

Dear Parents/Youth Sponsors/Prayer Parents,

What an amazing time that we have had so far this summer! M-Fuge was a blast as we served Greensboro, South Carolina. It definitely reminds us that we should be actively sharing the love of Christ in the Community. \*\*\*So...if you have any ideas of what we can be doing and how we as a Church can be serving, please let me know! I am all ears! ☺\*\*\*

And who can forget about all the fun that we have had at VBS – Saddle Ridge Ranch! Can I get a great big Yee-haw! This year the theme was Roundin' Up Questions, Drivin' Home Answers. Students and Adults learned that we don't have to look any further than God's Word to find the answers to the greatest questions in life. Such questions included:

1. Who Am I?
2. Does God Care About Me?
3. What Is God's Plan For Me?
4. How Can I Be Like Jesus?
5. What Do I Do Now?

James 1:5 says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him". I wonder how often we take that verse seriously. Do we really believe that God will give us wisdom when we ask for it? I know this sounds silly, but I remember when I was in 6th grade asking God to give me wisdom in school. I have never considered myself to be an intelligent person, but I have felt that God has honored that request and has prepared me for what He has called me to do. The very next verse is so very important, James 1:6 states: "But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind". Are we doubting, or are we placing all of our trust in Him?

As we are starting a new school year, my prayer is that our students grow in their faith and share their faith with their friends and classmates. In order to properly prepare them, we must have wisdom that only comes from God. I ask that you join me in prayer for wisdom and that God may shape our hearts after Him as we desire for them to know Him.

Also, be in prayer for our upcoming events and how you can be involved:

- **Awana will begin on Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>!** We had an awesome time this past year. So make sure you let everyone know.
- Children's Choir will begin again on **Sunday nights starting Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>**. We will use this time to also begin on our Children's Christmas Play. So mark your calendars!
- **Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>**, we are going to take a Creation Trip to Natural Bridge Zoo. Look for a flyer for more details shortly!
- **Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 2:00 – 5:00PM**, we will have our third Fall Festival. We are doing things a little different, so I would like you to join me for a planning meeting at the beginning of September. More details to come!

Whew! I think that is it for now. Please let me know if you have any questions. Have a wonderful and God-filled day!

Joe Butler