

WORDS FROM THE PASTOR:

The Pro Football Hall of Fame *Balloon Classic Invitational* delighted over 100,000 spectators, while brightening the skies of Stark County over the weekend of July 29—31. That's not news, since this year marked the 25th anniversary of this colorful event; but what was new about this year's Balloon Fest was that Zion was an official staging field for lift off! What a beautiful sight it is to see these majestic balloons floating above, as if to invite us to take a ride into the great beyond that leads to heaven. While that sounds so serene and peaceful, Zion's ride through July was anything but serene as we enjoyed yet another successful edition of the hectic fun we call Vacation Bible School. You will read much more about this wonderful program as you make your way through pages 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 of this newsletter. I would just like to add my appreciation for the tireless devotion displayed by Debbie Fox as she led our VBS efforts for the 10th straight year. That is truly amazing. We have been richly blessed, for which we thank God, Debbie, and the many volunteers who keep her coming back for more year after year!

This year's program allowed us to combine local interest with a global need as we made the ELCA's Campaign to *End Malaria Now* the recipient of our VBS offerings. We were not disappointed by the outpouring of generosity that our Vacation Bible Schoolers exhibited. Between their morning offerings, special donations, the ice cream cart and the quilt raffle on Family Night, we raised \$827.60 to help fund Lutheran efforts to reduce to zero the needless deaths that are caused by this preventable and treatable disease. Most of these deaths are inflicted on children, whose immune systems are simply unprepared to fight off the effects of fever and infection caused by malaria. A better distribution of mosquito nets, with medicines in place and people on the ground can go a long way in winning the battle against the Anopheles mosquito and the war against fatalities caused by malaria. While not all of the problems that plague our world can be addressed effectively through organizational prowess alone, this is a challenge that Lutherans are well equipped to handle. We've got people on the ground, partners in the field, the practical skills that are required, and access to the resources we need to get his goal accomplished. I was happy to see our congregation respond so quickly in matching the offering collected by our youth to double the strength of our response to the Synod's call that we join in this ELCA Campaign to End Malaria ASAP, or by 2015, whichever comes first.

Speaking about generosity, June and July continued the trends we enjoyed in March, April, and May, by leaving us with monthly surpluses yet again. June's surplus was \$490.09, and July's was \$232.30. Sure, these are not huge numbers; but they show a budget moving toward balance and a congregation that is up to the task of reaching the goals we've set and supporting the ministries we've created as we continue to grow in love and service by grace. Some might recall that last July left us with a monthly shortfall and year-to-date deficit that had us eating our way out of the red, which we did, thanks be to God! And while I am sure that many of us enjoyed the food that allowed us to eat our way out of our deficit, it is much preferable to simply ask that you help us add August to our list of successive monthly budget surpluses. We'll do our part to hold down expenses as best we can; and we ask that you do what you can to provide the generosity we need to make August our sixth straight month with a surplus. With God's help, and yours, we can do great things together.

JUNE'S BUDGET \$URPLUS

Our June meeting ended the program year on a strong note. Present were Jim Fidler (President), Susan Heyard (Vice President), Juanita Cignetti (Secretary), Dave Palumbo (Treasurer), Dale Jacobs (Worship), Cathy Harvey (Caring), Chris Thomas (Property), Vicki Givler (Parish Life), Beth Shaheen (Social Outreach), and Pastor Sherwindt, with Tina Beaber, Jim Dansizen, and Mark Votaw unable to attend.

The Treasurer's Report for June offered several points of good news: monthly income was strong; expenses were in check; and we enjoyed a surplus of \$490.09. Our first order of business involved preparing for the Congregational Meeting that focused on elections. A full slate of candidates was presented to the congregation on June 29, and after enjoying a delicious dinner and benefiting from a healthy quorum, all of our candidates were elected to the position in which they were willing to serve. Special thanks were extended to Chris Thomas, Tina Beaber, Nick Cignetti, John Brokloff, and Adam Schrader for their service among us, and to the Men of Zion for the funds that were raised through the Prime Rib Dinner, which helped us run our surplus in June!

