



May 2009

Dear Parents,

Are your kids ready to sink their teeth into BIG fun?

That's just what they'll do at Salem United Methodist Church's **2009 Vacation Bible School -- Crocodile Dock** -- where fearless kids shine God's light! Crocodile Dock is filled with incredible Bible-learning kids can see, hear and touch! Related **crafts**, team-building **games** and cool **Bible stories and songs** are just some of the Crocodile Dock activities that will help faith flow into real life.

We'll help kids discover how to see God in everyday life. Your children will also participate in Salem's **mission project** for '**Maizing Grace**, using crops grown in Iowa to bless the lives of people in need all over the world.

Salem's Vacation Bible School (VBS) is **open to children who have turned 3 through those who have just completed the 5th grade**. This year, VBS plans to place pre-schoolers in their own Bayou Crews. They will worship with all the other kids during opening and closing times but will participate in crafts, games, Bible stories and video activities only with younger children their own ages.

As before, older elementary kids (K or 1st grade on up) will be in mixed-age groups with other children. Salem has used this multi-age approach for years and been impressed by the benefits gained by both older and younger participants.

Although 3 year olds are welcome to attend VBS, some young children may simply not be ready to be apart from you and in active groups like this for nearly 3 hours. As a parent, you are encouraged to use your best judgment on whether or not to enroll your child this year -- or to wait until next year, when they are ready to take the step to participate in VBS.

The plan is for each adult or older teen crew leader to lead a Bayou Crew (small group) of 5 to 7 children. Youth who have graduated from the VBS experience and wish to volunteer may assist some of the crew or activity leaders. We are always looking for mature, enthusiastic crew leaders and would welcome your help if you feel called in this way!

Most families have busy summers ahead and may not be sure if their children will be available to attend VBS evenings July 6-10 this year. ***If there is any possibility at all your child may attend, please go ahead and complete a registration form.*** It is much easier to cancel a reservation than to add a new registration at the last minute. **REGISTRATION DEADLINE: June 20.**

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me (e-mail preferred). We hope your children will join us at Salem's Crocodile Dock this summer for a fun and life-changing bayou adventure!

In His Love,

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You may also register on-line. Go to www.cbsalem.org and click on Crocodile Dock!

*Interested in helping?
Just let us know what you'd like to do!*