

GOODBYE SUMMER – HELLO SCHOOL!

Summer is just about over for the children. Some began school last week, others begin next week, and the rest will begin August 27 – so *Goodbye Summer and Hello School!*

We give God thanks for this summer and for the many gifts bestowed and received. **Our Maker-Creator VBS** went very well, thanks to our many volunteers who shared so much. One example from a volunteer came at last Sunday's service when Teresa Keaton talked about helping VBS children make Hope Rocks (These are rocks that are decorated and then placed in varying locations to remind whoever picks them up of God's love. We also made Hope Rocks for our Youth to take with them to SpiritUs this past week). Right after the Sunday service, another Teresa – Teresa Weaver – told me that she had just returned from Glacier National Park in Montana, where she had found a few Hope Rocks that someone else had made and left for her to “discover.” What an amazing reminder that we are all connected and that God's love and hope is indeed all around us, if we just pay attention.

Our **Summer Fun Days** have also gone well. With the help of strategic volunteers, including our ever-faithful bus driver Jerry Hamilton, the children and I have enjoyed visiting Greensboro's Science Center and Aquarium as well as Durham's Life and Science Center. We have gone roller skating (twice at their request), gone bowling, and have played miniature golf. These events have been great fun for children and adults alike!

Both children and adults have enjoyed each other's company as we've explored God's beauty all around us in both nature and science. God's spirit has dwelt among us. We have seen the wideness of God's creation – from farm animals at our own VBS petting zoo to reptiles and tarantulas at the Science Center. We received God's blessings as we observed a family of bears coming out of their caves for a morning stretch and as we were entertained by gibbons who put on a wild gymnastics show of swinging from one rope to another, just for the fun of it. We were amazed by the speed of penguins' diving and swimming underwater during feeding time, and we enjoyed the interactive play that taught us about meerkats. The children appreciated extra time to pet sting rays (stingers removed) at the Aquarium's ray petting area and loved having an hour to explore gigantic tree houses that were carefully designed for them to explore freely. Each occasion represented time well spent with each other and with the Spirit of God that permeates all creation so abundantly. The following prayer from the early church expresses some of what we shared:



Look at the animals roaming the forest: God's spirit dwells within them.

Look at the birds flying across the sky: God's spirit dwells within them.

Look at the tiny insects crawling in the grass: God's spirit dwells within them.

Look at the fish in the river and sea: God's spirit dwells within them.

There is no creature on earth in whom God is absent. . . . When God pronounced that His creation was good, it was not only that His hand had fashioned every creature; it was that His breath had brought every creature to life.

Look too at the great trees of the forest; look even at your crops. God's spirit is present within all plants as well. The presence of God's spirit in all living things is what makes them beautiful; and if we look with God's eyes, nothing on the earth is ugly.

God's creation spanned our summer events at Mount Pleasant – from our Maker-Creator VBS to each of our Summer Fun days. As we now end our summer days to begin the school year, may we all remain ever aware of God's creation around us and look with God's eyes, listen with God's ears, and find our place within God's good – and very good – creation!



The Crossroads Youth would like to say they had a great time at SpiritUs 2018 this year. We appreciate all the support and love

from our Church Family for making this trip possible for us. Our trip was a great way to grow our Spiritual Life as we continue to grow closer to God and also among ourselves. We also want to say Thank You to Jack Fleming for going with us to SpiritUs. We are grateful for him driving us down and back safely and to helping us with our Spiritual growth. Love and Blessings to all, **Crossroads Youth**



The following pictures are of the Youth sharing Spiritual Rocks at SpiritUs 2018. The Youth enjoyed placing the rocks around the campus and were very excited to see when the rocks were taken by other Youth attending SpiritUs 2018. This was a wonderful way to share the love with other Youth.

