



# BUENA VISTA *Blessings*

STORIES OF FAITH, FELLOWSHIP AND SERVICE  
VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1 JUNE 2026

## Welcome to **Buena Vista Blessings**

Many years ago, our church shared news, testimonies, ministry updates, and stories through a newsletter called **Buena Vista Blessings**. As we enter a new season of ministry, we're excited to bring it back.

Our desire is simple: to celebrate God's faithfulness and share how He is working in the lives of our church family and community. In these pages you'll find stories of new beginnings, ministry, outreach, spiritual growth, and opportunities to serve.

*Thank you for being a part of what God is doing at Buena Vista!*

## *A Seed Worth Planting*

Jesus often compared God's kingdom to a seed. Seeds may seem small and insignificant when they are planted, but given time, they grow into something much greater.

The same is true of our acts of service. A kind word, an invitation to church, a Bible story shared with a child, or a simple act of compassion may seem small in the moment, yet God can use those seeds to change a life.

As we read about the ministries and outreach efforts in this issue, may we be reminded that God often works through ordinary people who are willing to faithfully plant seeds and trust Him for the harvest.



## *Share Your Story*

EVERY MEMBER HAS A STORY, AND  
EVERY MINISTRY HAS MOMENTS  
WORTH SHARING.

### **We welcome:**

- Personal testimonies
- Ministry updates
- Devotional thoughts
- Outreach stories
- Photos and special events

If you have something you'd like considered for a future issue of Buena Vista Blessings, please contact **Michelle Hall**.

*"Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap  
if we do not lose heart." - Galatians 6:9*

# Welcome OUR NEW PASTOR Anthony Nix and Family

We are excited to welcome Pastor Anthony Nix and his wife, Nayeli, to the Buena Vista church family. Pastor Anthony joins us after serving in both the Indiana and Potomac Conferences and most recently pastored the Harrisonburg SDA Church and Harrisonburg Spanish Church. He is passionate about meeting people, visiting members, and helping individuals of all ages develop a deeper relationship with Jesus.

Nayeli enjoys working with young people and serving wherever needed. Together they have three children: Areli, Denise, and Tony. We look forward to the many ways God will work through Pastor Anthony and his family as we continue our mission to Reflect Jesus, Serve Our Community, and Grow as a Family.



## LOOKING AHEAD



**JUNE 10-13**

**Camp Meeting in the Valley**

*Hope in Trying Times*

Join us at SVA for worship, fellowship, and spiritual encouragement.

**JUNE 13**

**NO CHURCH SERVICES ON SABBATH**

Please join us at Camp Meeting

**JUNE 16**

**Prayer Meeting will take a pause for the summer after June 16th**

**JUNE 27**

**Prayer Walk**

**JUNE 28 1:30 PM**

**VBS Volunteer Training & Lunch**

Lunch provided. All volunteers are encouraged to attend.



**JULY 5-10 10-3:00 PM**

**VBS Decorating**

Help transform our church into Rainforest Falls! We invite helpers to come and go as your schedules allow.

**JULY 11 8:45 PM**

**Decorating Night**

Join us to finish the transformation of our church!

**JULY 12-16**

**VBS Program**

**JULY 17 7:00 PM**

**VBS Closing Program**

Everyone is invited to attend and celebrate what God has done!

**JULY 19-23**

**VBS Cleanup Week**

**JULY 25**

**Prayer Walk**



**AUGUST 8**

**Potluck**

**AUGUST 15**

**Communion Service**

**AUGUST 22**

**Prayer Walk**





# BREAKING GROUND, BUILDING FAITH

*Celebrating God's faithfulness and looking forward to the future.*



On May 8, our church family gathered with community friends, conference representatives, and former pastors to celebrate a milestone more than a decade in the making—the ground-breaking for our future church home at 177 Bares Wood Lane in Lexington.

Our journey began in 2014 when we purchased the property with a vision of creating a place where people could worship, grow in faith, and serve our community. Although construction was originally planned to begin in 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic delayed those plans. Even through the waiting, God continued to lead and provide.

Over the years, significant site preparation work has been completed, including the driveway, retention ponds, fencing, and retaining wall. Each step has reminded us that God's timing is always perfect.

During the ceremony, former pastors Rick Labate and Bob Banks joined Pastor Luis Beltré in reflecting on the church's journey. Building committee co-chair Dickie Hevener and treasurer Patty Lemon shared stories of God's provision, answered prayers, and the faithfulness of church members who have supported this vision through the years.

The ceremonial turning of the soil marked the official beginning of construction. Phase 1 will include a fellowship hall, kitchen, classrooms, and restrooms, with future plans for a sanctuary, foyer, additional classrooms, and office space.

As we celebrated this historic day, we were reminded that this project is about far more than a building. It is a testimony to God's faithfulness and a commitment to creating a place where people can encounter Jesus, build relationships, and grow in faith for generations to come.



*“Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin.” – Zechariah 4:10*



# STEEPED IN HIS GOODNESS

## Women's Ministries



One of the highlights of our spring season was our Women's Tea Party, "**Steeped in His Goodness**," held on April 25. Under the leadership of **Teresa Taylor** and a dedicated team of volunteers, **84** ladies from our church and surrounding community gathered for an afternoon of fellowship, encouragement, and spiritual growth.

We were blessed by guest speaker **Rene Hallman**, whose message reminded us of God's faithfulness and goodness through every season of life.

