

Activity Center New This Year

Pictures from India, fainting goats, and beautiful quilts were all part of the new Activity Center this year. One half-hour session each day focused on either our mission theme or the farm and county fair theme. The first day the children learned about our missions and orphanages in India. We are so blessed with all that we have, most importantly, that we know Jesus as our Savior!

The next day Amy Nemitz came in to show us her own pictures from her recent trip to India. It was neat to see how people really live there and hear about it firsthand.

Wednesday everybody had a chance to hold and pet some farm animals! Byron, Loretta, and Nikki Johnson packed up some of their animals from Grandpa Nick's Petting Farm for us to enjoy! There were rabbits, goats, gerbils, a rooster, an alpaca, a pony, a potbellied pig, and more. The white mice were favorites of many of the children but few of the teachers. ☺ Take a drive out to Grandpa Nick's (off CTH 0) – it's a lot of fun!

Thursday was Dress Up Like a Farmer Day. The children and teachers came dressed as farmers in their overalls and straw hats, or used some extra supplies people brought to share, and had their pictures taken on Uncle Zeke and Auntie Opal's farm! Look for these adorable pictures on the Craft display table...

Friday brought Carman Saizwedel to our group to show some of her quilting projects and teach us about her hobby of quilting. What a beautiful job she does – we thought the quilts looked pretty cozy, too!

Thanks to Farmers Mary Clark and Rhonda Lambert and Farmhand Lindsey Burch for running this center, and for the sugar cookies they brought in to decorate as an added treat! And many thanks to Linda Pingel for being there to photograph it all!!!

.....

Please check the tables for items belonging to your child that you can take home. There are also some extra T-shirts, iron-ons, tattoos, picture frame projects, and music CDs that are free for the taking – or add a donation to the India mission basket!

Game and Snack Time a Big Hit with Kids

Every day the kids had a chance to run off some energy outside during Recreation Time. Farmhands James Hensley, Jonathan Enderle, Katie Lelonek, and Matthew Kortbein kept those kids busy with Henhouse Frenzy, Lost Sheep Tag and more themed games, plus kickball and the all-time favorite Red Rover! Tattoos were also handled by this group.

After a good workout outside, the kids came in for snack time. Thanks so much to those who provided grapes, strawberries and whipped cream, watermelon, farm-y Dirt Cups, and popcorn and juice like you'd get at the Fair. Farmer Julie Scott was a big help in doling these out to the hungry kids (and farmhands!)!

* * * * *

Check Out the Craft Projects!

Be sure to look around at all the great artwork the kids created this week! Some of the projects have already gone home, but some were kept here for you to enjoy. We made our very own Henrietta chickens, which you might see as a centerpiece at your table, or you might have one of the lovely flowers and flowerpots.

Canvas backpacks are on display, made by the 3rd-6th graders, as well as picture frames for our fantastic farmer photos.

Seed packet wall hangings are displayed around the building, and remind us about growing fruits of the Spirit.

Most everybody's favorite project was the quilt that EVERYONE contributed to, teachers and helpers, too. We'll have this fun project on display at St. Matthew for a few weeks before sending each square home with its artist.

Farmer Katherine Enderle led this center, with Farmhands Anna Enderle and Lindsey Walker.

SonHarvest

County Courier

Great Week of VBS Concludes

We had a great week at Vacation Bible School here in SonHarvest County. We split into four groups for Bible Story time: Farmer Mary (Schlicht, with granddaughter Brittany, and Brianna Hensley)'s Awesome Apples, Farmer Sheryl (Kolb)'s Peaceful Peaches, Farmer Gaye (Peterson)'s Great Grapes, and Pastor Enderle's Mighty Melons. We learned about the Love that Jesus showed towards everyone, feeling Joy like the farmer who lost one of his 100 sheep but then found it again, God's Peace that helps us not to worry, the Patience of the father of the prodigal son, and showing Kindness like the Good Samaritan did. The Mighty Melons and Great Grapes also had a brief song showdown every morning...☺

* * * * *

Annie Gardner Wins "Queen of the Fair"

Every morning started out with watching how Annie (Anna Enderle), T.C. (Lindsey Walker), Uncle Zeke (Jonathan Enderle), and Auntie Opal (Katie Lelonek/ Brianna Hensley) were getting ready for the Fair.

Auntie Opal was always trying new concoctions like coconut-kiwi-carrot preserves, and ended up with a blue ribbon from the Judge (James Hensley) for her watermelon-zucchini piccalilli.

Uncle Zeke caused some trouble practicing his hog calling, but the practice paid off with a blue ribbon for him, too! And one for his Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs display, made with his own home-grown potatoes. (?!)

T.C. - "Too Cool" - Annie's cousin visiting from the city - finally put away her video game and took on the project of raising a chicken for the Fair. "Hen-rietta" didn't win the Chubby Chicken Contest, but she scored big in the Obedience Competition, knowing "stay" and giving the answer to 4-5+11

And Annie, well, her prize carrot got stepped on and broken, her prize watermelon got smashed in a hog stampede when Uncle Zeke finally perfected his hog call, and she lost one of her prizewinning-long pigtails in her hurry to shear her white sheep Blackie! But Annie ended up with the best prize of all, for showing kindness and being helpful to everybody else who was getting ready for the Fair.

These kids did an awesome job with these skits, and we appreciate their giving of their time and sharing their talent to illustrate each lesson of the day in such a fun way!

They were joined each day by a willing volunteer from the audience (Sarah, Abbie, Ryan, Shelby) who got to dress up as the scarecrow (Auntie Opal never wanted her scarecrow wearing the same outfit for too long - the crows get suspicious), and by Sarah and Kalie playing Mary Anne Loudermilk and Annabell Poindexter, winners of the Longest Pigtail and Rubber Chicken Throwing Competitions. ☺

Thanks everyone!

+++++

The Sound of Music

Lots of great songs were heard ringing through the hall when it came time for music. Farmer Abby Rose had these kids singing out their "Good Fruit" and other songs from SonHarvest County Fair, along with old favorites "Father Abraham" (that one always wears us out!), "I'm in the Lord's Army ('Yes, Sir!)", and others. Little Anna Rose (2) loved to dance to the beat and made many new friends! ☺