We Appreciate Our Volunteers!

What a whirlwind! In the past few months, Access has seen the Adults with Disabilities Day Program (A.D.D.P.) grow in numbers and in curriculum development. Several Friendship Club participants attended the annual beach retreat at the Outer Banks, and we watched as some jumped in kayaks, go-carts, and boogie boards for the first time. Our Loudoun respite family ventured on Access’ first horse-riding adventure during Loudoun Break Out. We hosted Soaring Over Seven (SOS) summer camp, where almost 100 campers with special needs and their siblings enjoyed field trips, carnival days, and talent shows with incredible one-on-one care.

Thank you for joining with us to serve and care for our Access participants and families and for the specific ways you did so, such as talking about fire alarms all day, every day, and marching on stage at the SOS talent show to give your buddy more courage. We rejoiced in thanksgiving when you took off a week of work to take our Friendship Clubbers to the Outer Banks. We observed in awe as children became more interactive after only a few weeks of Sunday school with you. We watched as you cheered while our kids rode horses, so they could feel more secure and have more joy in the experience. We rejoice in the relationships that were created and those that have blossomed.

Thank you for all the time, energy, and care you offer so joyfully to our Access friends and for the impact you make on them. More importantly, thank you for letting them impact you.

Volunteer Trainings & Orientations

Access offers volunteer orientations for new volunteers, those thinking about serving, and experienced volunteers who would like a refresher course! Orientations cover Access news, programs, policies and expectations and provide a chance to ask questions and become familiar with Access. Periodically, we offer specialized training programs for volunteers, such as basic American Sign Language, Behavior Management and First Aid/CPR.

See below for specific dates:

- Oct. 1 - Training - Basic American Sign Language (Tysons)
- Oct. 22 - Orientation (Loudoun)
- Nov. 5 - Orientation (Tysons)

If you are interested in attending orientation or training, or if you have any suggestions for training programs, please contact sheena.austria@mcleanbible.org. We would love to have you join our team! mbctysons.org/VolunteerAtAccess

Access is a Ministry of McLean Bible Church
18920 Lemburg Pike, Vienna, Virginia 22182
703-639-2900, accessministrymbc.org
facebook.com/accessministry
From ‘Feel’ to Zeal

“He gives us a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair” – Isaiah 61:3

From the desk of Jackie Mills-Fernald, Director of Access Ministry

As I reflect on the past summer months, it’s a blur. Time whizzed by – days filled with therapies, doctor visits, family obligations, errands, ministry and work-related events. I realize I had rushed through summer missing something, yearning for something more with an empty, lost feeling.

I searched inward into my state of discontentment, and it dawned on me I had slipped into a state of mediocrity – doing too much and nothing well. This state of mediocrity had slipped into my spiritual walk. Yep, I was in a state of humdrum Christianity. I had become lukewarm at times, just going through the motions without fervor. My enthusiasm for Christ had slipped. The busyness of life had taken me out of composure. I no longer had a laser focus; it had gone from a ministry leader and mom had begun to distract my enthusiasm for Christ. The busyness of life had slipped into my spiritual walk. Yep, I was in a state of mediocrity. I searched inward into my state of discontentment, and it made me realize what I needed was to find that zeal.

In Romans 12:11, Paul warns us, “Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.” Easier said than done! What are some ways to keep passion in your walk with Christ? How can you find the zeal?

• Pray for God to change your heart for Him, to draw you near to Him.
• Prioritize time in the Word and with God.
• Simplify life – cut out activities; say “no”.
• Recharge – plan for downtime.
• Stay in community with believers.

We are called to be zealous about pursuing Christ, which is much easier said than done in this crazy, complicated thing we call life. Staying zealous doesn’t come naturally; it is work and must be intentional. When we are zealous, we serve Him with abandon. Dare today to serve Him with all you have and all you are.

Help me live my life for You. Help me to be zealous in all You ask of me. Help me to know You, love you, worship You and serve You more each day.

