



# THE Canterburian

A *welcoming* Christian community building lives of faith and service for Jesus Christ through life-transforming worship, learning, and service.



## The Reality of Canterbury Summers

*“So also good works are conspicuous; and even when they are not, they cannot remain hidden.” —1 Timothy 5:25 (NRSV)*

Rev. Dale Cohen

SENIOR PASTOR

**W**e all know that summers at Canterbury are times when our Sunday attendance drops off as our people make their way to the beach, to the lake, and to other places of rest and relaxation. It would be wrong, however, to say that people are not at Canterbury during the summer. It may even be the case that there are more people at Canterbury during the weeks of summer than any other time of year. Let me explain.

- With the advent of our Encore Ministry providing respite care for families experiencing the challenges of dementia and other memory-loss conditions, Tuesdays and Thursdays have a variety of smiling faces busy here at the church.
- We even had 39 people attend a volunteer training for Encore this past week!
- Brown Bag still operates most Fridays and I'm told that we had a record week the last Friday we served the community in June.
- Our VBS had the building buzzing for a week with kids of all ages showing up to participate. Add to that the adult volunteers and this was a busy (and noisy) place!
- We've had two busloads of kids loading up near the chapel each morning this week headed to Camp Sumatanga for Day Camp.
- Avondale Samaritan Place has been hopping with volunteers from Canterbury with sports camps, food co-op, and lunch bunch.
- We hosted Family Promise at the Scout Hut with volunteers preparing meals and spending the night.
- And so much more!

The reality of Canterbury summers is that we're a place busy serving God in so many ways. I thank God for each of you and for all you do for Canterbury and for the Kingdom of God. Keep up the good work!

*Dale*

Dale Cohen, Senior Pastor

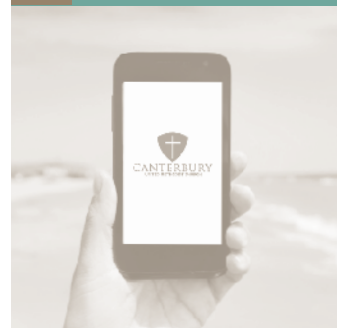
### 1 Vacation Bible School 2016



### 2 Communion Brought To You



### 3 Staying Connected



# 1

# Vacation Bible School 2016



## Vacation Bible School 2016

### UPPER DIVISION

Surf Shack: Catch The Wave of God's Amazing Love

*For children who have completed 3K through 2nd grade.*



### LOWER DIVISION

Jerusalem Marketplace: A Holy Land Adventure

*For children who have completed 3rd grade through 5th grade.*

From the Surf Shack to the Holy Land, Canterbury's children enjoyed a fun-filled week learning about Jesus.

**D**uring the week of June 13th, Canterbury's halls bustled with children and adults taking part in this year's action-packed Vacation Bible School. Children ages three through second grade surfed through the Scriptures with a week of water-centered stories and activities, while the older children traveled to Jerusalem to experience life as it was during Biblical times.

"You cannot help but feel joy when every morning for a week you have the opportunity to gather together with a room full of children dancing and singing about Jesus and screaming out "AMAZING!" when hearing about the character of their God...all in a space made to feel like you're at the Surf Shack at the beach!" says Director of Children's Ministries Carrie Ward.

"And then, to travel upstairs to where the upper elementary floor has been transformed to look like you've stepped back in time to Jerusalem during the days of Jesus! It felt so authentic to hear the music of the day as the children danced to "Shalom", to smell the



aroma of the Herb and Spice shop, and to see the children learn Hebrew at the Synagogue School under the teachings of the Rabbi, otherwise known as Stephen Ingram, our Whole Life Spirituality Director."

## SURF SHACK: CATCH THE WAVE OF GOD'S AMAZING LOVE

Led by Preschool Director Amy Knight, Lower Elementary Director Clayton Walton, and VBS Co-Directors Janelle Dixon and Amber Cantrell



Greeted each morning by their skipper Amy Knight and Snappy the Crab, (aka Anna Wendell) the younger children spent the week traveling to the many stations led by faithful volunteers to sing and dance, do crafts and science, have a ball in Recreation, and learn how to share God's

love to the world through missions—all the while, enjoying tasty treats. Storyteller Betty Gunn, along with her youth helpers, also helped the Bible come alive as she used her gift of teaching to engage the children in the stories of God's AMAZING love for his people.

## JERUSALEM MARKETPLACE: A HOLY LAND ADVENTURE

Led by Upper Elementary Director Gina Thomas and VBS Co-Directors Salli Garner and Amy Sanders



Dressed in period costume, the older children divided into the tribes of Israel and spent the week visiting Synagogue School, the village playground for dreidel and the Mill Game, and various shops to learn about herbs and spices and the skills of basketry, carpentry, and bread making.

