



July 15, 2021

Dear Parents,

The planning for this year's Vacation Bible School is well underway! We're excited to have this opportunity to enjoy food, fun, games, raffles and God's word with all of our current middle and high school students.

A big thank you to Mrs. Becky Leppert and her team for putting together a meal each of the four nights of VBS. I can't wait to see what y'all come up with!

Thank you to my wife, Sara, for arranging each night's organized group games and activities. Students, you'll want to wear clothes that you don't mind getting a little wet!

Thank you to John Leppert and the youth band for your diligent time in rehearsal. Worship is a critical component of this ministry, and I'm really excited to praise our God with all of our students!

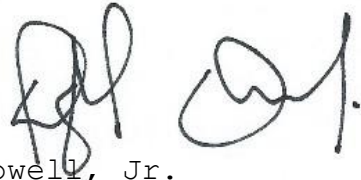
Now to the really exciting part of this note. We have every intention of making this the biggest and best VBS since the pandemic! In order to invite the unchurched youth in our community, we're putting together VBS door-knocking teams. Our students received a crash-course in missions and neighborhood evangelism while away at FUGE camp last week. While nervous at first, it didn't take them long before they were racing to the next individual to share Christ's love and hope. It's time to put that experience to good use within the James City County community!

Each Sunday, until the start of Youth VBS, we'll be taking teams of students into various neighborhoods within our community. This means that there will be a different team of 10 students and 2 adults on July 18, July 25, August 1, and August 25. We'll meet on the given Sunday at 4:30pm and return to the church at 5:30pm, just in time to begin that Sunday evening's "Upstream" Summer Bible Study.

If you're unfamiliar with our summer study, check out our webpage at smithmemorial.org/students. There is no registration required for the "Upstream" Bible study; however, sign-up is necessary to join a door-knocking team. Also, the door-knocking teams are not limited to students that attended FUGE camp. All current SMBC students are welcome to sign-up.

I hope our students are rested from the journey back. It's time to get back to the study of God's word, and putting to practice that which he has instilled in us at camp. **Let's do it now, while the iron is hot!** Parents, thank you for being great partners of encouragement to our students!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Greg Dowell, Jr.', written in a cursive style.

D. Greg Dowell, Jr.
SMBC Director of Student Ministries