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friendshipclub

Working with You to Take Your Adults Deeper in Their Faith

The Lord has really placed on my heart the desire to mature the faith/discipleship of the believers in the Friendship Club, and at the same time reach out to those students who do not trust that Jesus’ sinless life and death on the cross is the perfect substitute for our sins and the only way to eternal life. This past spring, the Friendship Club men attended the MAN Conference and the women attended Women’s Night Out. We’ll be working towards additional ways to work jointly with families to mature each student in their walk with the Lord. This fall, Friendship Club participants will study and apply God’s creation. To help make this possible, the Friendship Club has been blessed with amazing, regular VOLUNTEER teachers during all four services. Next time you see Matt Jesinsky, Mary Kidwell, Brad Hodgson or Alissa Mohr, please thank them for teaching your children so faithfully and with excellence! In addition, I would like you to join me in thanking Sabrina Watkins, JC Walker, Karen Peko and Melissa Philippson, who, for years, have been serving weekly in the calling God has placed on their lives.

Starting at Age 16, the Fun Is Only Just Beginning!

Coming right off the heels of a fun-filled summer, the Friendship Club will be jumping into more fun activities this fall and winter. We’ll be hitting up a Leesburg fall festival on October 20, enjoying our annual Christmas party on December 5, and hopefully cheering on GMU again at the Patriot Center over the winter. The ladies will be making some wonderful earrings on November 3, led by Jane Hasley, as well as looking out to 2013 for more socials and service projects, such as serving the wonderful residents at Lifefr. Men, you will have more opportunities for bowling and fellowship on November 17 and all winter long.

Does the cold winter have you thinking warm, summer, or perhaps even Outer Banks thoughts? If so, you’ll be happy to know the Friendship Club has already booked their home for the 2013 annual beach retreat. For details, visit mbctysons.org/friendshipclub.

The Friendship Club now has over 100 students on its roster, spanning all ability levels, and that’s exciting news! As your child approaches age 16, he/she will never age out of Access; rather, new opportunities for socials, camps and weekend classes open up to them, and I will be in touch with you as your child’s birthday approaches!

For more info, contact brian.rice@mcleanbible.org.

Danie1, Edward, and Sergio shop for MBC Food Pantry.

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Did you know the Friendship Club hosts socials, such as laser tag and DC Fest, because participant Amy Luckett suggested them? If you’re a Friendship Club student, volunteer or parent, and have fun suggestions for future socials, we’d LOVE to hear about them!

and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater”. – Isaiah 55:8 -10
With over 30 workshops and 60 exhibitors, the 2013 Accessibility Summit promises to be a very special event for adults with special needs, families, caregivers, churches, teachers, and other professionals connected to the disability community. Please visit AccessibilitySummit.org for updates; registration opens in December. Please mark your calendar now, and plan to join us at the 2013 Accessibility Summit!

Under Construction

The 2013 Accessibility Summit, taking place April 19-20, is already under construction. Emily Colson, daughter of the late Chuck Colson, founder of Prison Ministries, will be a keynote speaker. As the single mother of a teenage son with Autism, Max, you will laugh and cry as she shares the challenges she and Max have faced and the small successes that have brought such joy to their lives. Author of Max & Emily Colson rejoicing at the beach. The story is one of love, commitment, and passion for their lives. Author of "The Good Old Days Wishful and Thankful: A Christmas Story," Emily’s life plan to join us at the 2013 Accessibility Summit!

Max & Emily Colson Joaping at the beach. Please visit AccessibilitySummit.org for updates; registration opens in December. Please mark your calendar now, and plan to join us at the 2013 Accessibility Summit!

Understanding and Thankful

As much as Access parents feel they’re blessed by our programs, staff and volunteers, we’re blessed by them! We’re grateful for all you do to help keep our programs running, whether by prayer, encouragement or giving. As our programs continue to grow, our most-needed items are:

- New interactive toys
- Bottled water
- Gluten/casein-free snacks
- Paper towels/napkins
- Cookies – snack packs/single servings
- Chips – individual packs
- Gift cards: Giant/Safeway
- Target/Michael’s/S’Wals-Mart
- Board games

Find a complete list at AccessMinistryMBC.org

or contact Jackie Mills-Fernald at jackie.millsfernald@mcleanbible.org.

December 2013

- 4, 17
- Nov. 1, 15, 29
- Dec. 13

Access Moms Small Group

Access Ministry recognizes the need for moms to have a place to go and grow in God’s Word while connecting with other women who have children with special needs. This exciting group allows moms to come together with a special need. This exciting group allows moms to come together and be encouraged every other Thursday at 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, in Room 404. Remaining 2013 meeting dates are:

- Oct. 4, 17
- Nov. 1, 15, 29
- Dec. 13

For more information about the Access Moms Small Group, please contact isabelle.bruge@mcleanbible.org.

