



August 2025 EBC Connect

DISCOVER~DEVELOP~DISCIPLE
Helping people discover and develop into disciples of Christ



July gave us another phenomenal week of VBS. We averaged 23 kids each night, the kids raised over \$500 for the Appalachian Backpack Ministry, and we built some new relationships as well as rekindling some we hadn't seen in a while. The Gospel was

presented on Thursday night and six came forward with decisions. Out of those six decisions, three were first time commitments to Christ and we are in the process of following up with them on baptisms.

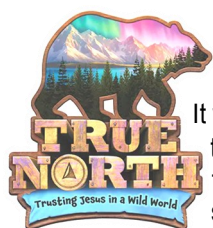
"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'" Matthew 19:14 (NIV)

Yes, it was an exciting adventure that we had with our VBS kids as we trusted Jesus in the Wild World of Vacation Bible School (in Alaska). Thank you is not enough to express our gratitude to all of you for the support over the last couple of months. Our kids learned that they can boldly step out in faith, knowing that Jesus always points them in the right direction.

Together, and with your prayers and support for the staff, we were able to give kids a rock-solid foundation and point them to Jesus, their unmovable, unshakable *True North* friend forever.

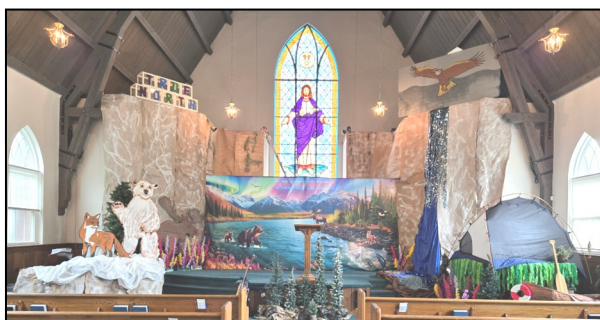
And one more shout out to Miss DeAnn and Miss Parry. We learned that this is the 50th year they have been able to serve in Vacation Bible School! What a great legacy! Thanks ladies for letting the Lord use you in such a mighty way to bless us and our kids!

I love being your pastor,
Chris



VBS 2025 ~ TRUE NORTH TRUSTING JESUS IN A WILD WORLD

It was a "blessed whirlwind" of a week as our kids hit the trail...for adventure in Alaska! Thanks to our talented team of volunteers for trusting Jesus to show kids how to find their way in a world gone wild as they led them into the wonder of a trusting friendship with Jesus, our *True North*! And what a team! You made a big hit that will have an eternal impact on the kids that attended! The curriculum was outstanding, filled with Bible-learning experiences that kids could see, hear, and touch! Hands-on science experiments, team-building games, unforgettable Bible songs, and tasty treats were just a few of the standout activities that helped their faith flow into real life. The kids discovered how to see evidence of God in everyday life — something we call "God Sightings." And throughout the week the kids were immersed in great Bible stories during "Wild Bible Adventures" where they learned...**We can trust Jesus when we...**wonder, when we feel alone, feel powerless, need hope, and when we need help.



Our sanctuary was transformed into an Alaskan wilderness wonderland as Jesus, our *True North* watches over all.



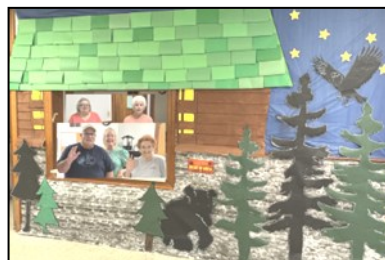
THE TNT CREW (TRUE NORTH TOTS)

Miss Polly and Tyler had the privilege of being "crew leaders" for our two youngest Bible schoolers. They had so much fun staying up past bedtime, watching the big kids play the VBS games and singing and signing the fun songs. Our goal was to teach them two new words, "**trust Jesus**." And they did great! You might get one of them to tell you...but don't count on it.



Our JUNEAU'S PUPPY PLAYHOUSE CREW

came alive this year thanks to 11 preschoolers who ranged in age from 3-5. Some were familiar faces from last year, others were friends who already knew each other, and some were even cousins! We had a great week learning to trust Jesus. Snack time was also a big hit as we enjoyed dipping trees into snow (broccoli and ranch), eating snowballs (donut holes), and even Kodiak bears (teddy grahams)! The hardest parts were saying goodbye to parents on night one, waiting our turn for the obstacle course, and memorizing Bible points to win a pack of gum! All were perfect opportunities to practice knowing that "When we feel powerless we can...Trust Jesus!" A special thank you to the 14 volunteers who worked with our crew at various times during the week. We couldn't have done it without you! Our little ones are already looking forward to next year!



The Tundra Treats Cabin Crew served delicious food each night.



Wild Bible Adventures was just that... Miss Brandy shared awesome true stories and we even had a Roman soldier visit one night.



In Imagination Station Miss Chris helped kids experiment, play and discover as they used amazing sciency-fun things to understand what it means to trust Jesus. "I loved the chance to share a snow cone, and a Jesus connection with the kids."



Each night, Kiya helped Scout learn to trust Jesus as he hiked the tundra. And during Sticky Scripture the daily Bible Point was carefully integrated into each activity.

