

CRAZY DAYS VBS INFORMATION

HOW MUCH DOES VBS COST?

Nothing. Nada. Zip. We typically fundraise throughout the year to offer this week as a gift and investment in the children of our church and community. An awesome Vacation Bible School at St. Stephen's is a longstanding tradition, beloved part of our ministry to children, and one of the best weeks of the year. And it is always FREE.

WHAT'S IT ABOUT?

VBS is a one week evening program of Christian faith and messy fun. Featuring Bible stories like Jesus calming the storm on the Sea of Galilee or Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego facing a fiery furnace for the sake of their faith in God, there will be a daily story and theme emphasizing or explaining God's gracious care for us and His faithfulness in all our circumstances. These stories and themes will be presented live by clergy in fun, creative, and memorable ways. Then games, crafts, music, and activities will reinforce that point throughout the evening. We have all had to deal with a world "turned upside down," and no matter our age, we could all use some clear and strong reminders of the reliability of God, even when nothing seems to go right or is a complete disaster. After an unbelievable year where everything seems unstable and up for grabs, the love of God is constant, sure, and there for us every single day—no matter what. God is good, even in Crazy Days.

WHAT'S DIFFERENT THIS YEAR?

A typical year would start with a theme from Group Publishing, like many other churches in the area. We would add our own "St. Stephen's Spin" with elaborate sets, extra theming, added rotations, and completely unique ways to present the daily Bible stories. While we love this system of crews and room rotations, and always have fun with the themes we get from Group, we have started from scratch this year with our own theme, stories, and activities, as well as a completely different rotation system that will allow us to keep kids in larger but more spaced out and socially distant groupings. And we will be outside in the open air as much as possible.

WHY THESE CHANGES?

After a year like no other, we felt the need to re-work our normal program to accommodate the various restrictions and precautions to still offer something good for our kids and those around the community who have grown up enjoying and learning from our VBS programs over the years. We didn't think we could do what we normally do, but we really wanted to do something. So this new system has been designed to make the most of the circumstances we're in as well as offer a very timely message all while still doing it in our own unique way.

DOES MY CHILD NEED TO WEAR A MASK?

Per diocesan guidelines, children under 16 wear masks indoors at the discretion of their parents. So if you'd like your child to wear one, we'll do our best to make sure that happens. If you'd prefer they didn't, they won't be required to. Our volunteers will be wearing masks while indoors but some may remove them at certain times, like during outdoor instruction or other activities.

WHAT OTHER COVID PRECAUTIONS WILL THERE BE?

At the heart of this new system is concern for the well being of everyone a part of this year's VBS. By limiting the number of participants, being outside as much as possible, and using large open spaces while indoors, we are trying to limit risks of contagion. Snacks and crafts will use individual and disposable components as much as possible. Hand sanitizer will be easily available. And if your child is not feeling well or has been exposed to someone who is sick, they should stay home.

WHAT IF I HAVE OTHER QUESTIONS?

Please contact the church office at 863-646-6115 or stsoffice@gmail.com and we will be happy to answer any questions we can or find the right person for you to speak to.