

## THE PRESTON JUNIOR PILGRIM – APRIL 2013

### FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

**GOOD FRIDAY...**are you thinking it is long past...but it remains a warm memory for me. Let me tell you why. It had been a particularly busy spring for me and truly I was wondering how I would ever get everything done for this very special event for the children. "Take it to the Lord in prayer." God gives and sends more at times than we can dream. First, the Sr. Pilgrim Fellowship primed our first supply of birdhouses. Then Rich Lavoie set up tables for me, my husband came in and boiled the 15 dozen eggs, Angelika Larkin came and got all the name tags and buckets ready for the children. Here's where God "spoiled" me. Ashley Migliaccio, a Mitchell College student, called to see what I needed and spent hours priming more bird houses and crosses. The next day, Zachary York "showed up out of the blue" and primed crosses. He came the next morning at 9:00 a.m. and stayed until 4:30 p.m. and was a tremendous help to me. After lunch, he finished priming all of the crosses for the children. That day, while he was helping me I got a cell phone call from college student Ed McLaughlin to say that he was coming to help on Good Friday as he has for many years! He had a quiz scheduled that day, but he talked to his professor about the importance of this event and his professor excused him for "religious reasons". The next day, Good Friday, Zachary showed up again for the whole day. Many "very busy" high school students came on Good Friday and headed up projects. Several adults and teens helped that day including Nicole Coughlin who came in to help her grandmother, Stella Dawley, in the kitchen. Karleen Zachem came straight from work to oversee the children painting birdhouses; she was only asked that morning!

The children had an awesome day! I worry sometimes that they won't learn all the biblical lessons as well as they should. But there's one thing I am sure of is this...that the "*spirit of God is in this place.*" God is working through many people – 14 years, at least, the Good Friday event has taken place. Richard Eighme was here to "wash the feet", Diane Schrage was here every year to do the palm crosses with the children, Wendy Abrahamson who has made the pretzels always. Yes, our children will know that **GOD IS LOVE**. Can anything be more important than that. I'm sure not.

Many teens and adults are not named here. Be assured how grateful I am that you considered this labor of love with our children important enough to come. Thank you. Thank you. And to those who showed up to clean up, know that I left here quite light hearted because of you.

I have already begun planning for next year! In Luke 17:5, the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" Why do you and I ever doubt His goodness? In small concerns, and most especially in our large, heavy ones, let us remember to keep our faith deep and strong remembering the words of our Lord, "*IF you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you.*" Luke 17:6

May the **SON**shine through me, Sandy Dudek

### APRIL BIBLE VERSES

"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." (Exodus 20:8) (N3-Grade 2)

"For God so loved the world the world the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 (Grades 3-12)

**PLEASE ENCOURAGE** students to learn these verses. To qualify for an award at the end of the year, verses must be correctly recited by the end of each month to a Bible Memory Verse Coordinator assigned by Mrs. Dudek. **The May verse needs to be recited by May 5<sup>th</sup> to allow time for those receiving a Bible Memory Verses award.** Nursery 3 & 4 students say their verse to the teacher and she will mark them off.

**RESERVE THE DATE....May 19<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30 a.m. service, CHILDREN'S DAY** will take place. Prayerfully, we hope the weather will permit us to hold it at the pavilion and "Field of Dreams." The alternative place will be Preston Veterans Memorial School. A Children's Day committee has met and plans have been made for an awesome day. One thing we plan is to have a repeat of the soon to be staged "*storytelling session*" (April 28<sup>th</sup>). Judy Ladegard has arranged with Mary Norris to direct "You Are Special." We want you to get to see what the children are experiencing in Sunday School. More about this will follow in our May newsletter.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL News

VBS is going to be an exciting place to be this summer! "Kingdom Rock: Where Kids Stand Strong for God" is a new and innovative program that has been carefully selected by our VBS directors, Sandy Dudek and Judy Ladegard.

VBS will run from 9:00-11:30, July 15-19 and promises to be one of the best yet!

Parents...you will want to get your little knights and ladies-in-waiting signed up as soon as possible. We will be taking registrations early this year to help facilitate our planning of the age-integrated crews that will be a part of "Kingdom Rock" and to begin to gather the supplies needed.

Our preschoolers will continue to have their own separate class, so as not to overwhelm them. They will, however, still have the same experiences as the older children, just at their age level for maximum enjoyment and learning!

You will find a registration form below. Please fill out and return to the church office by July 1, 2013.

Potential teachers...we will need a lot of hands this year to run this true rotation model of VBS. We will need adults and older teens to be station leaders, as well as crew leaders who will lead their "crews" through the different stations... Sing & Play Rock, Epic Bible Adventures, The King's Kitchen, Imagination Station, Tournament Games and a Fanfare Finale. If you want to be involved and have a ton of fun, please contact the church office and plan on being at the VBS meeting planned for Tuesday, April 23 @ 6:30

If you have any questions, please feel free to talk to Sandy or Judy (860.537.3349) or email richardladegard1@att.net.

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Children in our church and community who have turned 4 by August 1, 2013, through those completing Grade 7 are invited to attend (Exception: those who have attended our Nursery 3 Sunday School may also sign up to attend). Those entering grades 8-12 could assist us in so many ways. The cost for this program is \$12.00 per child with a family maximum of \$30.00. Checks should be made payable to the Preston City Congregational Church and mailed to the church at 321 Route 164, Preston, CT 06365. Scholarships are available; speak to Sandy Dudek for more information.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION - 2013

Child's Name	Date of Birth	Grade Completed
_____	___/___/___	_____
_____	___/___/___	_____
_____	___/___/___	_____

Are there any medical conditions of which we should be made aware? (Please explain on back of form)

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

In my absence, emergency medical treatment may be authorized by the directors of VBS if deemed necessary.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Fee Paid \_\_\_\_\_

**Please bring in a tee shirt, tank top or muscle undershirt for each of your children involved in VBS on MONDAY, JULY 15<sup>TH</sup>, the opening day of VBS.**

**THE SCRIP PROGRAM** is an ongoing fundraiser that greatly benefits the youth missions trips program. Scrip (debit) cards are available to purchase for hundreds of stores, gas stations, donut shops, bookstores, grocery stores, etc. where you do business. You do not pay any extra amount to purchase these cards; however, the youth missions will receive a percentage back that varies according to the business. For example...if you purchase a Macy's card for \$100.00, youth missions will be rewarded 10% for the sale...no charge to you, but profit to the program; WalMart is 2%, Stop & Shop 4%, etc. Cards can be purchased for varying amounts. Sheets with participating businesses listed are always available in the Information Center. Checks to purchase these cards should be made out to "**PCCC Youth Missions**". If you have questions, call coordinators Jerry & Cheryl Giuliano (860-376-8901).