

THE CHIMES

Sept. 7, 2016

**Next Chimes
deadline:
September 21**

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**October birthdays will be
in the next Chimes issue.**

Articles for *The Chimes* must be submitted by noon on the deadline day and can be sent to: uumctb@twcny.rr.com or put in Box No. 12 in the church office.

Alicia Wood, Pastor
Tom Boll, Editor

Come at 10 a.m. Sept. 18 for a day full of welcoming for children and adults

Vacation Bible School. State Fair. Labor Day. All are behind us. Children are back in school. Our summer series on the 12 Phoenix Affirmations ends this Sunday.

So it's time to look ahead to Fall Kickoff/Rally Day, Sept. 18, a full day of welcoming.

Everyone — adults and children — should arrive at church at 10 a.m. for a celebration welcoming children and adults back to Sunday School and welcoming newcomers to our faith community.

We need adults', teens' and children's participation!

We will sing and do activities to help us get to know one another better. Then we'll break out into our Sunday School classes for registration.

Please come to welcome and be welcomed — to love and be loved!

Then, at the 11 a.m. service our choir will rejoin us after taking the summer off, and the welcoming theme will continue.

Finally, after worship we'll have a gathering to formally welcome our James Street United Methodist Church friends.

Giving down this year; challenges ahead in 2017

As we approach the stewardship campaign for 2017, it is important to review what our financial experience has been for 2016.

Through the first six months of 2016, our operating experience shows a significant decline in contributions.

The results have improved somewhat after information was sent to the congregation, but a trend showing a decline in revenue based on pledges is likely to continue.

This is largely due to some demographic changes in our membership.

In any event it is important to keep up with your current commitments to the church.

Non-pledge revenue was also off from the previous year, so an eye

needs to be kept on that result as well.

While maintenance was considerably higher for the period than last year, it should be noted that some capital funds from endowments increased revenue lines so that this is less of a concern than the expense line taken alone warrants.

There are other minor variations of little concern in other line items.

Nevertheless we show an operating loss for the six months of \$24,993.22 versus a loss last year of \$12,462.80.

Note that historically we do not draw down endowment income that we budget unless cash needs dictate the action.

See **CONFERENCE**, Page 5

We head into the fall with momentum from the Holy Spirit



Alicia Wood

Greetings!

“Surely, the presence of the Lord is in this place!”

Something is happening at University UMC that can only be explained as the Holy Spirit moving among and around us.

On Aug. 28 we had 118 people in worship! The last time we had more than 118 for worship in a summer month was in 2011.

I know that many pieces have come together to make this happen, but it is all due to the Holy Spirit.

We have had record breaking pantry numbers. We have been

inviting our pantry guests to breakfast, worship and Bible Study.

This, along with the Holy Spirit, has set a record for our Community Breakfast this summer.

Somehow, our beautiful sanctuary has hosted six weddings in 2016 so far.

We are seeing more students pop in for worship and volunteer opportunities.

We hosted VBS this August. I am grateful that so many in our congregation and other Syracuse UM Churches volunteered to make this fun and educational for the children. The children left excited about starting Sunday School this fall.

Therefore, we are starting

Fall 2016 with *great* momentum!

Our Phoenix Affirmations have taken us through the summer months with thought-provoking statements of faith.

We have not had a laid-back summer but one of enthusiasm and spiritual depth.

September 18 we will have our Fall Kick-Off/Rally Day as a day of welcome: welcome back, welcome here, all are welcome in this place.

Please join us to meet new friends and get swept up with us by the Holy Spirit!

Peace be with you until we meet again,

— *Pastor Alicia*

Friday Community is focus of new member’s volunteering



Robert Simmons

Robert Simmons originally “just came for the coffee” in his first visit to UUMC four years ago on a Friday.

He’d heard from UUMC member Robby Lewis about the Friday Community and the crafts.

That Outreach program is his main focus of volunteering now at UUMC. He also did the Peale window display for a while and helped with landscaping around the church.

“I help out pretty much wherever I’m needed,” he said.

Robert said he wanted to join UUMC because the members are, as he put it, “terribly wonderful people.”

“I just can’t imagine my circumstances (HIV positive for 30 years and living on Social Security) putting me much of anywhere else,” he said.

Robert is from Syracuse but has lived in many places.

His family moved to Canada when he was 6 years old, and he lived in various towns in that country where he attended school and worked until he joined the U.S. Marine Corps at the age of 18. He served for three years, based at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

After the Marine Corps he went back to Canada and lived in Montreal and Ottawa before returning to Syracuse for 10 years. He then lived in Massena for four years before coming back to Syracuse.