Access Parent Support Group

Parents of children with special needs yearn for a place where they can share their struggles and be encouraged and supported by others who have been through similar experiences. The Access Parent Support Group is that place. Through God’s Word and in prayer, parents are uplifted. Attend our meetings at MBC Tyson, 12:30-1:30 pm in Room 1410. For more information, visit AccessMinistryMBC.org or contact

Jacqueline Jansen at Jacqueline.Jansen@mcleanbible.org.

Access Community Lecture Series!

Join us for the 2012-2013 Access Community Lecture Series! One Monday each month, guest speakers present a topic of interest to the disability community, which covers a variety of issues affecting all ages and disabilities. The lectures are free and open to anyone in the community. Please invite friends, teachers, therapists and anyone else who would benefit from these lectures. Exciting topics are lined up for this year, including resources, difficult behaviors, nutrition, Medicaid waivers, post-high school transition, special needs siblings, financial planning, and social skills. 2012 lecture dates are Oct. 15, Nov. 12, and Dec. 3; 2013 dates are Jan. 14, Feb. 11, Mar. 11, May 13, and June 3. For more information, visit mbctysons.org/CommunityLectureSeries or contact erin.rosettdre@mcleanbible.org.

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Listen Up! for super ems

Make your list & check it twice!

Christmas Joy

Mark Your Calendar! Access 2012 Christmas Party

Saturday, December 8

Christmas Greetings

I complained that I had no shoes until I complained that I had no feet.

Jackie Mills-Fernald

The Good Old Days

Wishful and Thankful

“A Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace.” – Isaiah 9:6

Thankful

Carroll Rothenhoefer

Rothenhoefer are the parents of a daughter with special needs, and welcome the opportunity to minister to you. “Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2) Childcare is available by reservation only through Jacqueline Jansen@mcleanbible.org. For more information on the Parent Support Group, please contact Isabelle Bruge@mcleanbible.org or visit AccessMinistryMBC.org.
Kids are back in school, and our routines have started. Fall is upon us with Old Man Winter lurking around the corner. Here at MBC Loudoun, we are in the midst of an exhilarating time with Friendship Club (FC) for young adults 16 and older with developmental disabilities on Saturday evenings, which is a time for worship, prayer and fellowship. FC participants enjoy social events once a month. In October, we’ll head to Pumpkinville for some fall fun. For more events, visit mbcloudoun.org/FriendshipClub.

Beautiful Blessings has exciting things going on, too, as we are expanding our space for classrooms and starting our new curriculum from Gospel Light this fall. Break Out is back in full swing after taking a month off and ending June with our first field trip. If you’d like to join us for a fun-filled Friday night, check out us at mbcloudoun.org/breakout for future dates and information on how to participate. Finally, we’ll be launching our quarterly Breakaway program on December 1, a Saturday day program only for children with special needs.

If you know of any families that might be interested in Access Ministry, please contact wendy.melcher@mcleanbible.org. For more information, visit mbcloudoun.org/access, and check us out on facebook at facebook.com/accessm.inistry.

Beautiful Blessings and Tysons

Jesus doesn’t call the equipped to minister but rather He equips the called. Access Ministry began to minister to Beautiful Blessings parents and volunteers at a recent Family Fellowship Night that will continue to meet every six weeks. In ministering to one another, prayer requests are shared, praises celebrated, and community is built.

Beautiful Blessings as a team is committed to teaching children and young teens about biblical truth, the life of Jesus, and, most importantly, the unconditional love HE pours out to all who follow Him! We will return to the Gospel Light curriculum. After much prayerful consideration, beginning this fall we will revamp the program by separating classes into three age categories. We are hopeful this will be a more effective way to reach and teach the children about Jesus.

Beautiful Blessings participants will learn about God’s Love! We will focus on: How does God show His love to all creation? What is the good news about Jesus? What does the Bible teach us about God that helps us trust Him?

For more information, please contact jacqueline.janssen@mcleanbible.org.

“We love because He first loved us!” (1 John 4:19)

Access Is Heading to MBC Prince William!

Later in the fall, Access will launch its Saturday respite program, Breakaway, at MBC Prince William. Volunteers and staff will offer a safe, fun and dynamic day of activities, games and a movie for children with special needs, while providing their parents and any typically-developing siblings with much-needed breaks.

What an incredible privilege to be part of what is happening at MBC Prince William and the surrounding community. We do not take it lightly, so join us as we continue on the journey of serving and caring for the disability community in Prince William County!