

## Vacation Bible School is coming!



VBS will return to the church this summer with an exciting journey of discovery showing us how Jesus can lead the way when life is uncertain. Our dates are July 20-23, from 6 to 8 pm each evening at the Family Life Center. We hope you will help us invite children to join us on these dates. There will be music, devotions, food, crafts and games.

We will need plenty of volunteers to help with food, crafts and teaching. Your participation can mean all the difference for children who need to see that learning about Jesus can be fun and rewarding. If you would like to volunteer you may call our office to help us know in advance, and you can attend our volunteer planning meeting this Sunday, July 11, at 2:30 pm in the Administration Building.

### Summer Activities Planned

- **Hymn Sing & Ice Cream Social**--I am currently planning for a date of Wednesday, August 11th at 6:00 p.m. We will sing favorite hymns for a little over an hour, and then dismiss to the Fellowship Hall for homemade ice cream and treats. This is always a great event, lots of fun, and a way to invite others into the fellowship of the church.
- **July Family Movie Night**--Join us on Friday, July 30th, 7:00 p.m. to watch *Amazing Grace*. Bring along snacks to share and we will have a really great evening of Christian fellowship. By the way, August's Family Movie Night will be *Unconditional*.
- **WNL Back to School Kickoff**--Wednesday, August 18 we hope to have you out to start our fall program with meals, kid's activity and study, Bible Study for adults and a great fellowship with an evening starting with a meal at the church. As always, we will need volunteers who will be willing to share a rotation to help cook or clean.
- **ESL Learning Ministry**--I currently have one ESL class that meets weekly at the church, but there is opportunity for more if someone has the desire to help another learn

English. Volunteers don't have to speak Spanish, only be willing to help others. Materials and training provided by the River Valley Literacy Council.

- **Bible Studies**--We had some great Wednesday evening Bible studies going this spring and hope that we will even be able to provide more. If you have any interest in teaching a Disciple Bible Study (material is easy to use), I would love to talk to you about leading a class.
- **Rio Bravo Mexico Mission**—It is still not too late to join or support our Mexico Mission at the Manos Juntas mission. We will be going to Mexico the week of September 19-25 to support the work of the mission and give hands-on help to our neighbors. Don't miss an opportunity for a blessing!

## **Become a Member**

I am so glad for each and every one of you who participate in the worship, mission and ministries of our church. Nevertheless, I want you to do more than that. When Jesus called his disciples, he called them to a life of mission and ministry in his name. Becoming a member of this local church is a way to say yes, that you are all in and want to push the kingdom work of God forward.

All this church asks is that you become a loyal member. What is a member? A member is someone who takes their vows to God seriously. Therefore, we ask that you vow to support the ministry of this church with five things: Your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness of Jesus. I don't believe this is more or less than what Jesus asked the first disciples.

I am setting Sunday, August 8 aside so that we can receive new members during our worship that day. I hope that if you have been visiting with us, or if you have worshiped with us for a while, that you will say "yes" to Jesus and this church and be a committed partner with us in ministry and mission to the world. Give me a call if you would like to join, or just fill out one of the New Member forms found in our bulletins and I will contact you.

## **Taking Time to Pray**

Prayer is such an important part of Christian living that it is inseparable with strong faith. Prayer is not so much a telling to God as much as it is a communicating and listening to what God is urging you to do. Being open to prayer is like being open to an invitation to change. One of my personal favorites is the Prayer of Saint Francis. I believe praying it can help us be open to the change God wants in us.

**Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace;  
where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.  
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to  
console;  
to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love;  
for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.**

