

# St. Matthew's celebrates 40 years of preschool



Three year-old class – Caroline Suber, A'Niyah Brooks, Karsyn Criswell, Christian Smith, Kevin Walker, Nathaniel Knotts.



Four year-old graduating class – Kensen Martin, Hailey Griffin, Lilly Northcutt, Omari Wilson, Ashtyn Fisher, Jhalen Pharr-McNair, Bryant Foster, Lucy McDaniel, Kristiana Summers.

Photos by LINDSAY SUBER and BETH BROCK

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St. Matthew's Preschool had a very special graduation and end-of-year celebration last Thursday evening. This year marks the preschool's 40th year in operation.

St. Matthew's Preschool was the first preschool in the Kings Mountain area, and the only one that has operated continuously for 40 years. It is the only state certified preschool in the area.

The preschool was created for the children as an outreach ministry. All of the tuition money goes back into the school – the church doesn't receive any money from the preschool.

In the welcoming address, Judy Wilson stressed that over 1000 students have attended St. Matthew's, and have gone on to become teachers, business operators, health care professionals, community leaders and

parents.

Wilson recognized "Sis" Bridges who has been with the preschool since its beginning in 1973.

Also recognized were former students of the preschool many of whom now have children attending St. Matthew's Preschool.

Also attending the program were board members, former board members, and former teachers.

The students presented a program "Let's go to the Hop" followed by the presentation of diplomas to the graduating class, and certificates to the three year-olds. All the girls wore poodle skirts made by Mrs. Sheila Ledford, and the boys had on white t-shirts with the sleeves rolled up, and jeans rolled up. They sang several old "hop" songs and danced to the songs.

After the program, refreshments were served on the lawn.



Former students with their children who attend St. Matthew's Preschool – Lindsay Suber with his daughter, Caroline; Amanda Walker with her son, Kevin; Steven Fisher with his daughter, Ashtyn; Cale and Jada McDaniel with their daughter, Lucy; Dee Martin (mother of Kensen) and Cailyn Hughes.



**SAUCY BOTTOM BOYS** – The Saucy Bottom Boys, David Wooten, Tim Morgan and Mike Bell, left to right, won grand champion at the Oasis Shriners Family Fun Day Saturday, June 15. The cook-off is an annual event at The Red Fez Club on Lake Wylie. All members of the White Plains Shrine Club in Kings Mountain, the grand champion team also won first place in the "anything but" category and second place for barbecue sauce.

## Children attend VBS as a community

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Four Kings Mountain churches—Resurrection Lutheran, St. Matthew's Lutheran, Central United Methodist, and First Presbyterian—hosted a community Vacation Bible School June 17-20 from 5:30-8 p.m. at Resurrection Lutheran Church.

This year's theme was "Athens: Paul's Dangerous Journey to Share the Truth."

Children stepped back in time to Athens, Greece, exploring the Apostle Paul's adventures. Kids and adults participated in a memorable Bible-times Marketplace, sang fun

songs, played teamwork-building games, dug into Bible-times snacks, worked together in an oikos (family) and created a frieze to remind them of God's Word.

A big difference this year was that the children were not divided into age groups, but rather divided into "families" (oikos) of all ages, each with their own "home." Children age three through fifth grade participated in the family activities, including eating on cushions on the floor of their home.

Everyone looked for evidence of God around them through God Sightings. Each day concluded at Celebration - a time of upbeat worship that got everyone involved.



"Family" members listen attentively as Paul (Doyle Campbell) teaches them about Christ. Joseph Outten (left), and Adelphie (sister) Christie Herndon (center) are the other adults in the photo.

Photo by BETH BROCK

## Talents on display at Bethware Fair

Produce, flowers, crafts vie for blue ribbons at annual event

The Bethware Fair kicks off this week and with it comes the exhibition and judging of all manner of items, from produce, baked good to crafts, paintings, sketched art, photography and antiques.

Entries were accepted earlier this week and judging begins today at Bethware Elementary School at 9 a.m. The fair itself runs from June 25 through June 29.

Agriculture entrants will vie for first and second prizes in nine varieties of corn, three kind of rye/wheat, four varieties of oats/barley, over a dozen different varieties of peas, legumes, clovers, hay and cotton.

Other agriculture entrants includes judging of 16 kinds of fruits and potatoes, and a

number of display exhibits, such as gardens, apples and peaches. In the miscellaneous category over 50 kinds of produce will be exhibited and judged, from honeycombs and acorn squash to watermelons.

The Women's Section includes canned goods, jams, butters, pickles and relishes and fruit juices.

The Bethware Fair also offers exhibiting and judging for more than 50 varieties of breads, cakes, cookies, candy and dried fruit.

In the household arts, entrants compete for dozens of blue ribbons in over 150 categories, from pajama-making to afghans and scarfs to crochet hats and tablecloths.

See BETHWARE FAIR, 5C

You are invited  
to come hang out with us...

**Blazin Trails Cowboy Church**  
Freddy & Gwen Lovelace

**June 29th at 7pm**  
with Harvey Gates and singing with J.T. & Sidney Thomas

Hot Dog Supper to follow!  
Come as you are... no fancy clothes;  
shorts, flip flops, overalls...  
you don't have to be a cowboy either!

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