

# SAINTS ALIVE!

August 2024

## Rector's Corner

As I write this, we are in the midst of the “dog days of summer,” an old expression describing the hot, sultry center of the season. This is not an insult to our canine companions, but rather an ancient reference to Sirius, the “dog star,” and the brightest star visible from any part of Earth. In the summer, Sirius occupies the same region of the sky as our sun. Because the star is so bright, the ancient Romans believed it actually gave off heat and added to the sun’s warmth, accounting for the long stretch of sultry weather.

Regardless of the name, this period is usually a welcome lull in the church office. Our annual VBS week, with all its excitement and energy, is over, and the new program year has not yet begun. It’s a chance to pause, to breathe, and to take stock; to do some catching up on administrative tasks, and to prepare for what comes next.

This year, it also means some changes to our parish staff. You may remember that in mid-June All Saints’ Music Director, Karl Hedlund, resigned from his position after 12 years of faithful service. As we made plans to look for a successor, I had several conversations with our organist, John Spencer, about what would be best for All Saints’ music program going forward. In the process I learned that John has directing experience as well. So, I invited John to become our Principal Music Director, to help in seeking an Assistant who could share both roles (director and instrumentalist), and to begin envisioning newly collaborative ways of leading our music ministry. Last week we were delighted to announce that Adam Muhlestein will join All Saints’ as our Assistant Music Director beginning August 1. John’s note elsewhere in this newsletter will introduce him more fully.

Also in June I learned that our bookkeeper, Cynthia Nicacio, had decided to resign in order to be available to help care for her grandchildren. She has only been with us for a little over a year, but she has been instrumental in helping us transition to a new office management system that, among other advantages, has dramatically reduced the time needed for bookkeeping tasks.

At Treasurer Elizabeth Arnold’s suggestion, and with my wholehearted support, the vestry decided to make a change in parish staffing. Rather than seeking a new bookkeeper for only about 4-5 hours/week, they voted to expand the Administrator’s position to include those responsibilities. Rachel Loer will still be the face of All Saints’ during office hours, but she will also handle the books and maintain financial records. She will also begin recruiting “money counter” teams again, to help tally Sunday deposits. Watch for that, and please consider if you can offer about 20 minutes every month or so to help with this ministry!

These changes are the result of prayerfully looking at the needs of our congregation, and then intentionally looking beyond “the way we’ve been doing it.” It has meant deliberately focusing first on our parish mission of “equipping the saints to seek and serve Christ in all persons,” and how we might support it using the skills and resources we have been given. That focus, continually seeking to reorient our common life toward the service of God and one another, is at the core of all we do and all we are. This is what faithful stewardship looks like in action, and it reminds me once again how profoundly grateful I am to serve with you all as we follow Jesus together.

God’s peace,  
Jane+

## Adult Education

This year in the Diocese of Spokane we have been focusing on listening – listening to God, listening to one another, and listening for God in the voices of others. Through the summer Adult Formation will focus on passages from scripture that reflect on the ways that God speaks and calls to us, and the ways that we human beings respond.

Please join us in the parish hall each Sunday at 9:15AM, as we open our Bibles and our hearts together.



**Aug 4:** Matthew 15:21-28 (The Canaanite Woman's Faith)

**Aug 11:** Acts 8:26-40 (Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch)

**Aug 18:** Acts 17:16-34 (Paul in Athens)

**Aug 25:** John 2:1-11 (The Wedding at Cana)

**Sept 1:** Luke 18:1-8 (The Widow and the Unjust Judge)

## Children and Youth Ministries— August 2024

**Godly Play**, our Sunday school program for preschool and elementary-aged children, will resume on the Sunday after Labor Day, **September 8, 2024**, from 9:00 to 10:00 AM. Our first day will be a combined class with youth and adults and will be held in the multi-purpose room. If you would like more information about Godly Play, contact Theresa at [school@allsaintsrichland.org](mailto:school@allsaintsrichland.org).

