

The 222 History Corner - VBS at BBC -

July means it's time for Vacation Bible School at Belleview Baptist Church. We are hard at work planning one of our biggest outreach opportunities of the year. VBS is five evenings of meals, crafts, games, music and Bible lessons. It feels like vacation for the kids, but by the last day all the helpers are ready for a vacation. Although VBS is a lot of serving and fun, the most important part of VBS is sharing Christ. It takes an army of volunteers to build a great VBS. That reminds me of a song, "I'm in the Lord's Army." Some of my other favorite VBS songs from years past are, "The B-I-B-L-E", "In Right, Out Right", and "Do Lord". Those simple songs of praise can still be remembered decades later. We now have a sophisticated praise team made up of children who practice the songs and motions weeks in advance. Things have changed a lot since my VBS days, but learning songs to praise the Lord remains the same.



*Praise Team at
Sports VBS*

A popular VBS theme from the past was called "Market Place 29 A.D." The idea was to make the church grounds feel like a city from the time of Christ. Some other favorites were "Bellevue 1803", "Racing for Jesus", "Out of this World", "Deep Sea Discovery", "Down on the Farm" and "Sports". I still remember the spooky Bible stories in the basement area we called the dungeon, the Kool Aid and animal crackers and staying up late to play after VBS was over. WWII veteran, Buddy Rogers, would teach kids Morse Code and the art of knot tying. There was also learning to make sun baked bricks, weaving baskets, woodworking crafts and chiseling stone. More recently we have had water games and water slides and a "walking on water" science experiment. Other people I spoke with remember the VBS quilt that was made, the Chadder Chipmunk videos and the history lessons on the lawn. My best VBS memory is from 1997 when after a week of Bible school, I got up the courage to be baptized into the family of Christ and join the church.



*Stone chiseling craft from
Market Place 29 A.D.*

Here is what I found on the history of VBS in our church book, *Lively Stones*, on page 115.... "The first mention in the records of a summer Bible School for children was in March 1937... The first VBS apparently wasn't held until the following year...1938...and this time Gertrude Tinklenberg was appointed 'Principal'.

Emma Mae Rogers and others clearly recall that Bible School, which was held in the sanctuary, naturally, and on hot days outside under the trees. Attendance was relatively small, just local children and 'a few others Mrs. Tinklenberg would pick up in surrounding communities in her car.' The curriculum consisted mainly of Bible stories and memorizing verses. 'Mrs. Tinklenberg made it so much fun,' Emma Mae remembers. "She had such a jolly personality. And, of course, there was Kool Aid."

The theme this year is "Everybody, Everywhere Can Serve God." I am inspired by the VBS workers of the past serving and bringing their gifts to share with the children at Belleview Baptist. We can serve like Mrs. Tinklenberg and bring a carload of neighborhood kids, help with crafts and games or cook and make Kool Aid. I encourage you to find a way to serve at VBS and enjoy the church fellowship and making new VBS memories.

Mary Casper

"And you also are joined with Him and with each other by the Spirit and are part of this dwelling place of God."
Ephesians 2:22



*Mary Casper VBS 1992 (left)
Mary Casper and her daughter, Sophie
Casper VBS 2016 (right)*



2016 Deep Sea Discovery



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