation, we were able to fill three welcome baskets, and the challenge this year is to fill at least three baskets again. To fill four would be awesome!

Once again, we will have a display in the narthex with some information about PATH as well as small slips of paper listing different items that are needed. Please take a slip of paper (or 2 or 3), buy the item(s) and return the item(s) and slip(s) of paper to the church before the end of September. Some examples of items are new pots and pans, dishes, glasses, toasters, laundry soap, shower curtains, cleaning supplies, bath towels, kitchen towels, dishcloths, etc. Now is a good time to buy these items as many are on sale for college kids moving into dorms or apartments.

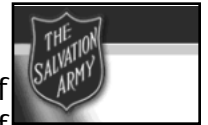
THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

A big thank you to all who donated backpacks and supplies for the United Way School Supply Drive. Both totes were filled to the top! We had 17 backpacks stuffed with crayons, markers, pencils/pens, paper, glues, and much more. Once again you met the challenge and helped to make a lot of children in our community very happy!

CHRISTIAN BOOK FAIR

The Mission Committee, along with the Rainbow Shop is sponsoring a Christian Book Fair. It will be held in the narthex during the West Fest celebration on Saturday, September 20, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and on Sunday, September 21, from 9 a.m. until noon. Come and do your Christmas shopping!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!



On the third Saturday of every month, a group of dedicated people from our congregation help to prepare and serve lunch at the Salvation Army. Some of these people have been volunteering their time for years, but now because of health problems are not able to continue in this important mission. It is time for some new faces to step forward and help out.

All you need to bring are willing hands, a few kind words, and a friendly smile and commit to a few hours one day per month. This would be a great way for parent to introduce their preteen/teenage children to the satisfaction of volunteering time and talents to a good cause.

A sign-up sheet has been placed on the board in the narthex. Please sign up for September 20, October 18, or November 15.



ANNOUNCEMENT CHANGES REMINDER

Beginning Sunday, September 7, Microphones will no longer be passed around the sanctuary *during the announcement time*. Instead, one "event announcer" will make all the announcements at the beginning of the service. Those with announcements can contact Carol Sterup by phone at 293-6603.

SEPTEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER

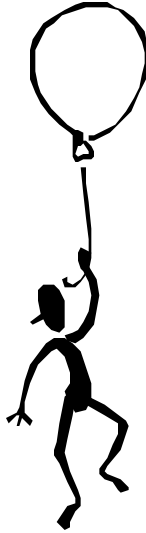
BIRTHDAYS

- 9-1 Andrea Comeliussen
 9-3 Clyde Van Cleve
 9-4 Ryan Bastle
 9-6 Meghan Hanna
 Bruce Steele
 9-9 John Wilkinson
 9-11 Jenna Barenthsen
 9-12 Gordy Pederson
 9-13 Ann Chale
 Parker Nelson
 9-15 Danielle Swart
 9-16 Dale Matzke
 Vicky Whitcomb
 9-17 Lee Dobrinz
 Ed Sheeley
 Shelly VanCleve
 9-18 Paula Wilkinson
 9-19 Debbie Matzke
 9-21 Jordan Faircloth
 9-23 Uneva Dobrinz
 9-24 Verdie Roberts
 9-25 Joan Hall
 Louise Johnson
 Ted Martin
 9-25 Jerad Wilkinson

ANNIVERSARIES

- 9-3-49 – Roy and Louise Johnson
 9-7-63 – Delbert and Donna Jenner
 9-10-60 – Jim and Marlys Martin
 9-17-05 - Justin and Jessie Hill
 9-18-54 – Dale and Gail Matzke
 9-21-96 - Ken and Julie Faircloth
 9-22-79 – Bob and Deb Olson
 9-25-93 – Brent and Carolyn Talley
 9-26-97 - Derek and Carrie Leopold
 9-29-79 – Veril and Dawn Larson

**The October
Community Call
deadline will be
Thursday,
September 18**



FUNDRAISING TABLE

With the start of school and school activities comes the start of fundraisers. Our youth are very active in many worthwhile clubs, sports, choirs, etc. We are asking anyone who is fundraising to set up a table with a poster telling what they are selling. Members of the congregation are welcome to check out the good deals and support the efforts of the youth.

