

Summer Enrichment Program Prepares for 39th Year



Thirty-nine years ago, Rector Emeritus Dudley Colhoun and members of St. Paul's began a unique outreach ministry program for children in the nearby Thurmond Street neighborhood. The Summer Enrichment Program was born! The program was designed to provide creative activities, field trips and other opportunities in a spiritually-enriched setting for school-age children during the summer. With St. Paul's financial support, volunteer participation and the hard work of hired staff members, the Summer Enrichment Program has continued to make a difference in the lives of our community's children. This program encourages each child to develop self-esteem, establish healthy living skills, and learn to appreciate God's gifts. It has had such a positive impact on some that several "graduates" of the program have come back as volunteers! The program also has given parishioners a variety of opportunities to minister to the children by sharing their time, talents and God's gifts. We are fortunate to have Aliasha Oakes returning as Director in her tenth summer with the program. Rhett Butler will begin his eighth year as Assistant Director. Their level of dedication and commitment speaks volumes about the caliber of this program. In an effort to increase parishioner involvement in this wonderful ministry, we are actively recruiting volunteers and camp counselors. This year's program will run from July 5 through July 29 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Parishioners are invited to be a part of this fulfilling ministry by making lunches, leading activities, or providing field trip opportunities. Some of the activities that parishioners have led include puppet making, flower arranging, cooking, arts and crafts, story telling, singing, drama, games and health lessons. The children have enjoyed field trips to the NC Zoo, Chapel Hill Planetarium, and various museums in Raleigh and Charlotte. Other parishioners have welcomed the children at their homes, farms, or places of business. The program also enjoys visits from members of the Police and Fire Department as well as various community leaders. St. Paul's members work together each day to prepare lunches and snacks for the children. Responsible youth are also most welcome to participate as volunteers. On July 17, we will celebrate the Summer Enrichment Program at the 10 a.m. service. SEP staff, children and their families are invited to join us for this service. Members of St. Paul's are encouraged to welcome our visitors and share in the joy of this special ministry. If you are interested in participating in this year's program, please contact Carole Murray at 761-8622 or csmurray@triad.rr.com. If you are interested in helping to prepare lunches, contact Anne Butler at 748-1253 or butler@triad.rr.com. We hope you will find a way to get involved in this exciting ministry.