



Footprints

Black Forest Community Church



June 17, 2016

Vacation Bible School

Wow, what a great week we had! We started out thinking we had about 17 kids signed up, but we ended up with 27! Thanks to all of our hard-working staff and volunteers for making it a success, once again. Please be sure to join us next week, June 26th, for VBS Sunday, when we invite all the children back to our church to worship and sing.

Volunteers Needed!

Dear Potential Chipper Dudes and Dudettes,

Black Forest Together will conduct a chipper training class next Saturday morning, June 18, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The site for this class will be at the property of Bill Mantia, at 13360 Holmes Road. Depending on how many of you show up, the class should last about one hour. Chipper operations and safety will be demonstrated and hands-on practice will take place.

An important part of being a chipper operator for Black Forest Together is the ability to drive the truck and pull the chipper trailer, with backing and turning expertise. Instruction can be offered on this aspect as well.

I will be out of town, so if you have any questions about this opportunity, your contact people will be Bill Mantia, 440-3583, or Ed Bracken, 495-9396.

Happy chipping!!

Donna Arkowski, Volunteer Coordinator

BLACK FOREST TOGETHER

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[719-495-2892](tel:719-495-2892)

We Are Proud to Introduce Our New First Step Preschool Director, Kristi Priddy

My name is Kristi Priddy and I am the new Director of First Step Preschool. I hold a degree in Child Development from the University of Texas and have



worked with young children in the roles of preschool director and teacher for the last twenty years. I feel privileged to join First Step Preschool and its legacy of providing a high quality preschool program. An engaging preschool environment is one of the first steps to developing a love of learning. We currently have

a few spaces available for the 2016/2017 school year. We would love for you to join us in providing a creative, hands on learning experience for your preschooler.

Limited spaces open for Fall of 2016. Call today to reserve your spot, (719) 495-0146.

Congregational Coffee Chat

In our ongoing effort to explore and address issues pertinent to the future of our wonderful church, the "Congregational Coffee Chat" series will continue.

June 26: Doctrinal Statement

July: ONA

Lunch Bunch

The June Lunch Bunch meeting has been moved to June 23! It will be at 12:15 in Hardesty Hall. Bring your own brown bag. Pick up something at Fireside BBQ or from your favorite place and join us!

First Step Preschool Celebrates both Past and Future in Black Forest

Black Forest Community Church and First Step Preschool share a long history and a strong connection. When the church was built in 1942, members established an open-door policy, inviting local groups to use their facilities. Over the years, their community focus broadened to hosting concerts, participating in festivals and parades, and organizing the annual Halloween celebration at La Foret Conference and Retreat Center. Kay Stricklan learned of that reputation shortly after moving to Black Forest in 1982. As she began researching a good location for the preschool she hoped to open, it seemed only natural to approach Black Forest Community Church about renting space. At that time, their landmark log building included a basement extension along the south side, which would be perfect as a classroom. Stricklan got busy applying for state licenses, formulating all the required policies and procedures, and working out a rental agreement with the church. Choosing the name "First Step" was easy because, as a Speech-Language Pathologist and mother of two, she knew that the type of learning environment young children encounter in their initial school experience has a lasting impact on their future educational path. As a result, the school's curriculum focus was on playful exploration of the natural world, development of pre-academic language concepts, and a variety of music and movement activities. Stricklan had the preschool's logo designed to reflect its special location in the heart of Black Forest.

First Step Preschool opened its doors in January 1984, with a class of just six students. As its reputation for excellence spread, enrollment grew to more than 60. In 1991, Stricklan made the decision to return to her former career and to donate the preschool to Black Forest Community Church. It immediately gained congregational support as an important part of the Missions program. During the ensuing years, church members have volunteered their help with various preschool projects, including playground improvements, general maintenance, and fundraisers. When Morast Hall (the third building in the Black Forest Community Church complex) was constructed in 1996, the entire lower floor became preschool space. This August, First Step Preschool will begin its 32rd school year, continuing its strong tradition of offering developmentally appropriate learning opportunities for 3-to-5 year olds. Those lucky children and their families are sure to make many lasting memories and friendships as they share in this little piece of Black Forest history.

Christian Education

Sunday School

Every Sunday the children meet for Sunday school from 10:15 am to 11:15 am. However, for the months of June and July, there will be no Sunday School. We will resume in August when the school year begins again. Our curriculum is called Spark, published by Augsburg Fortress. If you would like to volunteer as an assistant for this coming school year, please see Debbie Putney.

Youth Group

Youth Group includes 5th-12th grade. They meet the first and third Wednesday of each month. There is no Youth Group during summer months. We will resume in the fall. Have a wonderful summer!

Happy Birthday!

June 23	Laura McGrew
June 23	Ross Isaacson
June 25	Cole Navalta
June 18	Vicki Bresciano

Prayer Chain

To request prayer (if you have the individual's permission to share the information) **or to receive information about prayer requests** (by email or phone call), contact Theresa Palaia (719-495-2207 or office@blackforestcommunitychurch.org) or Margaret Natelli (719-495-9679 or nnatelli2@aol.com).

"If you believe you can, you probably can. If you believe you won't, you most assuredly won't. Belief is the ignition switch that gets you off the launching pad." -Denis Waitley