**Visitors welcome in Children's Chapel.** Our child-friendly Liturgy of the Word is held during the beginning of the 10:15 worship service all year round, and visitors are always welcome! We meet in

the multi-purpose room downstairs, and come up to join the rest of the congregation for Communion. For children ages 3 up through 6th grade. There will be no chapel on August 25, the Episco-Picnic with St. Paul's (because the 10:15 service will be held elsewhere).

### **Youth Group—Parent Picnic, September 15, 5-7 PM.**

Inviting all youth going into grades 6-12, and their parents, to a “welcome” picnic at All Saints'. We'd like to welcome you back to our program year, welcome our incoming 6th graders (and any new youth!), start off our youth group year, have a short parent meeting, and play some games—all at once! Dinner will be provided for you. If you are not already getting the youth group emails and would like to be added, please contact Theresa at [school@allsaintsrichland.org](mailto:school@allsaintsrichland.org).

**VBS 2024: Seeds of Faith.** What an awesome week! We've just finished our Vacation Bible School learning so many things about seeds, how God gives seeds—and us—what we need to grow and thrive, and how to “plant” seeds of love. It's the best week of summer! Check out a full recap on page 8.



## Saints and Sinners

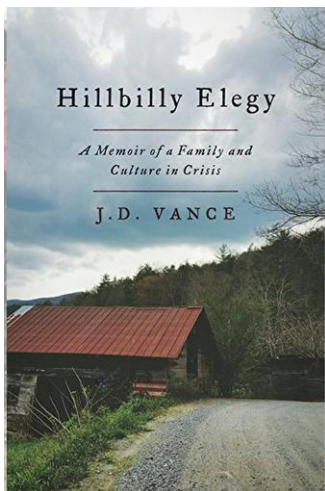
Saints and Sinners is a Social Group open to all adults. If you've never tried it we would love to have you. If you have tried it we would love to have you back. We meet for a pot-luck supper and fellowship once each month or two, normally on the second Friday of the month. We will be meeting **Friday, August 9** at Bette Evans' home, 610 Corner Court, Richland. We will meet at 6:00 for wine and non-alcoholic beverages, with dinner at 7:00.

Couples please bring either a main dish or two of the following: starter, salad, side dish or dessert. Singles, please bring one of these. Ordinarily we ask for a \$5 donation if you would like wine, but we are a bit ahead so this is a free month!

Please call Bette by Wednesday, August 7 to let her know you are coming and also if you need directions. Call or text 509-420-6819 or email [betteevans@charter.net](mailto:betteevans@charter.net).

## All Saints' Book Group

Our next book to read is *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis*, by J.D. Vance. We chose this book before Mr. Vance was selected as the Republican candidate for Vice President, but it will be a timely read and discussion. The book recounts Vance's childhood growing up in a poor Rust Belt



town, and the struggles of his working-class family. His grandparents moved north from Kentucky's Appalachia region to Ohio in the hopes of escaping poverty, but the family was never able to fully escape the legacy of abuse, alcoholism, and trauma. *Hillbilly Elegy* is one person's story of how upward mobility really feels.

We will meet on **Tuesday, September 10** at 6 PM to discuss this book, beginning with a potluck dinner. All are welcome!

## Eucharistic Visitors Needed

If you have ever been curious as to what it takes to become a Eucharistic Visitor, you're in luck: we will be conducting training next month!

If you have interest in taking the bread and wine to our parishioners who are unable to attend All Saints' in person, contact Deacon Mark Sluss at [mdsluss@gmail.com](mailto:mdsluss@gmail.com), or find him at coffee hour.

NOTE: "Safe Church Safe Communities Certification" is needed prior to being active on the rotation.



