

Bible Explorers

Dear Parents,

Fall 2009

Enclosed is this year's schedule for Bible Explorers. While there are some new events and ideas, there are many "repeaters," as the kids requested. We are really eager to begin the year with so many returning AND new members.

Basics to keep in mind are:

- We usually meet from 6 – 8 pm on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month.
- The kids enjoy snacks together at the end of meetings, lovingly provided by parents
- Kids should bring their Bibles to each meeting
- We do most of our communicating with families through email.
- Friends are ALWAYS welcome!
- Please have your Explorer wear his/her "God Rules" shirt to meetings & field trips

What we're asking you to do:

Please pray for this group!

Please send in a completed student **permission form/covenant/medical release** so your Explorer can go on all of our field trips (this is different from the Sunday School Student Registration Form). For convenience, it is the last page of this document. It can also be downloaded & printed from the church website (www.brooklynpres.org). Please send it with your Explorer to the next meeting. Just look on the *Quick Links* part of the website and click on *Downloadable Forms*.

Please sign up to bring a snack for about 20 people. If every family signs up once, we will be set. For convenience, there will be a snack signup sheet posted outside of the youth room door. You can also email Robin Shear if you would like to help.

Please sign up to help us drive the kids to at least one event. The kids love our field trips but they can't go without your help. There will be a signup sheet posted outside of the youth room door for this as well.



Please send \$5 for this year's CD, TobyMac Portable Sounds. TobyMac's music is fun and filled with energy, while promoting diversity, unity in Christ, and relying on God. Some of his songs are just for fun, but many have meaningful Christian messages. We plan to play it in meetings and while we're on field trips. If your child is new to Christian music: Since the songs will be new, it may take a while before your Explorer prefers this over his/her usual music. **It's ok! Don't give up!** Play it often as a family and discuss the songs together... you'll all be blessed.

Please drop your child off a few minutes early for our meetings, as all kids who are there at the start of each meeting have a chance to win a prize. Kids can also get prizes for regular attendance, and for bringing friends and bringing their Bibles.

We welcome your input at any time!!

Yours in Christ,

Robin and Rick Shear
rshear@frontiernet.net
467-6738 at home
442-9707 Robin's cell
442-9562 Rick's cell

Robin Wheaton
rwheaton@frontiernet.net
592-5008 at home
517-414-4986 cell

Sept 23: Kick off party in the youth room with pizza, games, music, and a discussion of what to expect this year.

SATURDAY Sept 26: Pumpkin picking in Manchester!! Please plan to get dirty and bring these things labeled with your name: something to cut vines with, gloves (vines are somewhat prickly), and a scrub brush. These pumpkins will be sold at Sunday's Harvest 2 Help event. Meet at **noon** (or as soon as you can make it) at 18990 Bowens Road, Manchester MI, 48158. Call Rick Shear for directions.

SUNDAY Sept 27: Harvest 2 Help project...Sell pumpkins in the **parking lot** after BOTH services to raise mission money. Please come at 9:15 am or 11:30 am.

SUNDAY Oct 4: Since we always have some left...Second week of selling pumpkins for the Harvest 2 Help project. Please come at 9:15 am or 11:30 am.

Oct 14: Pastor Appreciation and Food pantry relay race ...First, we'll spend some time creating something special for our ministers. Then, we'll split into teams and race around town on foot, collecting non-perishable food items for the food pantry. There are prizes! At least two parents are needed to help walk the teams around town (please bring wheelbarrows or wagons for your team).

Oct 28: Rake & Ride... burn up some energy! Meet at church, enjoy a hayride around town, rake leaves, bless others, and eat donuts. This was rained out last year and missed by all. Please dress for the weather and **bring a rake!**

Nov 11: Movie night in the youth room! This movie will have adventure and built-in values. Pizza will be provided. Time change: 5-8 pm. *Also, please RSVP for the Dec. 3 TobyMac concert.* We will be drawing names for our Secret Santa gifts. If your child is unable to come tonight but wants to participate, please notify me before the meeting.

Nov 25: No meeting, enjoy preparing for Thanksgiving with your family.

Dec 3: (this one's a maybe...) TobyMac concert in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Carpool from church at 4 pm, return around midnight (ouch, but the experience will not disappoint...the tiredness will fade, but the memories will last) . Tickets are \$18 and all family members are invited and are strongly encouraged to attend this amazing, high-energy Christian music concert. You won't soon forget it or its impact! I would like a head count by Nov 11 so we know whether to proceed with this or hope for a better opportunity. Drivers would be needed.

Dec 9: Come to the youth room for our Christmas Party! Celebrate the birth of Christ with your friends. As with last year: Secret Santa gifts, \$5 limit, names will be drawn on Nov 11.