JULY'S BUDGET \$URPLUS

Our July met the gold standard, perfect attendance: Jim Fidler (President), Susan Heyard (Vice President), Juanita Cignetti (Secretary), Dave Palumbo (Treasurer), Dale Jacobs (Worship), Cathy Harvey (Caring), Mark Votaw (Resource), Vicki Givler (Parish Life), Beth Shaheen (Social Outreach), Jim Dansizen (Witness), Renee Keith (Learning), Lorin Beaber (Property), and Pastor Sherwindt, with Lorin Beaber and Renee Keith welcomed aboard as two members recently elected to Council.

The Treasurer's Report for July displayed quite a turn-around from last year, when a monthly deficit shocked us into thinking creatively about how to get back into the black by the end of the year, which we did. Income was strong; expenses were stable, and we are in a much stronger position as we anticipate moving toward balance by year's end. With half the summer behind us, we are hopeful that August can be a month in which income keeps up with expenses. Please remember us with your generosity. One matter of concern that found its way on to our agenda was the need to address some repairs to the parsonage roof. We will keep you posted as information unfolds.

ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS FOR JUNE

June Income	\$ 22,837.48
June Expenses	\$ 22,347.39
June Surplus	\$ 490.09
Income through June	\$125,131.44
Expenses thru June	<u>\$130,483.22</u>
2011 YTD Deficit	(\$ 5,351.78)
2010 YTD Deficit	(\$ 9,069.84)

We thank you for your generous support!

ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS FOR JULY

July Income	\$ 22,675.03
July Expenses	\$ 22,442.73
July Surplus	\$ 232.30
Income through July	\$147,806.47
Expenses thru July	<u>\$152,925.95</u>
2011 YTD Deficit	(\$ 5,119.48)
2010 YTD Deficit	(\$ 13,451.58)

We thank you for your generous support!

GREAT NEWS ABOUT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

As always, another awesome group of kids joined us at Vacation Bible School for a week of fun, learning, and service at *Kingdom of the Son*. We had 43 children registered this year, and averaged about 37 children each day. We experienced a wide variety of activities during the week – great lessons, music, crafts, games, safari animal tracking, delicious food, community service projects, and our big Safari Farewell Celebration.



This year, the children went on a *Prayer Safari* and journeyed through the *Lord's Prayer*. The daily lessons centered around stories that helped teach different parts of the Lord's Prayer. Our daily themes were **GOD LISTENS, GOD PROVIDES, GOD FORGIVES, GOD PROTECTS and GOD RULES!** Pastor Sherwindt introduced the daily lesson during opening to get us started on our journey each day. The children also learned a lot of interesting animal facts and some Swahili words like *jambo*, which means hello, and *harambe*, which means working together, along with many animal names. By the end of the week when our journey ended, the children were able to pray the Lord's Prayer and better understand it.

On Monday the children learned the opening line of the Lord's Prayer. The lesson was about a series of parables in which Jesus teaches us about prayer, encouraging us to keep asking God when we need help, because God is a powerful, loving Father who listens to our prayers. On



Tuesday we learned to pray: *Give us this day our daily bread*. With one boy's sharing of 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish, Jesus fed 5,000 people. Everyone was fed; but God knows that people need more than food, which is why he sent Jesus to help teach, heal and care for us. God loves us and provides for ALL our needs. He also uses us to meet the needs of others.

On Wednesday we learned to pray: *Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us*. Through another parable, Jesus taught us the importance of forgiveness. Just as the king in our story forgave his servant's large debt, his servant should have forgiven his friend's small debt. Jesus told this story so that we would know that God wants us to forgive others just as our Lord forgives us. In Thursday's lesson we saw that Jesus learned to trust God's Word from the time he was a young child. Knowing God's Word helped Jesus to turn away from Satan's temptations during the forty days he spent in the desert with no food. Knowing and trusting God's Word also protects us and helps us stay away from the temptation to do things that we know are wrong. This is why we pray in the Lord's Prayer: *Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil*.