Among the jobs he’s had are security, gas pump attendant, car

wash attendant, retail, truck driver and bartender.

Robert has four siblings: brothers who live in Texas and Massena and sisters who live in Niagara Falls and Syracuse.

“A lot of my hobbies and interests look like work,” he said. Robert said he talks with people and tries to get them out of the rut they’re in and into “the next step.”

Of his crafts, he enjoys crocheting tremendously. He crochets a wide variety of things, including stress balls, fantasy creatures, hats and gloves.

“The things I make, make people happy,” he said.

As for his outlook on life, he said, “I live my faith every day. I practice what I preach, and I do my best to fulfill any promise I make.”

No summer lull as new programs began and hundreds got meals



**Galyn
Murphy-
Stanley**

As I sit and write this article my oldest child begins her career as a college student.

My next child sprints through Nottingham's pool with her varsity teammates, and my youngest is in training to become a middle school peer counselor at Ed Smith School.

My children have had a few weeks this summer to travel, relax, socialize and enjoy the offerings of Syracuse's summer and were ready for these structured activities to begin.

However, I'm not sure I'm as ready to jump into the chaotic fall schedule that always seems to take us by surprise.

My husband reminds me that fall is my favorite season and with routine comes predictability and (most of the time) ease. I remind myself that summer was fairly busy too, at home and at work.

So, the transition of seasons and into new schedules shouldn't be too difficult.

I, with my friends in our neighboring food pantries, am still recovering from the high volume of pantry guests over the summer.

With the abundance of produce, bread, dairy, clothing, diapers and books, we have become one of the "best pantries" in the city (or so I am told).

With the help of Brownson Family Farms in Kirkville, Owen Orchards in Weedsport and the CNY Food Bank's Grocery Rescue program, we moved 1,366



Galyn and her husband, George, help daughter Aydan move into her SU dorm.

pounds of bread/leavened products, over 3,000 pounds of produce and 166 pounds of dairy and dry goods total in the months of June, July and August. UUMC's food pantry has fed hundreds of guests thousands of meals. Our Sunday Community Breakfast has easily fed 700 guests, setting a record Aug. 28 of 135 breakfasts served in one sitting.

A few new programs have begun this summer, such as the CNY Diaper Bank's monthly donations, weekly high school community service workers, opening pantry one time per month for evening access and the use of a UUMC van.

Several seasonal programs returned. The Near East Side Community Garden received a \$500 living fence thanks to congregation donations, and more than \$5,000 was awarded by various grants to improve the garden infrastructure.

Our farming partners were re-engaged to supply local produce

to our pantry, and a sorority and a university area landlord made large donations to our clothing/winter outerwear closets.

As fall approaches I look forward to establishing UUMC's Outreach Program as a practicum site for SU's Falk College's Food Studies program.

Also, I am working with UUMC and the City Methodist Outreach Team in securing comfortable furnishings and/or a living situation for a New American family or a family rebounding out of homelessness.

We will begin amping up for the holiday season and as always, looking for diverse ways to connect with our ever-changing neighborhood.

I was recently interviewed by a student who was challenged by the answers I gave to his questions.

This young man's focus was around inaccessibility to good food for folk in poverty, Why does this happen? What role does UUMC play in creating accessibility?, etc.

He pointedly asked, "Why is there not quality food, nor produce available in pantries?"

As I responded to his question, I witnessed the young man deflate before my eyes.

Upon completion of my dissertation on the contrary he turned off the tape recorder and said, "What? How am I supposed to work all of this different information into my paper? I'll have to begin again!"

See **TRANSITION**, Page 6

People/Prayers

THANKS

To our UUMC friends,

George and I would like to gratefully thank you all for your kind messages of sympathy, the beautiful altar flowers, many cards and special messages, plus hugs, after the death of our dear daughter-in-law Beth.

She lost her brave 5-year battle against ALS in August.

