YOUNG DISCIPLES

Sonia Donnelly, Youth Director

Youth programs are back for the school year! In September we welcomed 85 kids into the building, and the afternoon and evening were full of fellowship, food and learning! We enjoyed an outdoor picnic, had fun re-learning some of our VBS songs and experienced an amazing Monarch presentation by Ed Laarman. Ed brought in Monarchs and told us about their lives and exciting travels to Mexico, then taught us how to tag and track them. Two butterflies were released and are well on their way to their journey south of the border!

In October our 7^{th} / 8^{th} Graders and High School groups will be combining! Students have voted to meet as one group, 7^{th} - 12^{th} grades, on Wednesdays from 5:00p.m.-8:00p.m. We will begin by preparing a meal together then diving into *The Chosen* series each week starting on October 2^{nd} . On October 16^{th} these students are welcome to help with our annual *Fall Fest*. and on October 23^{rd} they will NOT meet due to parent/teacher conferences for KHS.

During the year we will be collecting a variety of items for service projects that will be worked on during our Wednesday programs. These items will be used to help others while teaching the children the importance of doing for others and the joy that it brings. Want to know how you can help? Check the information station across from the pantry for a donation wish list!

We are still looking for outdoor Christmas lights (any color!) and Christmas trees (lit or not) for our Lights on the Lake display. Items can be dropped in the youth room or contact Sonia to arrange a pickup. Stay tuned for dates to help decorate! Also, we will be collecting items for Operation Christmas Child (see below) and putting together shoeboxes on Wednesdays.

Operation Christmas Child: The Shoebox Project

Shoeboxes will be available soon on the table in the Fireside room, plus our youth will be filling shoeboxes during their group time on Wednesdays. So you can either fill your own shoebox or drop off items listed below for the youth to use. The deadline for dropping shoeboxes off at our Church is **November 17**th. Fill the box with items and also include a check for \$10.00 for shipping made out to **Samaritan's Purse**.

IDEAS FOR THE BOXES INCLUDE:

"Wow" Items: soccer ball (with pump), doll, stuffed animal, shoes, musical instrument

Toys: cars, jump ropes, yo-yos, toys that light up and make noise (w/extra batteries)

Accessories: socks, hats, sunglasses, hair clips, jewelry, watches, flashlights (w/batteries)

School Supplies: pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons, markers, notebooks, paper, coloring and picture books, solar calculators

Non-Liquid Hygiene Items: toothbrushes, bar soap, washcloths, combs

<u>Items that cannot be included</u> are candy, toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; scary or war-related items; seeds, food; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items or glass containers; aerosol cans