On Friday we learned about Jesus' death and his resurrection. We were reminded that the cross is an ever-present symbol of God's power over death, and that Jesus' death gives each of us a place in God's kingdom forever. This is why we can end our praying of the Lord's Prayer with confidence and hope: *For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever*.



MORE GOOD NEWS ABOUT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Awesome Teachers: We had an awesome group of teachers at our *Prayer Safari* this year – Laura Kay, Taylor Roman, Connie Riffle, Tina Beaber, and Renee Keith. They put in a lot of time and hard work to make this year’s program such a success. All of us at Zion are so grateful for the amazing job that they did! Every day of Bible School made it clear that the children were learning so much and were enjoying a fantastic journey thanks to these teachers!

Great Music: As always, music was one of the highlights of VBS. We extend our special thanks to Kelly Walters and Haleigh Kimble for leading the music program this year. They did an amazing job teaching the kids the songs, along with motions, dances, and even some sign language. They put together a wonderful program for Family Night, which parents, family, and friends truly enjoyed. What is even better is that the children really enjoyed this year’s music. The songs had great meaning, and the music was so catchy and fun. From the looks of it, they will be singing and dancing to these songs for a long time! Thanks, Kelly & Haleigh, for leading us through our Safari music with such great enthusiasm and energy!

Outstanding Crafts: Our crafts, which are a great strength of this program, were again outstanding, thanks to the creativity, patience, organization, and flexibility of Connie Frank and her helpers, Cheryl Roman, Sharon Stout, and Maddie Lessick. It was clear for all to see that the kids really enjoyed this year’s safari crafts. The finished products were great!

Exceptional Service: Our service project room was very busy all week long! Thank you to Nikki & Lya Milek and their crew for all of their hard work during the week. The children really did some amazing work, while also learning the very valuable lesson of serving others by letting God use us to accomplish His aims.

Special Speakers: We were also very blessed this year to have two special Safari speakers that joined us on Wednesday. Pastor Sherwindt spent time with each of the classes talking about Africa’s Big Five – lions, leopards, rhinos, elephants and water buffalo. The kids learned a lot of great information about each of these animals. Shirley Cavender talked with the kids about Zion’s Food Pantry and ways they could help in their community. The kids also got a chance to check out our Food Pantry at the end of their talk.

Having Fun Outside: While Vacation Bible School is surely about more than fun and games, fun and games are an important part of what we do. So, thank you to the crew that led our Outdoor Games rotation all week. Our VBS kids loved going outside to play games that encouraged teamwork, while also incorporating the daily themes from our lessons into the decisions the children needed to make while playing the games.

Enjoying Great Food Inside: Our kitchen crew was absolutely amazing! They offered a great menu that the children loved, and everyone in the kitchen worked very hard to keep everyone fed and happy! We also had a traveling popsicle and ice cream cart each day that children of all ages loved! Each treat was 25 cents, and the money collected was added to our offering to be donated to the ELCA’s campaign to end malaria.

MORE GOOD NEWS ABOUT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (CONT'D)

The week finished with the powerful duo of our Parents' Program and Ice Cream Social on Thursday night and our big Safari Farewell Celebration on Friday. Thursday's program was a huge hit. The kids did a great job performing, the highlight video was enjoyed by all, and, of course, the ice cream was a delicious end to the evening! We extend a very big thank you to Tina Beaber for stepping in for Debbie Fox and speaking during the program. Also, we extend our thanks to Janet Slease, Beth Willis, and Barb Achauer for taking care of the kitchen for the Ice Cream Social. There's nothing better than a great kids' program, cool and creamy ice cream, and a successful quilt raffle to raise money for a very worthy cause.