## Notes from the Music Ministry

From your friendly neighborhood music director, John Spencer: What a wonderful summer we have had thus far! We have heard from the All Saints' Brass Band, a piano duet, piano solos, vocal solos, and music for double-bass. I am grateful to the wonderful people of All Saints' for sharing your time and talent to the music program over the summer.

There have been, and will be, a few changes coming to the music ministry.

With the retirement of our former director, Karl Hedlund, I have stepped into the position of Principal Music Director. In consultation with our rector, we have re-aligned our two musical staff positions. We have traditionally had a top-down relationship of director and accompanist.

Now we will have a collaborative relationship of Principal and Assistant Music Director. Both positions will direct the choir, accompany the congregation on hymns, and select music for services!



I am happy to announce that we have hired Adam Muhlestein as the Assistant Music Director. Adam started playing the organ at age 12 in the LDS church and ended up being a congregational

organist for about 10 years. He then was the organist and took turns directing the choir at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Kennewick for the last five and a half years. He has studied under Dr. Seth Bott, Becky Yarlott, July Lambert, Allan Willis, and Kraig Scott. Please join me in welcoming Adam as our new Assistant Music Director.

Starting in the fall, members of the congregation who play piano or organ are invited to accompany the choir on a Communion Hymn. This will be for individuals who can play hymns who are looking for experience accompanying singers. If you are interested in this opportunity, please e-mail me at [document\\_spencer@yahoo.com](mailto:document_spencer@yahoo.com).

Choir starts in rehearsals on September 4th and our first Sunday back is September 8th. All are welcome to join the choir. During the season, choir rehearsals are every Wednesday at 7 PM. Please join the choir!

## Outreach Focus for August: Early Learning Center

With the new school year approaching, Outreach's focus for August will be collecting clothing items needed for the preschoolers who attend the Early Learning Center (ELC) in Richland. ELC houses Richland School District's developmental preschool as well as the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program, providing free preschool education for low-income families.

The children ages 3-5 are most in need of clothing, and while the school does collect used clothing to be given to families, items like underwear, socks and shoes are not usually passed down. We will be collecting NEW children's underwear and socks, and new or gently used shoes (most needed are sneakers), along with small backpacks, to provide for the children.

Clothing sizes most needed are:

- underwear 4/5/6/7
- socks, small
- shoes 11/12/13
- clothing 3T through 5



We can also take used clothing donations for preschoolers as well, to add to their bins. You can bring your donations to the box in the narthex at church through the month of August.

## You've Got Mail!

Are you going away to school? We'll miss you here, but we'd love to send you mail occasionally during the school year. If you're interested in getting some mail, it's easy—just send your school snail mail address to the church office or the Pastoral Care team c/o Marjie Mack at [mmack3108@comcast.net](mailto:mmack3108@comcast.net).



## Altar Guild Workday

The Altar Guild relies on hard-working volunteers to help us prepare our worship space for the big events of the church year: Advent, Christmas, Holy Week, Easter... Now we are calling on volunteers again in the middle of the season of Pentecost, a season so long and uneventful the Roman Catholics even call it Ordinary Time.

The reasons are practical. If we allow tarnish to build up for too long on the brass and silver, polishing will be much more difficult when Advent arrives. Sparkling silver and brass are also a good way to welcome the return of the choir and Sunday School in September, and a work day is a good time to reconnect with people we may not see over the summer.

A work day can also be a little hard to schedule, with many people leaving town in August and without a looming holiday to dictate when the work must be done. No time or date has been set yet, but if you think you can offer us an hour or two, look for a signup sheet in the Narthex and let us know what times would work for you, or contact Ann Barry (509-366-0604 or [barryann579@gmail.com](mailto:barryann579@gmail.com)).

Thank you for volunteering your time!



## Parish Picnic with St. Paul's

It's time for our annual parish picnic and Eucharist with St. Paul's! This year, St. Paul's will be hosting. On **Sunday, August 25**, we hope you'll join us at Horse Heaven Hills Park, 3106 S. Yelm St. in Kennewick (location subject to change - we'll let you know!). We will have worship at All Saints' at 8:00 AM as usual; then we'll gather at the park at 10:30 AM for a joint service with our siblings from St. Paul's, followed by a potluck lunch.