When all was said and done the kids were really great. We were intentional in sharing Jesus with them and they were open to learning. Watching the kids make connections from things they had probably heard their whole lives, into things that made sense to them was so exciting to see. It was especially rewarding seeing spiritual growth in kids who are regular VBS attenders. The volunteers were amazing and engaged. Seeing so many kids and adults really love being at church, excited about coming every night and being so sad when VBS was over made the long week worth it!

And, a huge shout out to our faithful prayer warriors. The mighty prayers being lifted up were felt, received, and answered. It was a wonderful week confirming that at Enka Baptist Church, God's NOT DONE!



Appalachian Backpack Ministry

You helped make a difference in the lives of children and teens (up to 17) who live in poverty through a backpack covered in prayer and packed with gifts, necessities, and God's Word!

The 2025 goal is to collect 24,000 backpacks of items to be distributed to Appalachian children in areas of need in late November and December.

This year, our **VBS kids**, along with your help, collected **\$627.05** for this important ministry.

God bless you for helping our kids become "missionaries" right here at home!



MISSIONS PROJECT

Our AUGUST MISSION PROJECT...

It's back to school month and we would like to support ABCCM as they help our kids and teachers by collecting **school supplies and lunch box foods**.

Here's a list to get you started:

- Water bottles, Lunch bags
- Individual tissues and Clorox wipes
- Juice boxes, pretzels, crackers, granola bars, etc.
- Notebooks and paper
- Pens, pencils, crayons, markers

Place your items in the basket at the bulletin board. If you would like to give money instead, please indicate August Mission Project on your envelope.

Thank you! Your faithfulness in supporting our community ministries is a wonderful blessing!



Woman to Woman Words of Wisdom



Hi all you ladies and girls out there.
Please plan to attend our **Ladies' Luncheon**.
We will honor our high school graduates and send them on their way with some words of wisdom from the "experienced" ladies of EBC.

Bring a friend, and your favorite dish

Saturday, August 2, 2025

At 12:00 o'clock noon

Enka Baptist Church Fellowship Hall

If you have questions,
please call Mary at 828-593-9812.

Take a look at the *words of wisdom* below . . .

If God Could Send Us an Email

The Cross is For Today

Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. Exodus 14:13

My child,

When you think about my Son's crucifixion on the cross, do you think about it as something that happened a long time ago — something that has no importance to people of today? If you think that way, then I want you to change your thinking.

The cross matters to you today. Here's how: The cross is like a **love letter** from me to you, not just telling you, but showing you how much I love you. You can open that love letter anytime you think about the cross. The cross is like a **bridge** from you to me. Because of the cross, you can cross that bridge and talk to me anytime. The cross is like a **battery pack** that can give you power to get through the hard times, power to forgive others, and power to change your world. The cross is like a **multivitamin** that gives you the spiritual health you need to live your life to the fullest.

The cross is not just an ancient memory. **It is an everyday blessing** to everyone who believes in me.



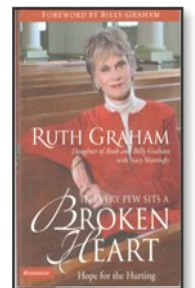
Love from Your Father,
God



Book Review

In Every Pew Sits a Broken Heart: Hope for the Hurting
by Ruth Graham

Is There a Broken Heart in Your Pew? Have you ever thought, as I have, that "if only Billy and Ruth Graham had been your parents you would have struggled much less with sin and been much wiser?" I tend to put people I admire up on pedestals — even though I know 2 Corinthians 10:12 says, "they who compare themselves among themselves are not wise." So, when I read this memoir from Billy Graham's third child, Ruth, I was blessed by her transparency describing her life going against loved one's advice and not listening — thinking she needed to do what was best for herself and then reaping the sad consequences of distress and pain later on. She shares her secret fears, doubts, disappointments, and feelings of isolation and how God ultimately helped her. She also describes, in detail, how the reader can wisely counsel others by going through hard times. I raced reading this engaging book and came away reminded and encouraged that life and its troubles can happen to anyone — I was more able to fully forgive my own poor choices in the past! This is an A+ book that I highly recommend, and it is available in our church library!



~ Patricia Parker



**Small Groups
meet every Sunday
at 9:30 a.m.
(unless otherwise noted)**

AUG 02	12:00 p.m.	 Ladies' Luncheon Woman to Woman Words of Wisdom for our graduates
AUG 03	6:00 p.m.	Brief Business Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study with the Pastor CIA / Youth Church Council
AUG 05	10:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Group Bible Study Prayer Meeting
AUG 10	9:00 a.m.	2nd SUNDAY CELEBRATION 
	6:00 p.m.	Bible Study with the Pastor
AUG 12	10:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Group Bible Study Prayer Meeting
AUG 17 ABCCM SUNDAY	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Family Night Adults on Mission CIA/Youth
AUG 19	10:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Group Bible Study Prayer Meeting
AUG 24	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Walk the Schools
AUG 26	10:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Group Bible Study Prayer Meeting
AUG 31	No evening service	 HAPPY Labor Day