MONDAY Dec 21: Drop & shop!! Rollerskating, video games, and laser tag at Jackson AllSkate Fun Center. It's Christian music night! Meet at AllSkate (1313 W. North St, Jackson, 49202) from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Cost of \$4.25 includes skates (blades are \$2 extra). Bring a church bulletin for a free pop.

Dec 23: No meeting – Merry Christmas!

Jan 13: Back again: Swim at the Christian Family Center! Meet at 6 pm at 1800 US-223, Adrian, 49221.

Jan 19: Last day to mail in Winter Blitz registration (see Jan. 29-30). Please don't wait, as cabins are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis, and our only chance of the girls rooming together in one big cabin is gone quickly.

Jan 27: No meeting, get packed for Winter Blitz!

Jan 29-30: Winter Blitz at Covenant Hills Camp! This overnight trip in Otisville, MI is always a fun and exciting highlight of our year. For convenience, registration forms are attached to this letter, and are to be mailed directly to camp. More info will be given as this date approaches but feel free to call the camp anytime with questions. This year's theme is "Live BIG!" Speakers will talk to us about Romans 8:37 "In all things we will conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us"...in a big way!

SATURDAY Feb 6: Come to the Shear home from 1 - 4 pm and have fun baking Valentine's Day goodies for folks from church in need of love. Meet at 11650 Boardman Drive, Onsted, 49265, roll up your sleeves, and get cooking! Bring sledding clothes & sleds if the weather cooperates. We will freeze the goodies and deliver them on Feb. 10.

Feb 10: Road trip! We will deliver the Valentine's goodies and enjoy visits with folks in their homes. Drivers are needed.

Feb 24: One on one time with the pastor: Get your questions answered. What have you always wanted to know about faith?? Come with questions ready, our time together always goes too fast!

Mar 10: "Blind Faith" Be led around an obstacle course blindfolded and discuss fully trusting God when times get tough. Drivers are needed.

Mar 24: Easter is coming! Come for a meaningful lesson and an egg hunt around the church. Some eggs are filled with candy and some are filled with objects that reinforce the story of Christ's sacrifice. We hope these activities will bring new understanding of the significance of Easter.

SUNDAY Apr 11: Helping our Own sign up day: We will staff a table downstairs in the fellowship hall after both services to sign people up to bring perishable food items for needy families from our church. Times: 9:30 am and 11:30 am.

Apr 14: Helping our Own Scavenger Hunt. Teams and adult leaders drive around Lake Columbia, trying to collect the most nonperishable items on the list for a prize. The real prize will be giving everything we collect to needy families from our very own church. Drivers are needed.

SUNDAY Apr 18: Helping our Own fresh food collection day & delivery day...This is it! We will be at a table BEFORE both services to collect and refrigerate all of the items that the congregation signed up to bring on April 11. After the second service, leaders will deliver everything collected over the last week to the church families in need. Times: 8 am and 10 am. (Note: Kids who come to the 8 am table are welcome to return home or stay with us for snacks and a movie while waiting for the 10:30 service).

Apr 28: Parent appreciation night... Parents (and Explorers!), we would like to thank you for your commitment with an ice cream social and a video presentation. Let's celebrate our year together and recap all God has called this group to do in His name. We will also honor our awesome "graduating" 6th graders.

**STUDENT REGISTRATION, COVENANT AND PARENTAL RELEASE
BROOKLYN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Effective August 23, 2008 through August 31, 2009

STUDENT COVENANT

I agree to obey all instructions given to me during this event. I also agree to do my best to make this event an enjoyable experience for everyone in attendance.

I understand that my personal behavior, both physical and mental, is my responsibility. My parents will be notified, and I will be sent home at their expense for any non-compliance during this event.

Signed _____ Date _____
(student)

Parent/Guardian agreement to the Student Covenant:

Signed _____ Date _____
(parent/guardian)

PERMISSION TO TRANSPORT

I give permission to Brooklyn Presbyterian Church for my child to be transported to youth activities. I agree to hold church staff, volunteers, and Brooklyn Presbyterian Church harmless during the field trip or activity

Signed _____ Date _____

PHOTO RELEASE

I give permission to Brooklyn Presbyterian Church for my child to be photographed for the church website during a church activity.

Signed _____ Date _____
(parent/guardian)

MEDICAL RELEASE

I hereby give full consent for my son/daughter to participate in the church event. If my child needs any medical attention, I hereby give my full consent for the adult advisors from this event to make decisions on my behalf as to the extent of that medical treatment. I also understand every possible effort will be made to ensure the safety of participants.

Signed _____ Date _____
(parent/guardian)

Emergency phone for parent/guardian _____

Alternate emergency contact _____

Health Insurance Company _____ Policy # _____

Allergy/medical alert information _____

Special needs _____

Parent email _____ Parent cellphone _____

Student email _____ Student cellphone _____

Home address including zipcode _____

This permission form includes any overnight trips with our church.