

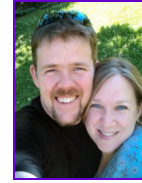
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3. People in our community begin to get to know us through Bible Day Camp. Our guests get to see one of our best attributes: we love kids programs. Through these programs we can love and serve their kids. There are more than half a dozen families here at Tintern that started getting to know us through Bible Day Camp in the past few years. Admittedly, Bible Day Camp doesn't teach you everything you need to know to become a Christian, but it's a good start. Bible Day Camp is an opportunity to show families the love of Jesus and that love is very compelling.

People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. There is something compelling for a parent to see someone loving their kids. When you love someone's kids well, they have to understand why you did that. It's almost irresistible. From there they meet people and make friends and in the process they come to know Jesus, and his Word and often they become his disciples too.

So what can you do now? Whether or not you are involved in Bible Day Camp there is something vital that you can do to help. Next Sunday (or perhaps months from now) a family will visit us as a result of a good experience at Bible Day Camp (I saw it happen again just last week). The way we respond to guests is absolutely vital to our getting to know them better. Every single person who calls Tintern their home has a chance to be a blessing to a guest. Even if it is just in saying hello or asking if there is any way you can help them. All of us together can make a difference in someone's life, just by being a friend.

Meet the Minister



Noel & Julie Walker

Why Bible Day Camp Matters

It was about 12 years ago that we decided to change the name of our summer kids program from "Vacation Bible School," to "Bible Day Camp." I think it was Rick that introduced the idea to me. The thinking was that VBS is an acronym that only people who have grown up going to church understand. It is meaningless to people outside the church and since serving people outside the church is our fundamental objective, we need this program to have a name that is understood by people outside our church. Everyone knows what a Day Camp is, so "Bible Day Camp" was born.

We have been hosting a Vacation Bible School at our church building almost every year since 1957. Some of our volunteers this year were part of that VBS 54 years ago! But why do we do this every year? What is it that we hope to accomplish during BDC this year?

Why Bible Day Camp Matters:

1. We show children that we love them (and God loves them too.) It would break your heart to know how many kids don't feel genuinely loved. About 1/3 of the kids at our BDC are from Tintern. Another 1/3 come from other loving churches or our own extended families (grandkids etc.) That leaves about 1/3 of the kids at our BDC who have no significant church family. Now here's the shocker: kids everywhere are not loved well! Kids here at Tintern and at other churches. Kids in the community and kids far away too. Lots of kids aren't loved like they should be. This week is a chance to show unconditional affection in the hope that God will bless them and lead them to a loving church family. Are we prepared to be that church family? (We'll get to that in a minute)

2. It gives members of our congregation a chance to serve someone. There is a joy in ministry: in completely exhausting yourself for a cause greater than yourself, that you will never understand until you participate in it. When you serve others in the name of Jesus Christ you are blessed for it. Bible Day Camp is a chance to share that joy. The pictures in the slide show look like fun but being there and hearing the questions the kids have is priceless. Bible Day Camp is a chance for you to share in that joy, however you can help. Whether it is cutting out crafts or teaching, or making costumes. Whatever your service, God blesses with joy when we serve in his name.

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