As is customary at St. Paul's, the service will incorporate some Spanish, along with a few pieces which can be said in the language of each person's choice. When Spanish is spoken, English translations will be in the bulletin for English speakers to follow along.

It will be a great weekend to gather, so mark your calendar! Please plan to bring a chair or a blanket to sit on and a generous dish to share.

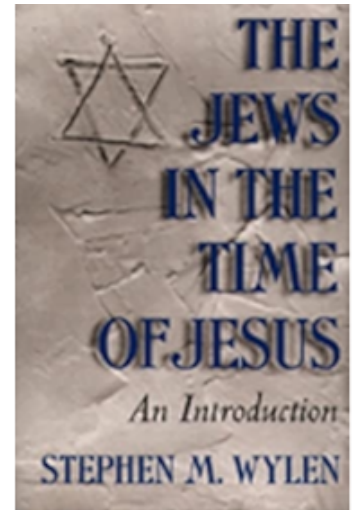


## You're Invited! Fall Bible Study

We are all an inescapable product of our culture, our faith (or perhaps non-faith) background, and influenced to differing degrees depending on whether we are at the perceived top of the contemporary socio-economic ladder, or somewhere much lower. In reading and contemplating the gospels, it can be a challenge to seriously engage them, while attempting to also understand that Jesus was born, raised and died a Jewish man in Roman-occupied Israel in the first century.

This fall, the Bible study group will be engaging in study of a book, *The Jews in the Time of Jesus* by Stephen Wylen. The book discusses Jewish history, the influence of Greek culture on Israel, Jewish worship practices and major festivals, as well as study texts available to Jews in Jesus' time.

Wylen also discusses Jesus' trial, the various Jewish sects that may have been involved, as well as one of Jesus' contemporaries and his influence. The book concludes with chapters on development of various gospel types, and how and when Judaism and early Christianity parted ways.



We will be joined in our discussions, via Zoom, by a no-longer-local Jewish woman, Miriam Kerzner, and her mother in Canada. Miriam has been a source of explanation, correction and inspiration of all things Jewish to our Bible study group for years. She will provide all of that, and more, in our weekly discussions.

The Bible study group meets Mondays in the Parish Hall from 1:00-2:30. We will begin **Monday, September 9**. This is an exciting opportunity to learn about Jesus, his culture, and his religious heritage from a perspective that is totally new to most of us. Please join us!

Contact Liz Carter if you have any questions at [2lizandgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:2lizandgeorge@gmail.com). If you are joining as a new member in the fall, please purchase a copy of the book.

## All Saints' Memorial Pavilion

Remember the large canopy we had in the backyard of the church? Originally set up during the pandemic to allow community worship, having a large shaded area to gather outdoors proved to be a useful blessing for many kinds of gatherings, for other community groups and members as well as our

parish use. What was originally intended for a temporary stopgap measure quickly became a ministry fixture.

After three years of exposure to the elements, our “temporary” canopy (never meant for long-term use!) was showing its age. It needed to be removed. However, it was so useful to our congregation and community that we began to talk about building a more permanent replacement. By God’s grace, some substantial memorial donations, undesignated for any specific use, encouraged us to begin dreaming about building a “Memorial Pavilion.”

Junior Warden Linda Munson and the vestry Property Committee (Marjie Mack, Rick Walling, and David Goheen) set to work. Over the last several months they did research, developed ideas, and spoke with contractors about estimates and possibilities. The vestry as a whole considered their proposals, approved design parameters, and authorized covering costs to allow for construction quality drawings to be developed for city approval, which will then allow construction to proceed.