Friday's *Safari Farewell Celebration* included carnival games, along with wet & wild activities at the water hole, which included the big water slide, our slip & slide, water balloons, sponge tag, squirt tag, cup relays & other water activities, and a pizza party. It's hard to improve on our perfect ending to a great week of learning and service, which celebrated all the kids' hard work! Zion's Vacation Bible School is a great success because of the contributions and commitments of all involved – the staff, the children, their families, and the congregation. Thank you to everyone who donated supplies, food, money, and time! What follows is a list of staff and volunteers who were invaluable to this program! Many of those listed contributed in more ways than might be implied by the category in which they are listed. Everyone was willing to help out wherever they were needed. Thank You! Thank You! Thank You to everyone!

KINGDOM OF THE SON – SAFARI STAFF
Our Director and Producer, Debbie Fox



Staff, Helpers, and Volunteers

SAFARI GUIDES:

Laura Kay & Taylor Roman
Connie Riffle
Tina Beaber
Renee Keith

SAFARI MUSIC:

Kelly Walters and Haleigh Kimble

SAFARI CRAFTS:

Connie Frank, Cheryl Roman, Sharon Stout

SAFARI QUILTERS:

Kay Davis, Sue Geib, Pat Stayer, Peg Thomas, Betty Tracy, Joyce Gibeaut, Linda Wilson, Cherie Henson, Helen Heller, Carol Rossbach, Donna Roan, Carol Snyder, Barb Achauer

QUILT SQUARE PREPARATION:

We extend our very special thanks to the late Helen Edwards

MORE ABOUT OUR SAFARI STAFF AT "KINGDOM OF THE SON"

- KITCHEN CREW:** Cherie Henson, Gary & Shirley Horton, Beth Willis, Chris & Peg Thomas, Dave Palumbo, Laura Thompson, Barb Achauer, Bob & Linda Lancashire, Dan Wilson
- SAFARI HELPERS:** Melissa Riffle, Rachael Hilson
- YOUTH HELPERS:** Jaret Beaber, Eric Dague, Nathan Fox, Natalie Henderson, Maddie Lessick, David Panzarello, Ben Sir Louis, Brandon Stout, Kevin Walters, Kyle Wilson, Ethan Burns
- GUEST SPEAKERS:** Pastor Sherwindt: The "Big Five" in Africa
Shirley Cavender: Our Food Pantry Director
- SERVICE PROJECTS:** Nicole & Lya Milek
- SAFARI REGISTRATION:** Vicki Givler
- HIGHLIGHT DVD:** Kelly Walters
- SET DECORATIONS:** Carol Rossbach
- ICE CREAM SOCIAL:** Janet Slease, Laura Thompson, Beth Willis, Barb Achauer
- BEHIND THE SCENES PREP:** Jeff, Carley & Cassie Frank, Dean Fox, Carol Rossbach, Brooke Roman, Chloe Kling, Nathan & Jeremy Fox, and last, but not least, Jayne Schrader, Church Office Secretary

This year was once again truly amazing! Because of the above people, our program was a great success. Zion is very blessed with a great group of volunteers who make our VBS program one of the best! Everyone's flexibility, time commitment, and hard work are invaluable! Speaking personally as this program's Coordinator, I could not do it without everyone's help and support; and for that I am grateful from the bottom of my heart!



Thank you again to all involved!
Debbie Fox, VBS Coordinator

P.S. Our week of Vacation Bible School made every effort to continue our great tradition of service at Zion. You could see God's love inspiring action everywhere you turned! You will enjoy reading about our many service projects on the page 8.

DAILY SERVICE PROJECTS AT ZION'S KINGDOM OF THE SON

This year our Vacation Bible Schoolers were again involved with many service projects during the week because all of us feel this is such an important part of our VBS. We had a very enthusiastic, caring, and generous group this year, which made our projects a great success! Thank you to everyone for your support of all our projects.

