

# Good Shepherd Christian Academy & Little Flock Christian Preschool



## Summer Camp 2011

Dear Parents,

We are eagerly awaiting the beginning of summer camp and are so excited to see what God has in store for us this year. Our beach-themed summer camp program is called Big Wave Discovery: Biblical Answers to Kids' Big Questions About God. The purpose of our program this year is to help children develop an understanding of what the Bible has to say about significant, sometimes difficult, questions children ask about their faith and life. Each week we will focus on different, commonly-asked, big questions and study the Bible to find God's big answers. Dramatic stories such as Elijah and the prophets of Baal, the discovery of a long-lost scroll in the Temple, Peter's escape from prison, Joseph's experiences in Egypt and Ruth's new life in Bethlehem will help children begin to understand how the truths found in God's Word provide a guide for all situations in life. The big answers are more than just nice-sounding words; they are the rock-solid principles on which children can build their lives.

Because children learn in diverse ways, our program is filled with a variety of activities that appeal to children's many learning styles. Every week, children will engage in interactive Bible stories, exciting Bible games, creative art activities, fascinating science lessons, and lively, kid-appealing music. A week at summer camp wouldn't be complete without our soaking-wet Water Days, awesome Field Trips and Adventure Days.

Here's a glimpse of what we have in store for our kids this summer.

**Week 1** (June 27<sup>th</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup>): Kids will learn about the significance of knowing God as our Creator and be able to answer the big question of "Is God for real?". Then they'll uncover the answer to another big question of "Is God the only god?" as they jump into the exciting Old Testament story of Elijah's contest with the prophets of Baal. Our 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> graders will begin their beach adventure this summer by taking a field trip to the Claude Moore Recreation Center in Sterling, Virginia, where they will go rock climbing up an indoor rock wall, race down an enormous, winding water slide and lounge around the lazy river. For our K3 through K5 campers, they'll have tons of fun during their Adventure Day: A Sandy Day at the Beach. They'll have a sandcastle building competition, make an awesome sand art bottle of their own and test out their culinary skills at our very own SANDwich making station.

**Week 2** (July 5<sup>th</sup>- July 8<sup>th</sup> \*): This week children will answer one of the most important questions of their life—"What's the difference between God and Jesus?" They will study the story of the paralyzed man in Mark 2 and learn as he did that Jesus, God's

Son, lived on Earth so that you and I would know how much God loves us. Our older campers will feel like they've escaped to Hawaii when we visit Volcano Island Waterpark at Algonkian Regional Park in Sterling, Virginia. They'll enjoy daring waterslides, dig in the brand new sand play area, and cool off under the refreshing tropical-themed dumping bucket! Our K3 through K5 campers will have a taste of the ocean as they surf down a great, big inflatable water slide over and over again during their Splish Splash Bash.

\*There will be no summer camp on Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup> as it is a Federal Holiday.

**Week 3** (July 11<sup>th</sup>- July 15<sup>th</sup>): This week's big questions will have kids searching both the Old and New Testaments to get a glimpse of prophecy fulfilled. They'll get a deeper understanding of Jesus' death and resurrection as they ask "Why did Jesus have to die?". By the end of the week, they'll know the answer to the question, "Who wrote the Bible?" as they learn about the prophet Jeremiah and how God gave messages to people who wrote the Bible so we could know God's plan to send Jesus. First through fourth graders will go on a real-life adventure to the U.S. Navy Museum in Washington, D.C. where they'll be introduced to the world of ship technology, take a tour of a real U.S. Navy ship and build a wooden ship model of their own. Our younger campers will have a Ball at the Beach as they decorate their own beach ball, play tons of beach ball games and have their very own beach BBQ.

**Week 4** (July 18<sup>th</sup> – July 22<sup>nd</sup>): This week kids will learn the fundamentals of how to stay strong in Christ as they answer the questions of "Why is the Bible important?" and "Does God answer my prayers?". First through fourth graders, we know what you want—more fun, bigger water slides and more pools. So this week we're taking you to Cub Run Recreation Center in Chantilly, Virginia, where you'll get to race down a 50-foot, fully-enclosed slide that exits the building and reenters at the bottom. Our K3 through K5 campers will feel like they're surrounded by crashing waves as they frolic in an inflatable foam pit. If they like bubble baths, they'll love this Adventure Day!