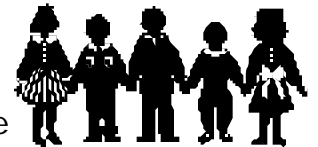
NEW OFFICE HOURS

Beginning the week of August 25, our church secretary, Lora Wehrung, will be in the office in the afternoons on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Monday and Wednesday office hours will be in the morning as before.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY RESUMES

On Wednesday, September 10, meet with us at Sheyenne Crossings at 10:00 a.m. for an hour of Bible Study and fellowship. We'll continue for about five weeks with our study of the book of Isaiah to be followed by Practical Christian Living, a study by Chuck Swindoll.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEEDS



Do you love to see the toothy grins of our shorter church members? Do antics of younger folk make you smile? Maybe it's time for you to get to know these youth better. Sunday School is starting on September 7th, and quarterly teaching positions are available. What's that? You might not be available a Sunday or two? Sign up anyway. Substitutes are available for such occasions.

To sign up now, contact Toni Stith at 282-2715 or tonistith@yahoo.com.

INTERVIEWS BY MS SOUL TRAIN: JENNI HUMMEL

Personal Information

Birth date - October 17, 1983
 Birth place - Fargo, ND
 High school - graduated from
 West Fargo High School
 Occupation - works at Horn-
 bacher's
 Joined Community Presbyterian
 Church – 1998

Favorites

Animal/Pet - cat
 Music - Rock and Roll, Pop
 Actress - Miley Cyrus
 Foods - Mexican
 Movies - Disney movies, High
 School Musical

Would You Rather

How well do you know Jenni? Try to guess which answer she chose for each of the following questions. Her answers will be at the end of the interview.

- ... lose your keys three days in a row or have your dog eat your birthday cake?
- ... be debt free or eleven years ahead of schedule?
- ... be able to fly or be able to live 200 years?
- ... be an actress/actor in a big movie or the director?
- ... take a math test or do a lab in science?

~~~~~

My name is Dusty Richard and I interviewed Jenni. Here are some of her favorite things as a child: Her favorite books were all of the 'Oscar the Grouch' stories. Her favorite subject was science, and her least favorite subject was Social Studies.

She was in Special Olympics. She said, "It was fun, and you met a lot of friends". She was involved in soccer, volleyball, track & field, bowling, hand-



ball, basketball and golf. In 1999, at the World Games in North Carolina, she took 5th place in volleyball. In 2006, at the Pre-World games in China she got 3rd place in singles bowling and scored a 300 in doubles bowling which placed her and her partner in a high division with all boys! In 2007, in China she placed 7th in doubles bowling and 2nd place in singles bowling. She left China with two silver ribbons and one 7th place ribbon.

~~~~~

I'm Kaylee Van Cleve, and I also got to interview Jenni from church. Dusty and I found her very interesting. My first question that I asked her was if she liked pets. She said that she is scared of dogs. She said it started when she was a kid. She was watching a TV show where the dogs were biting the owners as well as strangers and she thought that they would come and bite her since the dogs didn't know her. She is still scared of dogs because they don't know her and she doesn't know them very well. I told her that I have a cat named Cory, and she said she was OK with cats but not with dogs!

Jenni works at Hombacher's and she can't stand it when people leave carts out of the cart corral at the store. It bugs her that people don't put them

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

back when they are done using them.

She loves Disney movies and would love to watch them more often. I feel that she has a lot of the same personality as me when it comes to Disney movies. I love to watch them also. She likes Hannah Montana and that is the same as me. I think we have a lot in common - more so than I thought we would.

Through the Special Olympics, Jenni said that she went to China and North Carolina. The next time she's hopefully going to Greece. When she went to China for the first time in 2006, she was there for bowling. Jenni placed third for singles, 4th for doubles, and the whole team got second place. She went back to China again in 2007. This time she took 7th place in doubles bowling but got a 'turkey' (3 strikes in a row!!!) in singles and the team placed 2nd. She lost the gold medal by only four pins. She didn't think it would be so hard. Who knew it would be so competitive!?! Jenni said, "I would have never guessed that it would be so close on how many pins you have to knock down. I would have figured that there would have been a bigger gap between the scores and not a few pins for getting the gold."