We hope to have approved drawings available to share in the next week or two. Please watch for them! And in the meantime, if you have questions or would like more information, please talk with Linda or Rev. Jane. We are very excited to keep dreaming of the ways this will help us to “seek and serve Christ” in our community!

## All Saints’ Parish Retreat!

**August 30 - September 2:** Time to pack our bags and bring the church family to Camp Cross for a stay on Lake Coeur d’Alene. Family Camp/Parish Retreat is for campers of all ages and all Camp Cross experience levels. Reconnect with God and nature, introduce the youngsters and oldsters to Camp Cross, take a dip in the lake, sing songs at campfire, take a family hike and relax.



Rev. Jane Schmoetzer & Katy O’Callaghan will provide some family-friendly programming and formation for both youth and adults and we’ll even provide some children-free time for adults! It’s a great way to spend a holiday weekend.

There are still spaces left! Money from the Baptized for Life grant has been set aside for the sole purpose of helping folks get to camp - we encourage you to take advantage of it. See Rev. Jane or Katy with any questions. Register today at [campcross.org](http://campcross.org).

## Summer Movie Nights

Once again All Saints’ is offering a Christian Social Witness movie series through the summer! Please mark your calendars, and join us once each month at 6:00 PM for a potluck supper followed by a film and lively discussion. Thanks to all who participated in the June and July showings! Here’s what’s coming up on **Thurs., August 22:**



### “Bad Faith”

This award-winning documentary delves into the origins of Christian Nationalism, and highlights the grassroots coalition of secular and interfaith leaders bravely confronting the unholy forces using the language of faith in an organized grasp for power.

## Prayers of the People Explained

Have you wondered how our Prayers of the People are updated each week? Rev. Mark Sluss explains:

There are 4 ways that people may notify us of a desire to place someone on our prayer list for Sunday. 1. They may contact the office, 2. they may write their prayer request on a yellow card and submit it in the collection plate, 3. they may inform one of the clergy directly, or 4 they may communicate to the pastoral care team during a visit.

We will list a person for 3 weeks in our prayers; afterwards they are removed unless we are notified that prayers are needed for longer. If they are needed longer than 6 weeks, we usually move them then to the list for the Prayer Angels, who pray daily for those who need.

NOTE: every week we also add the person to whom the Eucharistic Visitor will be taking communion. That is why you see a rotation of members which only lasts a week.

For prayers for the dead, when we receive notification of someone who has died, we will put that name on the list for the current week. If we are hosting the funeral at All Saints', the name will reappear the Sunday prior to the funeral as well.

I rotate a thanksgiving of lay lead ministries each week in a rotation of ministries listed on our website.

## BBHD Collect

All Saints' Building Bridges, Healing Divides team has written a prayer for our use as we discern what our upcoming project for this initiative might be. Feel free to include this collect in your daily devotional practices.



*Triune God, you have placed your saints in your glorious creation and have provided us with an abundance of gifts with your intention we share. Help us to knit closer connections with our neighbors in order to learn from each other; heal wounds*

*and share your love. Grant us courage and grace not to be silent, and to stand with all people in their faith journey. Guide us with the Holy Spirit to grow into the likeness of Jesus. All this we ask in your Holy Name. Amen.*

## Walk in Love: Love as Paradox

For this year's stewardship campaign, we are using the Episcopal Network for Stewardship's (TENS) theme, "Walk in Love," based on Year B in the lectionary cycle. Vivian Altopp, who runs a nonprofit from her home church in West Philadelphia, reflects on love as a paradox:

*The phrase "walk in love" is borrowed from a letter Paul wrote to the Ephesians in which he discusses the*



*Christian understanding*

*of love: to "love your neighbor as yourself." Indeed, walking in love is integral to the Christian traditions; at the same time, essential and secularly connected to each of our hearts. As a young adult, wishing to honestly engage in a reflection of love, my mind projects past the static, screened portrayals that rom-coms and pop lyrics are soaked with into something deeper: love as paradox.*

