

# New Hope Newsletter

New Hope Christian Reformed Church

July 2010



## *The Java Hut:*

### *Welcoming Visitors to New Hope VBS*

*By Karyn Jeffrey, Vacation Bible School Director*

New Hope will again this year feature a special outreach aspect for the adults who accompany neighbor children for VBS—"The Java Hut." As director, I would like to invite each of you to be aware of what we are doing and "get on board" in cooperation with the VBS staff and Java Hut team.

Here is how it works: During the week of VBS, a special tent will be set up on the east side of the church with drinks and snacks for visitors. The Java Hut will be manned by special teams who will be engaging our un-churched neighbors in friendly conversation. The goal is to build relationships and show our neighbors that church people aren't "aliens" or "weirdos."

We are praying and preparing for the active sharing of the Gospel within the context of these friendly visits. We hope they are reminiscent of sitting on the porch at dusk during a warm summer evening, visiting with passing neighbors. We have purposefully chosen to limit the number of people who sit at Java Hut to only the assigned people. We want our neighbors not to be intimidated by a crowd of "church people" who are busy visiting with one another. The Java Hut teams will actively engage "shy-of-new-situations" people such as single moms who would be discouraged to break in on a group of church people and anyone that would be intimidated if there are people busy with their own conversations, oblivious to strangers. With this in view, we are asking very emphatically that only New Hope folks assigned to the Java Hut to be present during this time.  
*(continued on back page)*



## **Why I Volunteer For Vacation Bible School**

It takes an amazing crew of volunteers each year to put on Vacation Bible School at New Hope Church. Several long time volunteers shared what VBS means to them- and what keeps them coming back every year:

"Sunday school and Vacation Bible School were instrumental in bringing me to Jesus as my Savior from sin. We have this same opportunity every Sunday and every summer. Jesus said "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God". " Mark 10:14b ESV

**Alan Ulmer, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade  
Teacher**

**Check out the back  
page for more stories  
from VBS Volunteers**

## Java Hut Will Welcome Visitors, from Page One

You may be thinking how unfair it is that none of our New Hope folks get the good snacks, beverages (iced frappacinos and lemonade, I hear) and the fun of fellowship. The Task Force has thought of this and devised a solution: If you help with VBS and have down-time during VBS hours, the church library will be set up with drinks and snacks for you. This room will also be a site for prayer for the "it is happening right now" prayer needs of VBS. Any New Hope family member is invited to come there any time during VBS to pray and enjoy fellowship with one another.

Can you picture it? Java Hut will be a place where our neighbors can meet the Savior and will be welcomed by His people. Will you pray with us for the hearts and lives of our neighbors?

Thanks for being aware and in prayer for this very special time of missionary work right here in our neighborhood.

## Why I Volunteer for Vacation Bible School, Continued from page one

"Working in the craft area allows the kids to do something they all seem to enjoy - gluing, painting, making a mess. I enjoy those things too. It also is a time when we show the love of Jesus through patience and kindness. We try to choose crafts they will keep in their rooms - that will remind them of the Bible stories they learned each day." **Cami Haveman, Craft Area Helper**

"When you see the kids come in for that first night, looking around at all the decorations and they see the singers at the front and are all jumpy and full of energy, ready to sing and move around, there is a joy and a sense of accomplishment. By the last night the kids know all the songs and are proudly singing along and you feel like you have changed their life just a little and made their summer a little bit better. That is why I volunteer and look forward to VBS every year, it is a time that I remember looking forward to every summer and to be able to give those kids the same feeling is great." **Jen Haveman, Praise Team and Crafts**

"I help with Bible School because it is such an important outreach of our church. This is when many children get their only taste of what the church of Christ is like, it may be the only time they get to hear about Jesus, and VBS allows us to reach out to their families and parents. I also want to be involved because it is important to have volunteers who are eager to participate and make the programs succeed in Jesus' name. At the end of VBS each year, I walk home and think "Too bad we didn't have it for 2 weeks!" That's how much fun it ends up being and that's how much it blesses me personally. Parents who frequently sent their kids to VBS tell me that we run a quality event and they make sure their kids come to our program."

**Kathy Tinklenberg, Helper, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade**

### Top 6 reasons I help with VBS:

1. Very moving to watch God work in the lives of the children
2. Amazing to see how God orchestrates the myriad of details
3. Brings me joy when using my spiritual gifts for the Lord
4. Lots of fun working with an awesome group of people
5. Builds life long friendships
6. Most of the kids are shorter than I am!

**Lori Ulmer, Kitchen Helper**