DAILY OFFERING – The boys and girls again had a contest to see who could collect the most money during the week. All week they filled up jars and collected \$463.60. The girls collected a total of \$231.80 for the week and the boys \$231.80. Others added their two cents, actually, their \$153.00, bringing our total in offerings to \$616.60. This money along with the money collected from the ice cream cart and donated through the quilt raffle will be donated to the ELCA's Malaria Campaign. What a great job done by the kids! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

ZION'S FOOD PANTRY – The children also brought in food items and school supplies to fill our baskets at the *Kamp Kalahari Kollection* area in Luther Hall. These items, both food for the pantry and school supplies with backpacks, will go to Zion's Food Pantry to help families in our community that need our love and assistance! Again, thanks to everyone for your support!

QUILT SQUARES – The children again beautifully designed quilt squares this year. This has become a wonderful VBS tradition. Zion's Comfort Givers were able to sew eleven amazingly beautiful quilts from the squares the children created. Ten of these quilts will be sent through Lutheran World Relief to help those in need across the globe, and one was raffled off during our celebration of Family Night at the Ice Cream Social. Our quilt raffle raised \$155 this year, which will also be donated to the ELCA's Malaria Campaign. Rachel Dornhecker, a student in Miss Connie's class, was the lucky winner of this year's quilt raffle. Congratulations to Rachel, and thanks to the children, and to Zion's Comfort Givers for all of their hard work!

OTHER PROJECTS – The children worked on several other projects throughout the week, both in their classrooms and during their service time. On Tuesday, the children decorated bags for our Food Pantry, which will be used by the families we serve when they pick up their food. On Thursday, Miss Laura & Taylor's and Miss Connie's classes made bookmarks and wooden crosses for the residents of St. Luke's Lutheran Community on Applegrove in North Canton. Miss Tina's and Miss Renee's classes spent time with our friends in Senior Independence on Thursday. Miss Tina's class made magnets and colored with their new friends, while Miss Renee's class played *Glory Bingo*. All in all, we were quite proud of everything everyone did.

SAFARI PRAYER CHAIN – The children were given "homework" each day to help them to remember the importance of prayer. Each day the children were asked to think of someone or something to pray for at home. The next day they were given *safari links* to fill out and a very long chain of prayers was formed from the links each child offered. They did a great job and said many prayers. Again, thank you to everyone for your support of all our projects! The week continued our great tradition of service at Zion, and we made great strides in all we achieved. You could see God's love at work everywhere you turned! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

HERE'S SOME GOOD NEWS ABOUT ZION'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Sunday, September 4: It's our *End-of-the-Summer Party* with Zach on Labor Day Sunday
Sunday, September 11: *Rally Day* marks the beginning of yet another Sunday School Year
Sunday, September 18: The *2011-12 Sunday School Year* begins with classes for everyone

SUNDAY SCHOOL REMINDER FOR PRE-K THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL

We are taking a break this summer from Sunday School. There are no Sunday School classes for Pre-K through High School this summer. We will start up again in September when we kick off the Sunday School year with Rally Day on Sunday, September 11, 2011 and classes will start up again on Sunday, September 18th.

You will all want to remember that we will once again begin September with our *End-of-the-Summer Party*. Lots of grills will be heating up a masterpiece in the parking lot. There will be great food, along with some great music, which will be provided by Zach. If all goes according to plan, we will start in the parking lot at Noon, and Zach will sing in the pavilion at 2:00 p.m. Make us your Labor Day Weekend plans. You'll be glad you did, and so will we.

Then, the next Sunday, which we will celebrate as *Rally Day*, is also the 10th Anniversary of 9-11. There will be lots going on at worship, during Sunday School, and in the community. Our worship will include special music and litanies to mark the occasion; and during the Sunday School hour, Rally Day means that there will be lots of snacks and fun activities planned for the kids! It will be a great day filled with meaningful worship, fun for our kids, and fellowship for all.

THE FINAL WRAP FOR VBS: SUPPORTING THE CAMPAIGN TO END MALARIA NOW!