*Paradox is recognizing the relationship between two highly differing experiences which do not negate each other like contradiction does. Instead, when paired together, vastness opens up so wide, we can hold each separate concept in our hands and feel the infiniteness of life swirl within us. Paradox is a flipped coin, a currency, a battery, an energy. Love must be a paradox.*

*In my encounters with paradox, there is a side which is conventionally received within the culture of our society; the other side faces a struggle to accept. I wonder what lies within love - the shadow-side that together completes a whole. Forgiveness blossoms on my lips.*

*In the spring of 2020, a friend sent me a reading of Dilruba Ahmed's poem, Phase One. Forgiveness flowers across stanzas, coating a hurt heart like liniment: "...ointment reserved / for healers and prophets. I forgive you. / i forgive you." As the tears fell across my cheeks, a realization was released: to forgive is to love. And so, as I would forgive, or love, another, I must forgive and love myself.*



*As a child, I translated our commandment of love into “love your neighbor as your [honest] self.” In other words, come as you are to the world; with all your ugliness or beauty, love nonetheless. Now i see it another way: “love your neighbor as [you do] yourself.” Society says, “love begets love,” but this is not always true. Forgiveness begets love. So here, as ourselves and towards are neighbors, we must return to love.*

## Money Counters Needed

A wonderful behind the scenes ministry opportunity is becoming a Money Counter. Money counters add accountability (get it?

Math joke!) and help our bookkeeping by creating a paper record of donations received on Sundays. This often overlooked ministry is a great way to help in 20 minute doses.



Every Sunday after the 10:15am service, teams of two people are needed to count and record the donations received at both services. If we have enough teams, you'll only need to help about once a month.

Please contact Rachel Loer if you're interested, at [admin@allsaintsrichland.org](mailto:admin@allsaintsrichland.org). She promises to make fewer terrible jokes if you volunteer.

## VBS 2024: Seeds of Faith Recap

VBS was held July 22–26, with 40 total campers registered, though some of the younger campers did not stay all week, and others joined us mid-week. It was a great bunch of kids, many of whom have attended our VBS in the past, with a healthy dose of new faces sprinkled in. We had nearly as many youth and adults leaders here during the week, making our home-grown program run smoothly. I had several parents tell me how much they and their kids enjoy our VBS program and what they are learning, and it's why they keep coming back! Some of our storytellers observed campers telling other campers

the Godly Play story during the week (I heard from some parents that they told the story at home as well)—one of my favorite things about Godly Play! And a couple of our older campers are already eager to become helpers next year! Planting seeds!

Our theme for the week was Seeds of Faith and focused on all things seeds—stories about seeds, art projects that used seeds, science learning about seeds and plants, and snacks that featured seeds to eat (did you know corn kernels are seeds?! We planted some seeds in glass jars on Monday and watched them all week as they cracked open and first a root came out, and then a sprout! Diane Goheen found us a wonderful song to sing, “Planting Seeds of Love” by Pam Donkin, that we learned and sang for our parents on Friday, and for the congregation in church on Sunday. We added our prayer petals to the sunflower on the wall.

We took a field trip one evening to the native plant restoration area at the north end of Leslie Groves Park, where we had a wonderful guide in Debbie Berkowitz, who showed us how seeds are important in that restoration work. We were threshing, winnowing and grinding wheat (which are seeds) into flour, which Rev. Jane used to make the Communion bread for Sunday!



We collected money to buy a mature maple tree, and to have it planted in the fall back by our playground to give us more shade (yes, we could plant it from seed, but then we would have to wait a very long time for the shade). And we ended the week with an abundant potluck lunch on Friday with our families.