George and Rita Soufleris

PRAYERS REQUESTED:

- For those in military service:
Jim Pettyjohn and Matt Fischer

Sunday, August 21

- **Ann O.:** Pray for my nephew, Joel.
- **Ann P.:** Starting cancer treatment for the third time.
- **Barb/Phyllis:** Healing prayers for **David Aitken**
- **Carol:** Prayers for a friend whose baby was diagnosed with a kidney tumor.
- **Carrie & John:** For a successful and loving marriage of **Stephanie & Sarah.**
- **Dan, Morgan & Stella:** Continued prayers for a successful move and getting everything done. We move Wednesday!
- **Ed & Lee:** Prayers that members of different churches get better friends.
- **Erika:** Joy **Storto** with cancer
- **Eva:** Pray for my family. I lost my brother weeks ago and now I need prayer for my sister in Jersey.
- **Francis:** Prayers for a job
- **Peter:** For our daughter, **Alicia**, her husband, **Tim** and their foster baby, who may be going home to her parents

soon. We are grateful for the support they've given her.

- **Ralph:** Thoughts and prayers for **Mary Landis**, who has terminal cancer. Prayers for care and comfort as she goes through the door to a new life. Our thoughts are with the family. We will miss her wholehearted approach to life and her beautiful smile.
- **Rhonda:** Pray for my health and my boyfriend.
- **Willie:** Please pray for my love to receive the proper treatment and recover from an illness.
- **Carus Olcott Jr., Ruth Prell, Bob & Barb Weaver**
- **David Aitken and Scott Brann**, both suffering from brain injuries due to a recent bicycle accident
- For my father, who is in ill health.
- Continued prayers of health for **Fred**
- Prayers for peace and patience through life changes
- Our children
- Hope that our first impulse is always to give some kindness to others.

Sunday, August 28

- **Dale:** For children and families as school begins.
- **Ed: Katrina Tillapaugh**, as she starts a new phase in life at Geneseo College and for her dad as the youngest leaves the nest.
- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus, Guide me to perform compassion for the hurting and lost!
- **Morgan, Dan & Stella:** Thank you for all the prayers. We are officially moved in!

- **Robert:** Dear Lord, I pray for the health of my barber friends.
- Prayers for **Ruth Prell and Carus Olcott**
- **Amy, Tyler and Bill**
- **Carol Walter**
- **Reginald**
- Those looking for work
- Children going back to school for protection
- Peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Sunday, September 4

- **Erick:** For Africa
- **Lynn and Kellie:** For the victim of the fire in Homer and his family and friends
- For the students, as they begin another school year
- **Dale:** For grandson Kelan going off to first year of college
- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus, I praise you for a bountiful month!
- **Mike:** For the family of **Robert Hagerty and Anthony Pavia and family**
- **Donna:** That my daughter in North Carolina is safe
- **Robert:** Good health to all as the weather changes and flu season nears
- **John:** Please pray for my friend's uncle, who is in the hospital and in bad shape.
- **Gail:** The family of **Elvera Young** and the family of **Shirley Hoch Brianna**
- **Eva:** A prayer for my family and friends
- **Erika:** Prayers for **Joe Storto and family**
- **Carus and Mary Olcott, Ruth Prell, Bob & Barb Weaver**
- Our families

See **PEOPLE**, Page 6

Children ‘surfed through the Scriptures’ during Vacation Bible School

Throughout the week of Aug. 21-25 we set out on an adventure as we went “Surfing through the Scriptures with Jesus” during Vacation Bible School at UUMC.

We were so excited to have 11 children participate this year, which means that next year will be even bigger and better.

Each day we learned something new from the Bible. Our main focus was on the word of the day: Sunday: “Be Obedient”; Monday: “Be Kind”; Tuesday: “Be Forgiving”; Wednesday: “Be Bold”; and Thursday: “Believe.”

Every night there was a different Bible verse that matched the word of the day.

Throughout the night, the kids moved from different stations: Bible Story, Crafts, Games, Snacks and Music.



Children learn a song and dance at VBS.

The children’s faces were filled with joy and wonder as they participated in each activity.

You could see their faith growing as they sang every word to the various songs.

I would like to thank each and every volunteer who helped with Vacation Bible School. We could not have done this program without their time, talents and dedication.

They are as follows: Steve Bacon, Lynn Baker, Tom Boll, Rochelle Dail, Bill Dunn, Jeanne Finlayson-Schueler, Linda Fiske, Katie Flynn, Bette Helwig, Carrie Hunt, Alison Maynard, Donna Mills, Cynthia Moore, Kayla Owen, Ann Owens, Sue Pietrantonio, Jackie Sadowski, Gwen Tillapaugh-Fay, Allison Virgo, Ben Virgo, Deb Virgo, Emelia Weah, Esther Weah, Princess Weah and Kellie Wood.