**Week 5** (July 25<sup>th</sup> – July 29<sup>th</sup>): This week kids will learn the answer to their big questions of "Why do people go to church?" and "When I sin does that mean that I'm bad?". This week we'll feature one of the highlights of the entire summer—The Big Wave Beach Talent Show! Last summer, kids LOVED showing off their God-given talents and teachers and parents were overjoyed to see God revealing Himself in their children. Everyone is welcomed (but not required) to participate. The goal is for our kids to experience and say for themselves that "we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them..." (Romans 12:5-6) To add to the fun, we'll finish off the Talent Show with a Pizza Party and the older campers will have a surprise adventure in the afternoon.

**Week 6** (August 1<sup>st</sup> -August 5<sup>th</sup>): This week kids will learn Biblical answers to really tough questions that we, as adults, often struggle to answer. They will study the life of Joseph and learn how to answer "Why can't God stop bad things from happening?". Next, they will be equipped to answer the big question of "Why isn't everyone a Christian?" as they learn a New Testament lesson about the Ethiopian who believes in God. Our first through fourth graders will have their last big splash of the summer at

Atlantis Waterpark at Bull Run Regional Park in Centreville, Virginia. K3 through K5 campers will enjoy underwater adventures on their Big Fish Day. They'll go fishing for prizes, create their own fuzzy fish art projects, have a very special story time all about Jesus and His big fish picnic, and plenty of more fish fun.

**Week 7** (August 8<sup>th</sup>-August 12<sup>th</sup>): We've saved the really big questions for our final week at camp—"What happens when you die?" and "What does God say about my future?" We want to end our summer camp with each child knowing about heaven and that God has a wonderful plan for each of their lives. Our final day at camp we will have a very memorable event for all campers—The Big Wave Luau! We'll have games, prizes, tropical snacks, and plenty of fun at the beach with all the friends they've made over the summer. Even those who are not signed up for week 7 are invited to attend this grand finale.

\*\*Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup> will be a half day and there will be no after-care. All children must be picked up by 12 noon.

In order to make this summer as fruitful as possible, we need to update you on our procedures.

**Drop-off / Pick-up:** For morning drop-off and afternoon/evening pick-up we will be using the doors in the back of the church. Once you enter the church, drive straight and take your third available right. There will be 4 doors and you can enter through the right door.

All children who are not enrolled in before care are to be dropped off at their classroom beginning at 8:45. We strongly encourage you to bring your child by 9:00 am so they don't miss out on Bible time in the morning. The Bible lessons are what drive the rest of the day's activities and we want to make sure each child has every opportunity to learn about God and have fun.

Pick-up for all children who are not enrolled in after care will be from their classroom beginning at 2:45 pm. All children who are not enrolled in after care must be picked up NO LATER THAN 3:00 PM. Any child who is not picked up by 3:05 pm will be enrolled in after-care and \$1/minute charges will apply.

**Before care:** The doors will open at 8:00 am. Please take your child to the Social Hall which is the large room you will see once you enter from the doors described above and turn left past the vending machine. Any child who comes before 8:45 am will be enrolled in before care and \$1/minute charges will apply. The cost for before care is \$25/week.

**After Care:** After care runs from 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm, Monday through Friday. This includes a snack and adult supervision during play time. The cost is \$40/week per child or \$65/week for 2 children. A \$1/minute per family late pick-up fee will be charged for any child who is not picked up promptly by 5:30 PM.

This year we are pleased to announce two after-care camps—a Summer Arabic Enrichment program and a variety of Academic Camps by Sylvan Learning Centers. Please see the enclosed forms for details and to register your child.

**Allergies/Medication:** If your child has any medication that needs to be taken throughout the day, please contact the Summer Camp Director to update the medical information section on the registration form and notify your child's teacher.

**Water Day:** Every Tuesday is water day for ALL children. We kindly ask that you bring your child already dressed in their swim clothes, sunscreen already applied, with a change of clothes, and a labeled towel. You may also consider sending a hairbrush or comb with your child. Unfortunately, if your child does not arrive prepared for water day (in their swimsuit with sunscreen on) they will not be able to participate. We will not dress your child or apply sunscreen.

**Naps / Quiet Time for K3 –K5 classes:** We provide mats, but please bring a labeled blanket and labeled pillow for your child so that they have something to use during nap / quiet time.

**Additional Clothing for K3 – K5 classes:** We request that you provide us additional clothing for your children, just in case the unexpected happens. Please label all of your child's belongings in permanent marker.