The Children's Daily Offering	\$ 463.60
Our Family Night Quilt Raffle	\$ 155.00
The VBS Ice Cream Cart	\$ 40.00
Additional T-Shirt Donation	\$ 16.00
Special Gifts from VBS Friends	\$ 153.00
Total VBS Giving for the Food Pantry	\$ 827.60
Congregational Offering to Match	\$ 827.60
Zion's Total Gift of Support to Date	\$ 1,655.20



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Making Sense of the Christian Faith: That's both the challenge of our adult class and the title of the book we're reading. This is a book written by David Lose, who was previously known for writing about the Old Testament in clear, conversational English; and this book is no different. It is clearly written, drawing from everyday conversation in a way that is effective at engaging our group in discussion. Of course, Blair Woodside does a lot to help move this process along; and, when Pastor Sherwindt was on vacation, Blair was joined by Pastor Bob Sander in using this book to ask questions that got the entire class hooked on the book and its challenge.

We are now heading into chapter 3, which focuses on sin. Chapter 1 introduced us to what makes talking about God so interesting. Chapter 2 introduced the theme of creation, and had us talking about the relation between faith and science. Pastor Sander put it this way: Science deals with the *how* of creation, and faith talks about the *who* behind creation. The two need not be seen as an either-or, since both are concerned with different questions. If science would stick with the *how*, as in how creation works, and did not insist on proving the absence of a *who*, as in no Creator behind the creation, we could avoid a lot of arguments and debates.

Unfortunately, since we're sinners, respecting boundaries is something many of us simply choose not to do! That's where chapter 3 comes in, introducing us to sin, as a concept in the Bible and a power in our lives. These Sunday morning discussions can really get lively. We've got a sense of direction, with ongoing permission to follow any diversion that seems interesting and fun. Join us in Luther Hall between the services on Sunday. You'll be glad you did; and so will we.

JAYNE'S ECOLOGY CORNER

Five Ways to Drive Greener: With the price of gas going up and up, I decided to look into ways to make environmentally conscious decisions while behind the wheel, and to save money as well. The following suggestions come from AAA.

1. Imagine eggs under the pedals. Instead of making quick starts and sudden stops, go easy on the gas and brake pedals. Ease off the gas and coast to the lights rather than waiting until the last second to brake. Once the light turns green, accelerate gently.

2. Just slow down. The fuel efficiency of most vehicles decreases rapidly at speeds above 60 mph. Driving the speed limit can reduce fuel consumption up to 23 percent.

3. Keep your car in shape. A car that's not properly maintained can produce more exhaust emissions and consume more fuel than necessary. Have any vehicle problems looked at by a qualified, trained technician. Minor adjustments and repairs can affect emissions and fuel economy by up to 4 percent, while more serious problems, such as a faulty oxygen sensor, can reduce gas mileage as much as 40 percent.

4. Choose a more efficient car. When shopping for a new car, consider the variety of eco-friendly vehicle options now available. Many new models now have a high-tech internal combustion engine that gets great gas mileage. This saves money in the long run.

5. Think and plan ahead. Engines drive more efficiently when they are warm. Before heading out for errands, determine all the places you need to go and try to combine multiple trips in one. Several short trips starting with a cold engine each time can use twice as much gas as a single longer trip while the engine is warm.

THE MEN OF ZION

We continue to bask in the glory of the great Prime Rib Dinner that raised \$1,512.21 to support our many ministries at Zion. As it turned out, we served 118 in Luther Hall, and delivered another 22 dinners to friends and family. We thank you for your support, and Dale Jacobs for a truly delicious evening, with his herb-crusted prime rib cooked and cut to perfection, great baked potatoes, mixed vegetables, and a cherry crisp for dessert.