Visits from well-known characters such as Peter, James & John, and Mary Magdalene brought the Bible stories of Holy Week to life through their eyewitness accounts. "What a gift to have our Director of Worship Paul McCracken and church member Ty Warren, who are both gifted actors AND

have visited Jerusalem, to color those roles along with several other gifted staff and laity," says Carrie. "But Ty says if you ask if he played the role of Peter, he may deny it!"

## MISSION FOCUS



Both groups focused on the same mission, Water is Basic ([waterisbasic.org](http://waterisbasic.org)), a borehole drilling organization whose aim is to put clean, safe water within reasonable access for every person in South Sudan. As part of the experience, Carrie connected stories she shared about her friends in South Sudan with the day's Bible stories.

Through lemonade stands, extra chores, and even their tooth fairy money, the children collected over \$1,044 for the organization. With \$3.65 providing water for one child, that's water for 286 children!

The upper elementary kids also packed lunches for Greater Birmingham Ministries while others packed

**water IS BASIC**



food for our Brown Bag ministry. It was all a great way to see our children modeling our church motto, 'Follow Jesus, Serve Others.' ■

# 2

## Communion Brought To You

AT HOME • IN HOSPITAL • EXTENDED CARE FACILITY



# COMMUNION

## *Brought To You*

*Let us share the consecrated elements of Holy Communion with you at your home, at the hospital, or at an extended care facility.*

**Y**ou probably know that communion is served in both Traditional and Contemporary Worship Services on the first Sunday of each month and every week during the New Traditions Service. But did you know that, thanks to a dedicated group of lay volunteers, it's available to be served to you anywhere, any day of the week?

"Holy Communion is an important part of the spirituality you get on Sundays, and if you're unable to make it to church because of a health or age issue, we're willing to bring Jesus to you," says the ministry's lay chair Joan Lauterbach.

Previously known as "At-Home Communion", this heartfelt ministry is expanding to reach all members and their loved ones when they aren't able to attend Canterbury due to a short-term stint in the hospital, recovery at an extended care or rehabilitation facility, being temporarily or long-term home-bound, or residing in a senior living center.

"In our Faith Community as United Methodists, Holy Communion is an invitation to take part in the special meal symbolic of the meal Christ ate with his disciples the night before his crucifixion," says Minister of Congregational Care Sam Williamson. "But we also recall the other meals he shared in homes and on hillsides.

"It is an invitation for us to focus on the unconditional love that God has for each of us and becomes an occasion of grace as we remember the holiness of our communion with God and one another. This is true whether we receive communion within the walls of the church or someone's home, extended care facility, or hospital room."

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*"Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."*

— LUKE 22: 19-10 (NRSV)

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"My favorite day of the liturgical year is Maundy Thursday when Jesus took the bread, broke it, and said 'Eat, this is my body which is given for you.' And then he took the wine and said 'This is the new covenant in my blood,'" says Joan. "He gave us a part of himself, and whenever I receive Holy Communion, I feel that strength. It's my desire to share that strength with others."



Members of the group make regular visits to Brookdale Place on the first Sunday afternoon of the month, but are available to come to most locations anytime throughout the week. It can be on a one-time basis or as regular as you wish.

During the visit, consecrated elements are shared as part of a short service of liturgy, but each member personalizes the experience with scripture, words from that Sunday's service, and prayer. Many visits also extend into a time of conversation and sharing. "The communion service is personal and meaningful," says Betty Gunn. "We together experience the Presence of God in sharing the elements. And, as we talk together before the service begins, we hear from each other about what is going on in each other's lives."

"I feel so blessed that we are taking Jesus to others," says Annella Waldrup. "Many we serve are alone and just love when we come and spend some time with them. I feel like it is the sweetest thing in the world that I can bring this to them. Being on the serving end, we build relationships which is very important, and I've been able to stay in touch with some of my contemporaries that aren't able to come to church regularly anymore."

Communion is not just a ritual; it puts us in communion with God so we can experience the joy and peace of his loving presence. We want to ensure that even those who cannot come to church can still be a part of our communion services. "Whatever the circumstances, we hope you will invite us to bring this sacrament to you or a loved one," says Sam.

To sign up yourself or a loved one for a one-time or regular communion visit, contact Joan Lauterbach at [jbl628@bham.rr.com](mailto:jbl628@bham.rr.com), 205/370-5239 or Sam Williamson at [sam.williamson@canterburyumc.org](mailto:sam.williamson@canterburyumc.org).