**Communication:** You will receive a weekly newsletter that will be sent home on Mondays with your child and will also be emailed to you if you provided an email address on the registration form. The newsletter will keep you updated on the Bible stories and memory verses of the week, field trips, Adventure Days, and any important reminders. We encourage all feedback to make your child's summer camp experience even more fun and fruitful. Please email all comments and suggestions to [summercamp@goodshepherdca.org](mailto:summercamp@goodshepherdca.org)

**Field Trips for 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes:** First through fourth graders will be going on field trips on Fridays this year. We require that you sign a SINGLE permission slip for the entire summer in order for your child to join us on field trips. The permission slip form is included in this welcome packet. Please understand that we must have the signed permission slip by the first Tuesday that your child is enrolled in camp. Specific instructions for each field trip will be explained in the weekly newsletter. There will be no additional cost for field trips.

**T-Shirts:** Each child will receive a T-shirt when they turn in their signed liability form at the end of this letter. For the safety of your child, please make sure they are wearing their blue Summer Camp T-shirt on Fridays when they go on field trips.

**Adventure Day:** Adventure Days are our in-house field trips for children in K3 through K5 and take place every Friday. Our Adventure Days this year are centered around various beach themes—A Fishy Day, A Ball at the Beach, Splish Splash Bash, A Sandy Day at the Beach and plenty more. Your kids will have a blast and feel as if they've spent the day at the beach.

**Mission Project:** We are excited to continue our mission project to raise money for OZ: Orphans of Zambia. Each week your child will be given a number of verses to memorize. The verses relate to the big questions of the week. For each verse that your child memorizes, they will be awarded a shiny gold coin to put in their class' treasure chest. Our sponsors have graciously agreed to turn their gold coins into real dollars! We are very excited to be able to teach our children this valuable lesson of working hard to give to others in need. Our goal this summer is raise \$1,000 for OZ. With your encouragement and prayers, we truly believe our kids can meet this goal.

The OZ Project was started as a way to support children just like our children except for one major difference. These children have been orphaned by AIDS. The project works to provide for these children, spiritually, educationally, physically and emotionally. The school has three different locations and is working with over 200 children who have no hope of being educated outside of our program. If you would like more information about OZ or would like to sponsor a class, please visit [www.missionlifecenter.org](http://www.missionlifecenter.org).

**Payments:** All payments are due on the Friday that precedes your enrollment week(s). No attendance will be allowed if the payment is not made on time and the parent will be asked to take the child home. Accepted forms of payments include: cash, checks (payable to Good Shepherd Academy) and credit cards (Visa, Discover and Master card). For the full camp enrollment (all 7 weeks), a bank account /credit card information is required for automatic debits. A detailed invoice will be sent home before the camp starts detailing the amount and timing of transactions. There is a \$50/week/child cancellation fee for any cancellations made on or after June 17<sup>th</sup>. In the event of cancelling a week or more after signing up for the full camp, the weekly, regular (not the discounted, 7-week package) rate will apply to all weeks of attendance and the \$50/week cancellation fee will apply. Requests for any additional weeks of enrollment must be submitted to the administration before that week's start. Walk-ins are not accepted.

**Contact Information:**

- For general questions or comments, email [summercamp@goodshepherdca.org](mailto:summercamp@goodshepherdca.org)
- For questions regarding financial issues, please contact Mona Mikhail, Camp Administrator, at 703-591-1216 ext. 238 or at [momikhail@littleflockschoo.org](mailto:momikhail@littleflockschoo.org)
- To reach the After-Care staff after hours, please call 571-494-1175

We welcome any feedback and recommendations for improvement. We thank you for your prayers and we are truly thankful to have your child with us this summer.

God bless you,

Good Shepherd Christian Academy  
Summer Camp Staff

**PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN ON YOUR CHILD'S FIRST DAY OF CAMP SO THEY  
CAN RECEIVE A SUMMER CAMP T-SHIRT.**

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Name(s) of participant(s):

\_\_\_\_\_

First Last Grade

\_\_\_\_\_

First Last Grade

\_\_\_\_\_

First Last Grade

I have read this letter in its entirety and agree to adhere to the policies explained in it. All activities present inherent risk and hazards, which the participant assumes. If your child becomes injured or ill during summer camp I agree to pick up my sick or injured child in a timely manner when contacted. The school has my permission, in an emergency when I cannot be contacted to take my child to the nearest appropriate medical facility, and the facility and its medical staff have my authorization to provide treatment that a physician deems necessary for the well-being of my child. I agree that Good Shepherd Christian Academy, Little Flock Christian Preschool, staff, teachers, volunteers and chaperones will not be held responsible for any accident or losses, however caused, and agree to release all parties involved from any claim of damages that may arise as a result of or by reason of such loss or accident. I am of the understanding that every reasonable precaution will be taken to ensure the safety of the above named participant(s). Please inform us if there are any medical or special needs required by the above named participant(s).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent or Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date