

Children, Youth, and Adult Happenings @ SPC

At Shallowford we offer a variety of opportunities for men, women, and children of all ages to connect and engage in the life of the church.

Maggie & Andrew Galbraith with their daughters.



MAKING SWEET MEMORIES

Shallowford's youngest members (and parents) gathered this summer around picnic tables at the local Bruster's Ice Cream to enjoy a sweet treat and each other's company. This summer, Associate Pastor for Children, Landon Dillard, sought to provide parents with easy opportunities to engage their young children with other church members while keeping their busy schedules in mind.

Intergenerational fellowship is one of the things Shallowford does best. These socials were the perfect opportunity for members of all ages to pause their hectic summer schedules and gather outside. Sara Simonds, mom of Lily (3) and George (1) shared, "We loved it! It was great to see everyone together and enjoy ice cream with our Shallowford family!" For their part, Bruster's was generous enough to share 10% of their proceeds from this event with Shallowford.

SPC Children's Choirs come together in song.



2022 SPRING CONCERT

This past May, Shallowford's children's choirs showcased their talent and hard work in a concert themed, "The Word of God Will Help Us Grow."

Anne Thomas, Director of Children's Choirs, notes, "This program felt like quite an accomplishment following all the changes the COVID pandemic brought. Despite the obstacles, our children worked hard as a community of singers and ringers and continued to develop deep friendships with each other."

At the end of the program, Anne and Pastor Landon handed out awards to the participants. Anne explains, "Cherubs received a stuffed angel bear and Wednesday night BLAST participants received pins. Each year, these choir singers get a new pin to mark another amazing year of sharing God's love through song! It is just these types of experiences that help to seal our young people in God's abiding love and enrich our faith and trust in our Maker."

The Isaac family dressed in costume.



HALLOWEEN FUN ON WHEELS

Hundreds of Shallowford members and families in the community dressed up and made their way to Shallowford's parking lot to participate in the annual Trunk-or-Treat event. Several members transformed the trunks of their cars into spooky (and not-so-spooky) scenes that brought joy to participants of all ages.

With a story time lead by Stayce Bushart (member), games hosted by local high school volunteers, and enough candy to make Willy Wonka proud, there was something for everyone. Associate Pastor for Children, Landon Dillard, says, "Trunk-or-Treat had a large turnout from our community, school, and church. There was high energy and lots and lots of candy!"

If you'd like to decorate your trunk for next year's event, or participate in another of Shallowford's annual family-friendly events, reach out to Pastor Landon.

6th/7th Grade Boys Small Group and leaders.



YOUTH SMALL GROUPS

Sunday evenings during the school year, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., youth gather and share a meal, then break out for discussion and fun group activities. Shallowford offers a welcoming place for all middle and high school kids to relax and feel like a part of the family, deepen their faith, and build new relationships.

Once a month, from September through May, Shallowford's 6th through 12th-grade students meet in members' homes for a more intimate small group setting. Each year, youth are divided into groups specific to grade level, including 6th/7th girls, 6th/7th boys, 8th/9th girls, 8th/9th boys, 10th/11th/12th girls, and 10th/11th/12th boys.

This year's theme, "Welcome All," invites conversation around Scripture and how it relates to our everyday lives.

We have a great group of new and returning hosts who continue to teach, lead, and inspire the youth.

Youth girls & Maggie Johnson in the airport.



PAST & FUTURE MISSION TRIPS

No phones. No iPads. But instead a life-altering seven-day experience in Bisti, New Mexico on a Navajo Reservation with 30 dedicated Shallowford youth. This is the type of journey Bradley Kibler, Associate Pastor for Youth & Programs, knew would leave a lasting impact on these teens. They built new relationships, deepened their faith in God, and lived each day in the present. A warm and gracious Thank You to Shallowford for making this experience possible due to the generosity of the church.

We're excited to respond in faith in Summer 2023 as we head to North Carolina.

Raleigh Youth Mission allows young people to explore the hidden needs and struggles of those living on the margins within and around the City of Oaks. Together, Shallowford youth will serve alongside our neighbors who are homeless, in poverty, or food insecure.

Chapel Choir members on tour in Florida.



EVERGREEN SALE

Each fall, youth help manage the orders, sales, and pick up of fresh evergreen trees, wreaths, and roping brought to Shallowford straight from a North Carolina tree farm at the start of the Christmas season. A portion of the proceeds goes back to the choir to help fund instruments and equipment, as well as upcoming tours.

And in return, each summer Shallowford's Youth Choir use these proceeds to embark on a 10-day tour across the United States. As part of the Chapel Choir ministry, the annual summer choir tour nurtures young Christians as they learn about God together with their peers and witness with communities.

A huge thank you to the Shallowford congregation and our local neighbors for helping us to raise \$10,000 toward our chapel choir summer tour. Our youth feel supported by you, and we thank you for helping every child to be able to go on tour!