Interested in sharing the gift of communion with others? Volunteers to take and serve communion are always welcome! Contact Joan for more information. ■



# Take Canterbury With You This Summer

*It's As Mobile As You Are.*



*Introducing the new Canterbury App  
for mobile phones and tablets!*

**N**ow you can stay in touch with your church family like never before – even when you're on the go or out of town. Keep up with major events. Enjoy weekly sermons and blogs. Connect with your favorite groups through social media. Make online donations. Even connect to the entire Canterbury UMC website.

Download your Canterbury App right now! It's *FAST* and it's *EASY*.

Just go to <http://get.theapp.co/6a16/>.



# Welcome New Members

PLEASE WELCOME THESE NEW ADDITIONS TO OUR CANTERBURY FAMILY



**MAT DEAN & KIM DO**  
May 8, 2016



**CAROL LIN ENGLAND**  
*Simone*  
May 15, 2016



**JOHN HATCHER**  
May 8, 2016



**JAMIE & JOHN HENDERSON**  
May 8, 2016



**TARYN & BRODIE JAMES**  
May 8, 2016



**BERYL & FRANK JOHNSON**  
May 8, 2016



**GRACE JOHNSON**  
May 8, 2016



**MICHAEL PHILLIPS**  
May 8, 2016

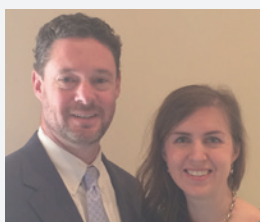


**BROOKE & JONATHAN RATLIFF**  
May 8, 2016



*Not Pictured*

**SHARON SMYER**  
*Fanny & Mabry*  
May 8, 2016



**LAUREN & CHAD TICE**  
*Maggie & McCall*  
*(not pictured)*  
May 8, 2016



**BETHANY TOMPKINS**  
May 8, 2016



**SARAH TRANUM**  
*(with husband Bo, member)*  
*Mary Glen, Cole & Jackson — not pictured*  
May 8, 2016



**BRANDACE & MICHAEL WILSON**  
*Genevieve*  
May 8, 2016



## Considering Membership at Canterbury? It's time for Beginnings!

Beginnings is the process through which persons prepare to make their vows in the covenant of membership at Canterbury. The Beginnings experience builds community, gives participants a larger view of Canterbury, and leads them in determining how they will live out their vows of membership.

We have welcomed 70 new members through Beginnings so far in 2016!

## Upcoming Beginnings Classes

9:15 - 10:15 a.m., Dining Room (M204)

### September 11 – WELCOME & ORIENTATION

We will enjoy a light brunch, coffee and a great time of getting to know each other as we kick off your Beginnings experience.

### September 18 - WORSHIP

### September 25 - LEARNING

### October 2 - SERVING

### October 16 – GIVING & JOINING

For more information and to register, contact Becky King, [becky.king@canterburyumc.org](mailto:becky.king@canterburyumc.org) or 874-1520.





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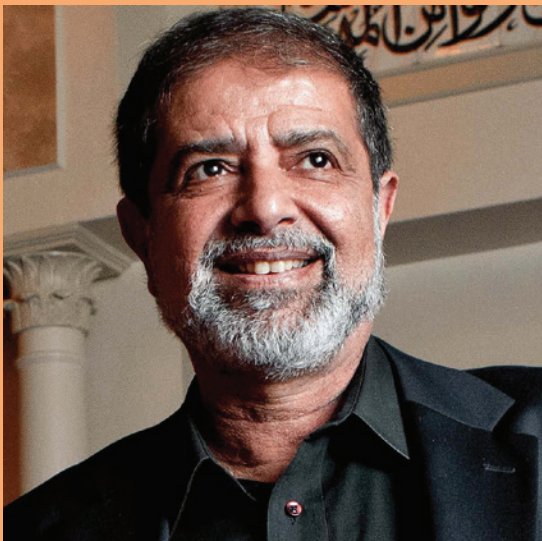
## DIRECTIONS

Off Highway 280, at Brookwood Mall, take Mountain Brook Parkway east to Overbrook Road and turn left.

## MINISTERS

[Rev. Dale Cohen](#)    [Rev. Warren Nash](#)  
[Rev. Sam Williamson](#)    [Rev. Drew Clayton](#)  
[Rev. Sheryl Thornton](#)    [Rev. Tori Hastings](#)

# SPECIAL SUNDAY SCHOOL EVENT



An Overview of the *Islamic Faith*

## Sunday, July 24

*9:25 - 10:15 am in Canterbury Center*

Ashfaq Taufique, president of the Birmingham Islamic Society and a long-time friend of Canterbury, will be speaking at a special Combined Sunday School Meeting. Come and bring a friend to this important summer event hosted by Canterbury's **Crawford Owen Class**.