— Morgan Mills,
Vacation Bible School Director

Conference stays longer than expected, but move will result in revenue loss

CONTINUED from Page 1

And for 2016 we only budgeted revenue received from the payment we receive from the Conference and Bishop through June of this year.

Consequently we will receive additional revenue for 2016 depending on how much longer the Conference remains at UUMC.

Based on the photos we have seen, they appear to continue to

do work on the Conference Center space.

Having said that, for 2017 we have several challenges: sustain and hopefully increase congregational pledges and non-pledge revenue and prepare to supplant the lost revenue from the move that the Conference and Bishop will cause to our budget.

Increased revenue from the endowments and investments

does not appear likely since no new gifts have been identified to date.

So 2017 will be a challenge, one that may be mitigated somewhat by reserves that we have established. So keep that in mind as we look at the fine work we are doing and the community we are building.

— Vito Sciscioli,
Chair, Board of Trustees

Ministry of Hospitality

We are seeing many visitors in recent weeks and so we’re recruiting more greeters and ushers. If you’re interested, please let us know by doing a poll at this website: <http://doodle.com/poll/7e2af8xa4mmacpry> or contact Barbara Fought at 446-7656.

Come to a get-together to share ideas of how we can be

more welcoming and to go over the roles of greeters and ushers Sunday, Sept. 18, at 12:30 p.m. after church in the sanctuary.

Handbell Choir

The Handbell Choir will meet and rehearse at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 12 in Fellowship Hall. Contact Dan Magowan at 447-6773.

Senior Choir resumes

The Senior Choir’s first rehearsal of the fall is at 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 15 in the Pettengill Center. For information, contact Music Director Martha Sutter at mlsutter@syr.edu.

Worship Committee

The next meeting is 6 p.m. Monday, Sept. 12, in the Chappell Room. Anyone wishing to help with planning of our worship experiences is welcome to attend.

Altar flowers

Altar flowers were given:

By Carrie and John Hunt, in memory of Carrie's twin brother, John Edwin Kittell.

By Starke Donnally, in memory of his father, Starke Donnally Jr.; his mother, Janet Lehr Donnally; and his brother, Bruce Donnally. All were long-time members of UUMC.

By Carol and Tom Boll and family, in memory of loved ones.

Flowers were given to David Aitken, Mary Klepper, Eva Jah, Rosemary Chappell, Morgan Mills, Steve Bacon.

Flowers were delivered by Carrie and John Hunt, Bobbie and Ernie Hemphill and Margo and Don Koten.

The Guild

The next meeting is at 1:30 p.m. Sept. 28 at in the Chappell Room at UUMC.

We are inviting James Street United Methodist Church women to come and join us.

It will be an informal "Getting to Know You" meeting.

We hope that women, members or not, will join us. We welcome you all.

Transition is always hard

CONTINUED from Page 3

As I donned my teacher's cap and worked with him on ways to include contradictory findings into an already established thesis, I learned again that transition and beginning again is always hard.

Patience, persistence and flexibility need to govern our actions. In the end, the rewards will become obvious.

— *Galyn Murphy-Stanley*
Outreach Coordinator



University United Methodist Church

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WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 11

Sunday the 11th

9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall

10 a.m. Contemporary Issues

11 a.m. Worship, Pastor Wood.

12:15 p.m. Fellowship, Narthex

12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon
Chat, Chappell Rm

Monday the 12th

6 p.m. Worship Committee

7:30 p.m. Handbell Choir

Wednesday the 14th

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

1 p.m. Phoenix Affirmations

Thursday the 15th

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal
Friday the 16th

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 18

Sunday the 18th

10 a.m. Intergenerational Event

11 a.m. Worship, Pastor Wood

12:15 p.m. Welcome James

Street UMC celebration

Tuesday the 20th

6 p.m. Food Pantry

Wednesday the 21st

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 22nd

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal

Friday the 23rd

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 25

Sunday the 25th

9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall

10 a.m. Contemporary Issues

11 a.m. Worship, Pastor Wood.

12:15 p.m. Fellowship, Narthex

12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon
Chat, Chappell Rm

Wednesday the 28th

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 29th

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal

Friday the 30th

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

People/Prayers

CONTINUED from Page 4

- Prayers for the Pacific Avenue family and **Bob Weaver**
- For those who have lost loved ones and their homes by fire, flood or hurricane

THANKS AND PRAISE

Sunday, Aug. 21

- **Jeanne F-S:** Thank God for

vacation time to relax, and reconnect with family who moved out of town.

