

# Calvary—St. James

## Youth News

### MISSION 2021 WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!

This Special Edition of the Calvary/St. James Youth News is dedicated entirely to the Youth Mission and Beach Trip. Some pictures will be shared here, but to see all the fun, check out the slideshows on Calvary's Website [www.clconcord.org](http://www.clconcord.org).

For as long as I can remember, we have never received a phone call before our Mission Trip to let us know what kind of project we would be doing on an upcoming mission trip, this was a first. We received a call on the Thursday before we were to leave on Sunday, letting us know that we would be serving at the home of an elderly couple named David and Carol. There, we would be doing a little landscaping, trimming hedges, and building a wheelchair ramp for Mrs. Carol, as she experienced a stroke a short time back and was having difficulties walking. Due to the stroke, it appeared that a wheelchair was going to be part of their life in the near future. And then, these words followed, "but you have to get up their driveway first."

We were told that it was very steep and with a little head start and with us "Booking" it, we should be fine. The first three attempts at the driveway after arriving on Sunday was not successful.

7:00AM Breakfast time on Monday morning came quickly. We ate, packed up the van and off we go, heading for our worksite. We arrived at the steep gravel driveway. We pulled in,

back up to the other side of the entrance road, all of the youth in the first van climbed into the very back of the van and held on tight. Off we go, heading up the driveway as fast as we could, the further we went, the slower the van moved and then, we came to the left turn in the driveway. The van came to a crawl while the youth in back were yelling encouragement, slowly, the van crept around the curve, it finally caught traction and off we go for the remainder of the driveway. The second van followed the same route as the first and arrived safely at the top. Victory was sweet.

The work began on the new wheelchair ramp. The youth worked hard the entire week. They ran the weed eater down both sides of the driveway, trimmed hedges, and cut back limbs that were hanging over the drive, all the way back to the road. They repaired a set of back doorsteps with railings while we were there.

We worked from around 8:30 to 4:00 each day except for Thursday, we celebrated finishing the ramp around 5:30. While we were there, Mrs. Carol fell twice during the night, one of her falls was on Wednesday evening and re-



# Youth News

quired a hospital stay. AS she came home on Thursday, she was able to step onto her new ramp with a walker and made the first official use of her brand new ramp. What a sight it was, and the youth beamed with pride for a job well done.

Friday, would normally be our day off but our youth served that day since we were heading to the beach on Saturday for the extension of our trip. As usual, the youth worked hard around the camp cleaning out old storage rooms and taking what was not needed to the dump or to a secondhand store.

We were told that there was a movie being filmed on the campus where we were staying and several times at different locations around campus, we saw the crew working. But, we were so tired, all we could think about was getting a shower and eating supper. Then, a bonus night came when we saw them setting up a scene. We hung out a bit, watching them communicating back and forth like the secret service. The scene was set and, the lights were testing and all of a sudden, David R. White from the movie, God's Not Dead, appeared. He was extremely nice, came over and took several pictures with us as individuals and as a group. We are looking forward to seeing the movie come out in October.

As each day came to a close, we would pack up the tools and head back to camp for dinner, a quick shower and then to worship and small group time. We talked about meekness, reverence, sacrifice, trust and how all that fits into

who we are as followers of Christ. What a wonderful time to serve, to grow and build to a relationship with God and each other. This year's summer was amazing.

Thank you all for supporting the Youth Ministry of Calvary and St. James. We greatly appreciate your prayers and assisting the youth of our community to experience what God has waiting for us around the next corner.



And of course, Flat Jesus was with us every step of the way!



# Youth News





**Well, it finally happened!** COVID eased up enough that the Youth Ministry was able to start gathering in person and then summer came in like a whirlwind and before we knew it, we were heading on our first retreat in over a year.

Kure Beach, here we come. The Youth Ministry was able to proceed as planned and to take advantage of the long-awaited sand, ocean air and cool waters, in spite of a tropical storm moving through. This was our time to rejuvenate, rekindle and to reclaim who we are as a faith community of youth, and so we did just that.

We had a ball. Resting, looking for shark teeth, walking, eating, and growing together in faith. Our focus this year was to not only have fun but to focus upon Justice/Injustice, and that we did. We talked about what is fair for one person, should be fair for the other. We should see others through the eyes of Christ, see a fellow human being and not a person based upon the color of the skin, where they may be from or the religion they may practice. We treat others just like we would like to be treated and we share the love of Christ in all that we do and with all that we meet. That is putting, "Love you Neighbor" into action. It's sharing our time and our talents with those that need a hand and it's sacrificing for the benefit of others, just as Jesus sacrificed for us. If we do not sacrifice, what is the value?

The Annual Beach Retreat was a success and even Flat Jesus joined in the fun. We are already looking forward to our time together next year as we head to the coast. Thank you all for supporting the Youth Ministry so that Memory Makers of Faith like this can happen.

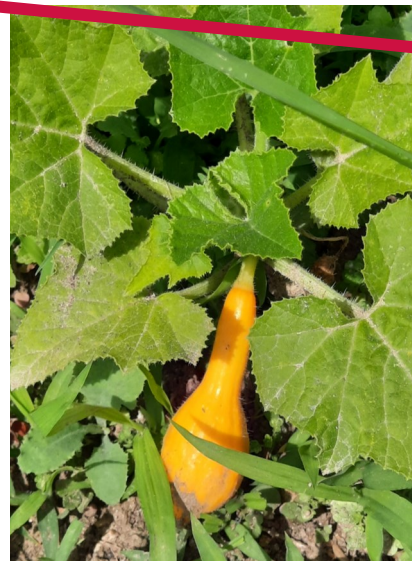




# Youth News

## Vacation Bible School

The Partnered Rocky Railroad Vacation Bible School was a wonderful time shared by all. There nights of music, games, storytelling, experiments, laughter and a whole lot of fun crowned this year's VBS a great success. Thanks to all the children for joining in, the leaders, those that served in the kitchen, the Youth and a lot of people who worked behind the scenes. By working together, we help create a memory of faith that will last a very long time. We will see you next year for VBS!



## The Youth Giveaway Garden:

A Big THANK YOU goes out to Rick Grochoske and Gary Norris for working so hard in the garden while the youth were on their 10 Day Mission Experience. Thank you for giving your time so that others can benefit.

## What's ahead for the Fall of 2021?

- Servant Days are still in the works with one project right around the corner. We are finalizing a few details and then we will begin running. Hang on, we are about to make a big difference to someone in need of a helping hand.
- The Youth Fall Kick Off and Cook Out is at 5:00 on September 12 at the Picnic Shelter at Calvary. This is for all youth and parents are invited to join in as well. Games and conversation about the upcoming year will be provided. This is a great time to invite a friend to join in. We look forward to welcoming the new 6th graders into the Youth Ministry.