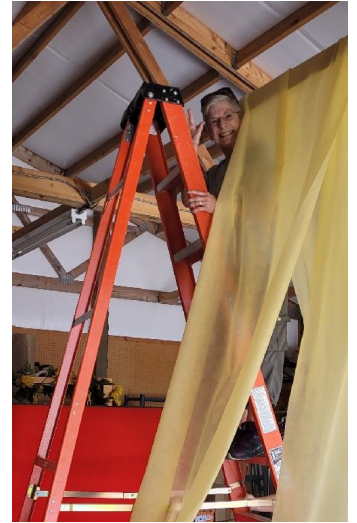


Our amazing volunteers make VBS possible, and a success! Room leaders were: Katy O'Callaghan, Nigella O'Callaghan, and Karin Hilgert in the Creation room (where campers made seed mosaics, took a trip outside to figure out what plants need to grow, and explored seeds by smelling, tasting, and touching them); Kimberly Wageman, Ronin Wageman, and various helpers in the Ruth room (wildflower seed balls, root investigations, and processing wheat into flour); Ann Barry and Teri Bartol in the Parable of the Sower room (painting pots and planting basil, exploring seed dispersal, and learning to spit seeds); Marjie Mack, Al Wells, and Jan Wells in the Parable of the Mustard Seed room (bird seed hangers, nature walk outside, and learning about flowers); and Diane Goheen, Steve Goheen, and Anna Loer in the Parable of the Farmer and the Growing Seed room (homemade chia pets, scarecrow craft, dissecting a bean, and learning parts of a seed).

Our wonderful group leaders were Andrea Barry, Benji Goheen, Bianca Lara, Rachael Black, Donna Anderson, Dianna Larsgaard, Ryker Wageman, Kinley Wageman, Andie Slonecker, and Iris Slonecker. Cheryl Smith and Layna Kinsman each helped out where needed on the days they were able to come. Diane Goheen headed up Music, with John Spencer accompanying our singers on guitar, and Gretchen Makinson leading folk dancing on two mornings. Prayer time was led by the Rev. Jane Schmoetzer, and Mission time was led by Theresa Grate. Kitchen leaders were Liz Carter and Lisa Richmond, with help from others. The Rev. Rachel Jackson was our Registrar on Monday, and Rachel Loer was our fantastic photographer!



We couldn't hold VBS without the awesome support of All Saints' parishioners! I'm always heartened and no longer surprised at the outpouring of food and items from our congregation to make VBS a success. And we had lots of fantastic help at our work parties ahead of VBS week, getting things prepped and ready. A special thank you to Athena Pelly for making every camper a journal, to Rev. Jane Schmoetzer for growing basil plants for us to transplant, and to Benji Goheen for getting our music videos loaded and playable.



Thanks to all who helped behind the scenes: Andrea Aldous, Donna Anderson, Ann Barry, Teri Bartol, Rachael Black, Liz & George Carter, Rich & Kim Conley, Cindy Cross, Dave Degrenier, Jhivaun Freeman-Pollard, Benji Goheen, Diane & Steve Goheen, Annette Gordon, Jay & Theresa Grate, Jan Griffin, Sue Havre, Laura Hendrickson, Karin Hilgert, Kathleen King, Layna Kinsman, Kim Kremer, Dianna Larsgaard, Rachel Loer, Marjie Mack, Bianca Martin, Joyce McClanahan, Meg Milligan, Katy O'Callaghan, Athena Pelly, Lynne & Chuck Rawls, Lisa & George Richmond, Andie Slonecker, Cheryl Smith, Shanon Smith, George Spencer, Kimberly Wageman, Marlo Wallace, Bea Wardlow, Al & Jan Wells, Richelle Wilde, and Julie Wiley. You all are truly a blessing!

So many wonderful stories to take from this week! One of my favorites is this: Katy was sitting in front of our bottle cap mural that was made at VBS two years ago, and several of the campers started talking about the mural—how they remembered working on it two summers ago, and even which section they had worked on, and then they wondered about the story they had heard with it that year—and then they started telling that story (Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard)! A story they had heard ONCE, and two years ago! Planting seeds of faith!