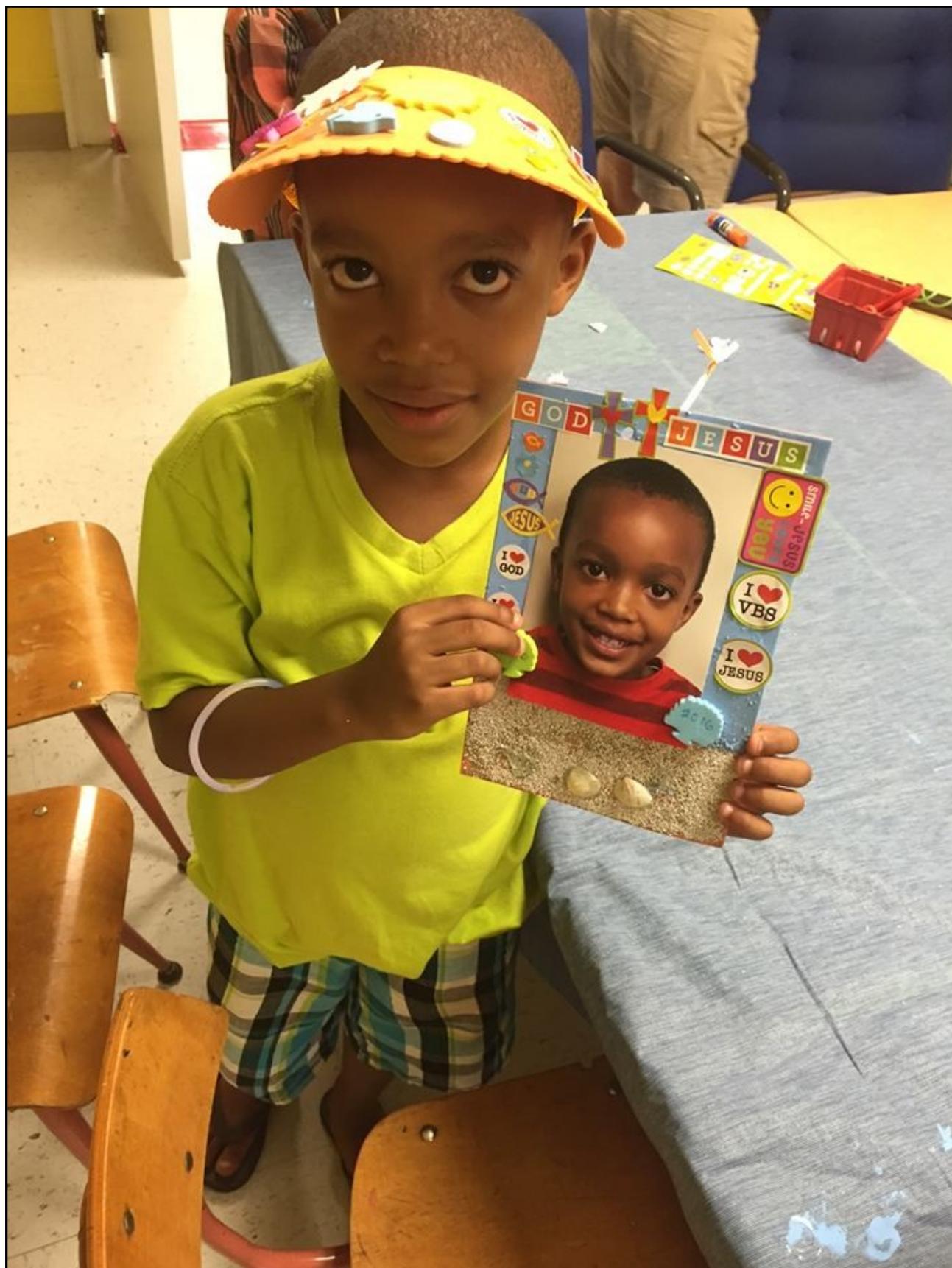
Sunday, Sept. 4

- Thank you, Jesus, for answering my personal prayers with my health condition
- Thank you, God. I pray for healing

Vacation Bible School
Aug. 21-25, 2016
(25 photos)









"And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has given you." Ephesians 4:32

Be Forgiving

"Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people"
-Jeremiah 7:23

Be Obedient!

"As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience." Colossians 3:12

Be Kind

"And this is boldness we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us." 1 John 5:14

Be Bold

"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." John 20:29b

Believe





