In our regular monthly meeting on August 3rd, we began the process of planning for what will be the third edition of our *End-of-the-Summer Party*. That party is set for the Sunday of Labor Day Weekend. It has become such a great event that many now count on it as a big part of their Labor Day Weekend plans! There will be great food, fabulous fellowship, and live music. We've become a regular on Zach's schedule, and he has become a regular on ours. The food is marked by a great grill off, which is provided by as many volunteers as we can coax into firing up their grills for a great cause, namely, us! Randy Cizek, Mark Votaw, Dale Jacobs, Brian Walters, Chris Thomas, Bob Lancashire, Howard Dansizen, Dave Palumbo: these are just some of the names of folks who have blessed us with their wares. We could use a couple more grillers, if any would be willing. Just let any of the Men of Zion know of your interest, and you are in.

In terms of the cause, this year's *End-of-the-Summer Party* will help us raise money for the parsonage roof. While we don't yet know the extent of the repairs to be included in this project, we figure that it's a safe bet that we will need to raise funds to cover the costs, and this can be a good first step in getting us where we'll need to be. So, when tickets are made available, please plan to join in the fun.

THE WOMEN OF ZION

The Comfort Givers met during the week of Vacation Bible School, and did a great job organizing scores of quilt squares designed by our VBS kids into eleven beautiful quilts, ten of which will become a part of Blanket Sunday in October, with one given to this year's raffle winner, Rachel Dornhecker! We would like to thank Zion's Quilters for their hard work and faithfulness – Barb Achauer, Kay Davis, Sue Geib, Joyce Gibeaut, Helen Heller, Cherie Henson, Donna Roan, Carol Rossbach, Carol Snyder, Pat Stayer, Peg Thomas, Betty Tracy, Linda Wislon. We also want to acknowledge our appreciation for all the preparatory work that was done by the late Helen Edwards in getting us ready for this year's VBS quilting. It makes a difference having the whole community involved in Vacation Bible School, and it's clear that our Comfort Givers look forward to the fun this collaborative connection affords. They'll be taking the month of August off, and will return to their regular schedule in September.

The Women of Zion thank you in advance for your help with School Kits and Personal Care Kits this year. **PERSONAL CARE KITS** include a light- or medium-weight bath-size towel (approximately 52" X 27", darker colors recommended), 2 bath-size bars of soap (4 to 5 oz.), an adult-size toothbrush (in its original packaging), a sturdy comb, and a metal nail clipper. **SCHOOL KITS** include four 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, a 30-centimeter ruler, blunt scissors, a pencil sharpener, 5 unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers, 5 ballpoint pens (no gel ink), a box of 16 or 24 crayons, and a sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag approximately 14" X 17" with shoulder straps. We realize that the list is a bit more demanding this year; but donations of cash are as useful as the items.

MORE WOMEN'S NEWS

The Women's Bible Study continues with Part 3 of their summer series *Renew, Respond, Rejoice!* August's focus is on *Rejoice!* The key verse is from Philippians 4.4: "*Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, Rejoice!*" Our session on **Tuesday, August 16th**, begins at 9:30 a.m. in the Resource Center. We have learned that when we seek *renewal*, God's Spirit breathes a freshness and inspires a goodness that nurtures us from within. God empowers us to respond by daring to be creative and courageous in our caring. This month we'll learn that when we *rejoice in the Lord always*, God blesses us with an attitude of generosity and contentment. All women are invited to join us. You'll enjoy the fellowship we share and the strength that comes from our desire to follow and serve our Lord.

The Canton-Massillon Cluster: NEOSWO stands for the Northeastern Ohio Synod Women's Organization. Our Fall Fellowship will be a reunion of sorts, focused on the theme, ***United by the Spirit***. The date is **Monday, September 19th**, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The place is St. Luke's Lutheran Community on Applegrove in North Canton. There is parking at The Waterford, and registration is in the Crystal Room on the 2nd floor of The Waterford. Our guest speaker is Kristie Woods, the Director of Community Relations at St. Luke's. Her presentation is entitled "The History of the Lutheran Women's League." Lunch is at Noon, with a menu of stuffed pork chops with baked apples, green beans almondine, fresh fruit salad, rolls, dessert, and a beverage. The cost is \$8.00, with checks made payable to NEOSWO. The deadline for registration is September 7. Our offering will support the St. Luke's Resident Activity Fund, as well as the NEOSWO. Please see Betty Tracy for more information.