She also said, "it was wonderful in the Special Olympics. I became less shy. I got to meet a lot of people. I made a lot more friends. I made friends from Fargo, Moorhead, our state, our country and the world."

Interviewed by:

Kaylee Van Cleve, 6th grade

Dusty Richard, 8th grade

April 20, 2008

~~~~~

"Would You Rather" answers:

(Would You Rather answers: keys, debt-free, fly, director, math test)

**ANNUAL FALL BAZAAR & BAKED POTATO LUNCHEON**



This fall, Presbyterian Women plan to hold the Annual Fall Bazaar for two days-Saturday, September 27, and Sunday, September 28th. Hours for Saturday are from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and for Sunday following worship until 1:00 p.m.

The Baked Potato Luncheon will be held both days. On Saturday, it will be held from 10:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. On Sunday, it will be from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There will be hot dogs, etc. available for those who don't care for baked potatoes. For \$5.50, you will get the potato with a variety of toppings, dessert, and drink. You can't get this price anywhere else.

Bazaar items, including crafts, baked goods, and jewelry, will be available both days.

Please begin thinking about what you can make for the bazaar and how you can help. We will need extra helpers because the bazaar is for two days. Please call Marlys Martin if you can help.

If you have ideas for crafts that can be made in a group, please let Marlys Martin or Delores Horn know, and we will try to schedule a work day.



**WANTED:  
FLANNEL SHIRTS**

I'm looking for twelve or more men to get together to have a ringin' good time.

We'll be learning one song to be played during the Christmas season. We'll meet for 45 minutes to an hour once a week starting late September or early October. No rhythm or bell experience required.

Interested? Call Carrie at 282-9213.



## PURSUING GOD WITH U2

The rock band U2 is arguably one of only a very few bands that can be listed with such greats as the Beatles and the Rolling Stones. And no one, not even the four guys in U2, would call them a Christian music band. But 3 of the 4 band members speak openly of their Christian faith, and all 4 come from traditional Christian backgrounds. In *Get Up Off Your Knees*, Beth Maynard writes, "They are simply artists who find it natural to draw on Biblical imagery and raise religious issues in their work. They wrestle with spiritual themes and set nuggets of scripture in the midst of their work, but they compete in the marketplace rather than preach to the choir." Eugene Peterson call them "a prophetic voice." In an introduction to *Get Up Off Your Knees*, Peterson writes ".....the biblical psalms that Jesus prayed are models for the sometimes angry, sometimes sad, often prayerful lyrics in many of U2's songs."

If you are a Bono fan, someone who appreciates the music of U2, or someone who doesn't believe you can find God in the "secular," join us for a 6 week study of the biblical themes and Jesus' teachings found in the music of Bono, The Edge, and U2. We'll meet for 90 minutes each Monday evening, beginning Oct 6 – Nov 10, at First Presbyterian Church in Moorhead. Pizza and beverages will be on at 6:15 for those joining us on their way from work, with class from 6:30 – 8 (There will be a free will offering to cover the costs with any additional monies going to Bono's aids and poverty work in Africa.). Pursuing God in U2 is an opportunity to hear the music of U2,

watch their videos, and see if we can find scripture and the voice of current day prophets. It is structured and oriented to adult study, but older high school students may be interested. There will be no required books or study material, but I can't promise you won't want to expand your music or book library after participating! Registration is also not required but it will be helpful to know how many are interested to arrange appropriate space and pizza. Call or email Cheryl at the contacts below.

What: Pursuing God with U2, Adult study of biblical themes in the music of U2  
 When: Mondays beginning Oct 6, 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.  
 Where: First Presbyterian Church  
 2900 5<sup>th</sup> St. S, Moorhead  
 Questions/interest: Cheryl Biller  
 cheryl@plantproinc.com  
 701.371.2809

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN: CHAPTER 3



Are you willing to help the PW continue with their good works?

- \*Maybe you could run the Fall Bazaar!!!
- \*Maybe you could coordinate the Christmas Bake Sale!!!
- \*Maybe you could set up the Spring Luncheon!!!
- \*Maybe you could...!!!

## THANK YOU!

Thank you all who helped with VBS. It was a great success! I really appreciate all who donated their time, belongings, and talents for decorations, crafts, food, teaching, music, games, and other supplies.

Thank you so much, Carrie

