



The Good News

St. George Children Attend Vacation Bible School

Thirteen children aged 3 through 12, attended Vacation Bible School in the spacious Center and Church Grounds of St. George Church in Aliquippa July 17 through 20. The week included “All things Byzantine” with teachings on the Beatitudes. The four day camp included attending Church, lessons, crafts, learning to chant, making Prospora, outdoor play, games, planting, blessing of bicycles, and lunch.

Each day we sang “The Beatitudes” and “Lord have Mercy” as in the Divine Liturgy. We learned that they are so important that in the Divine Liturgy, the Beatitudes are chanted when the Book of the Gospels is carried in solemn procession to be proclaimed as the Word of God to the faithful, the Good News.

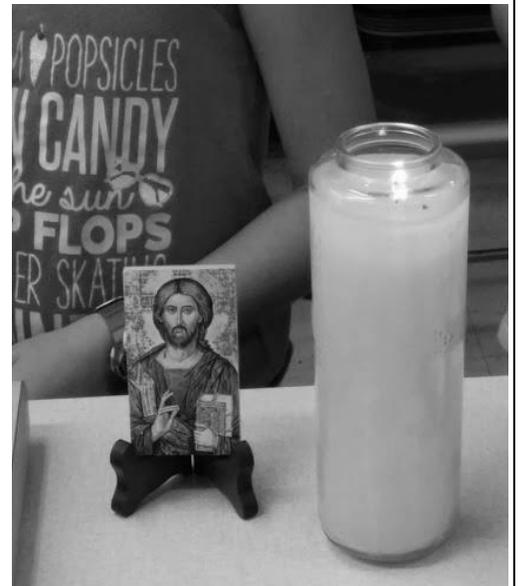
Our crafts were centered on “All Things Byzantine”. Father Mykhaylo was there every day of our Vacation Bible School to pray with us and worked hands on with the children making Prospora. It was a blessed week!

Good Things in our Neighborhood

By Gretchen Bartz

The Vacation Bible School class of St. George Church enjoyed their week of learning about the Beatitudes and doing faith-filled crafts. One of the crafts that were made was a sun catcher made with two plastic plates with IC XC, meaning Jesus Christ, and a three bar cross. Kids ages eight and over made wood plaques with an icon of Christ surrounded by squares of fabric and IC XC - NI KA, meaning Jesus Christ conquers, in the corners. Ages seven and under made a similar craft of a quilt banner with an icon of Christ in the middle completely surrounded by fabric. VBS closed its session off with a Blessing of bicycles, cars, and anything with wheels, on the Feast of St. Elijah. VBS was very successful and was thoroughly enjoyed by all!

Summer Fun with Jesus



Because God is omnipresent, God is in every neighborhood. Because God is creator, every neighborhood has His image bearers. Because mankind is sinful, every neighborhood has sin. (costlymercy.com)



We Created

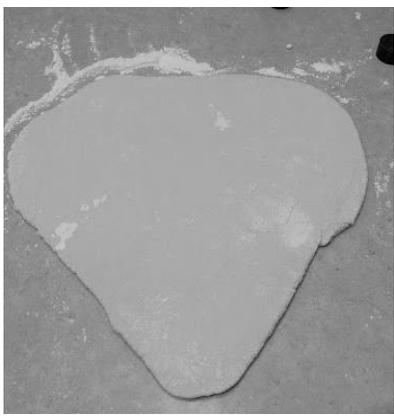


We had Fun

A Message from the Beatitudes

Blessed are they who show mercy,
mercy shall be theirs.

To be merciful means to have compassion on evil-doers and to sympathize with those who are caught in the bonds of sin. It means to forego every self-righteousness and every self-justification in comparison with others. It means to refuse to condemn those who do wrong, but to forgive those who harm and destroy both themselves and others. It is to say with utter seriousness, *“Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us”*



Our Offering to God

One of the most concrete and wonderful ways children can participate in the life of the Church is to bake the communion bread. Bread-making takes a little while, and it calls for patience, but while our hands are busy, we can teach our children about offering ("Prospora") and transformation, and the ways in which God will change this bread, and will change us, for the better. It was touching to see the care and attention level the children had. They were mindful to chant the Jesus Prayer while working. Our Prospora dough ended up in the shape of a heart. An accidental testament to the love of Christ right here in our neighborhood in Aliquippa.



Let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.



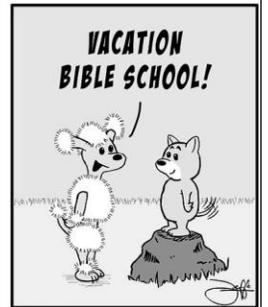
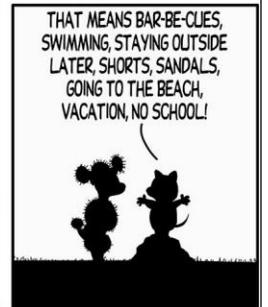
We Prayed



We Worked

To You, O Lord!

PRAYER PUPS BY JEFFREY SMITH



God is in every neighborhood. You just need to notice Him.

An Interview with VBS Participants

By Reaghan Cody

Q: What was your favorite part of VBS?

A: Making sun catchers, eating lunch

Q: What did you learn at VBS?

A: The Beatitudes

Q: What are the Beatitudes?

A: A song and a list of things that God wants us to do, special prayers.

Q: What was your favorite craft?

A: Sun catchers

Q: Would you come back next year? Why?

A: Yes, it was fun. We get to play and we make crafts. Yes, because I get to see Elijah.

We Grew in the Faith!

**St. George
Picnic
Sunday,
August 19
Following 11:00 A.M.
Divine Liturgy
Loads of Fun!**



We Learned