DATES TO REMEMBER

"On September 11, 2001, our lives were changed. Loss came into our world in a shocking and tragic way. We shall never be the same after that black day. We are marked and scarred and still find need for healing. Therefore let us mark this day with prayers of remembrance, prayers of healing, prayers of thanksgiving, and prayers for guidance."

North Canton will mark the Tenth Anniversary of 9/11 with a *Service of Remembrance* in Bitzer Park on **Saturday, September 10**, beginning at Noon. *Reflections with a Panel Discussion* will follow in the High School Auditorium at 1:00 p.m. Dogwood Street will host a *Celebrate Our Diversity Picnic* from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Here at Zion, our Sunday worship services will mark the day with special music, prayers for peace, and litanies that lift up our need for healing, understanding, and reconciliation.

ANOTHER INSTALLMENT OF AUSTIN'S ADVENTURES IN ARMENIA

When we saw Austin on the Sunday of our Mother's Day Breakfast, he was preparing for B2B, short for *Border2Border Initiative*, the first Armenian marathon walk to raise awareness about children's health. Twelve Peace Corps Volunteers divided into two groups to walk the entire span of Armenia. Austin's group started out from the Armenian-Iranian border (south), and the other group began from the Armenian-Georgia border (north), with each group walking 275 kilometers and meeting in the middle at Martuni. Over the course of 17 days the two groups walked a total of 578 kilometers, or 359 miles. They walked through 64 towns and villages, hosting 11 seminars for 477 children, distributing 200 informational posters and 5,000 brochures about children's health. Everyone enjoyed the great success that came with this historic first.

Now it is time to move forward with plans for the summer camp Austin introduced to Zion during his presentation on Mother's Day, a summer camp that Zion supported with an impromptu offering of \$500.00! The overall goal of this summer camp experience is to bring children with physical, mental, and socioeconomic differences together to learn about leadership, teamwork, and cooperation. The five-day camp will focus on RESPECT on Day 1, COMMUNICATION on Day 2, MOTIVATION on Day 3, TEAMWORK on Day 4, and GOOD CITIZENSHIP on Day 5. The emphasis on children that guided Peace Corps efforts with the *Border2Border Initiative* has helped form the goals of another first, this WE ARE OUR FUTURE SUMMER CAMP.

WE ARE OUR FUTURE SUMMER CAMP is looking for 30 children (ages 13 through 17) from Goris, the small city where Austin is assigned: able-bodied kids and children with disabilities, student leaders and kids who have come from the other side of the tracks, with all sorts of disadvantaged backgrounds. Thirty children will be formed into three teams of ten, each team consisting of a mix of ages, backgrounds, and capabilities. The goals are to increase understanding and mutual respect between these students in Goris, and to promote the ideas of cooperation and leadership. You might be interested in knowing that Armenia has come in second in two recent international polls. It came in second, behind Zimbabwe, as the second *most unhappy* society on earth; and more recently, it was determined to be the second most depressed economy in the world, behind Madagascar.

Most of us have a hard time locating Armenia on a map. Armenia is a land-locked country to the east of Turkey, north of Iran, and south of Russia, with former Soviet satellite Georgia its immediate neighbor to the north. Armenia has been in history books for well over three thousand years, inspiring great pride, but leaving no record of a golden age in which Armenia was among those blessed with widespread prosperity. WE ARE OUR FUTURE SUMMER CAMP has laid out five well planned days that are intended to build trust, understanding, and cooperation at the most basic level of children working (and playing) with children. The teens involved in this camp will be encouraged to translate mutual respect and understanding into community action and civil service projects that make the connection between being a good person and a good citizen, between their lives as individuals and their future as a community. Whatever the result, Zion can feel some sense of gratification that our generosity has made this effort possible.