Through meaningful conversations, beautiful decorations, and Christ-centered fellowship, the event provided an opportunity to strengthen friendships and connect with women throughout our community.



## GROWING FAITH THROUGH ADVENTURE

**Buena Vista Fireflies Pathfinder Club**



The Buena Vista Fireflies Pathfinder Club celebrated another successful year of learning, growth, service, and adventure during its annual Investiture program.

Pathfinders marched in while singing the Pathfinder song and participated in the Pledge of Allegiance, Pathfinder Pledge and Law.

Director Sandi Lohr shared how the Pathfinder program helps young people grow through personal growth, spiritual discovery, serving others, making friends, health & fitness, nature study, outdoor living, and honor enrichment.

Throughout the year, club members participated in hiking and camping, community service activities, nature study, and hands-on learning experiences while working toward honors and class-level achievements.

### 2025-2026 HONOR ACHIEVEMENTS

|                                      |           |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Liberty</b> - Trail Companion     | 12 honors |
| <b>Christopher</b> - Trail Companion | 9 honors  |
| <b>Eli</b> - Trail Companion         | 10 honors |
| <b>Micaiah</b> - Wilderness Ranger   | 21 honors |
| <b>Seraphine</b> - Wilderness Ranger | 14 honors |

**TOTAL: 66 HONORS EARNED!**







# REFLECTING JESUS THROUGH COMMUNITY MINISTRY



## ARTAPALOOZA COMMUNITY OUTREACH

On April 25, our literature evangelism team participated in **Artapalooza**, a community arts festival held in downtown Buena Vista. Led by **Debbie, Dan and Jeremy Miller**, the team provided free books, magazines, and faith-based resources while connecting with community members and sharing the hope found in Jesus. Later in the day **Mark Squires, Jim Garber**, and **Steve King** joined the team in distributing literature and visiting with festival attendees.



Our VBS directors, **David and Michelle Hall**, spent the day sharing information about our upcoming Vacation Bible School and connecting with families from across the community. More than 100 children stopped by to create and decorate animal masks, receive gift bags filled with snacks and stickers, and take home invitations to this summer's VBS adventure.



### BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS • SHARING HOPE • SERVING OTHERS

## BABY DOLL DRIVE

Recently, after learning that the local Sheriff's Office was collecting baby dolls for individuals living with dementia and Alzheimer's disease, our church decided to support the effort by organizing a baby doll drive as well.

These dolls are often used as a therapeutic tool, helping provide comfort, reduce anxiety, and encourage positive memories for those facing memory-related challenges. Through the generosity of our church family, we were able to collect 25 dolls and support this meaningful program.

While the dolls themselves may seem simple, they represent something much greater—compassion, dignity, and the love of Christ shared with some of the most vulnerable members of our community. We are grateful for everyone who contributed and helped make this outreach possible.



### HAVE AN OUTREACH IDEA?

Do you know of a need in our community or a service project our church could support?

Our Evangelism Team and Deaconesses are always looking for opportunities to share Christ's love through practical acts of service.

**Contact:**  
**David Hall**  
**Carol Mason**

Together, we can continue to reflect Jesus in our community





By  
*Michelle Hall*  
VBS Director

# Why Vacation Bible School **MATTERS**

**W**hen I was a little girl, I didn't grow up in a home where church was important. My parents weren't interested in religion, but they weren't opposed to getting us out of their hair for a few hours.

One summer, a woman from our neighborhood invited the local children to a simple Bible program she held in her backyard. We sat on her shaded patio, sang songs, listened to Bible stories, memorized Scripture, and enjoyed cookies and lemonade. Looking back, it wasn't elaborate or expensive, but to me it was special, evident because I still remember it.

A few years later, a friend invited my brother and me to a Vacation Bible School at a local church. I don't remember the church. I don't remember the songs we sang or even the Bible stories that were shared. But I do remember the crafts. Big surprise, right?! In fact, I still have one of them today—a simple picture made from cardboard and aluminum foil that I created more than forty years ago.

What I remember most is that those people cared enough to invest time in children they barely knew. They welcomed us, taught us about Jesus, and planted seeds of faith.

The people who organized those programs have no idea what became of the little girl who attended. They don't know that years later I would give my life to Jesus. They don't know that I would become involved in church ministry. They don't know that I would one day help lead Vacation Bible School myself.

*But God knows.*

**And that is why Vacation Bible School matters.**

Every song, every Bible story, every game, every craft, every decoration, and every volunteer matters because we never know what God will do with the seeds we plant. Most of the children who walk through our doors this summer may never remember what stories were taught or songs that were sung. Yet years from now, they may remember that someone showed them the love of Jesus.

We live in a world where children face challenges that previous generations could scarcely imagine. They need to know they are loved. They need hope. They need to know that Jesus cares about them and wants to walk beside them through whatever life may bring.

**Vacation Bible School gives us an opportunity to plant those seeds.**

As we prepare for Rainforest Falls Vacation Bible School, I invite you to pray for the children who will attend. Pray that hearts will be touched, friendships formed, and seeds of faith planted.

And if you would like to help us plant those seeds, we'd love to have you join the team. Whether you help decorate, prepare materials, serve snacks, lead a group, or simply pray, your support makes a difference.

*After all, someone once invested in a little girl they barely knew, and I am forever grateful they did. ♥*



**July 12-17, 2026**

**Ages 4-13**

**6:40-8:45 PM**

Kids will explore the wonders of God's creation while discovering important truths about His character through Bible adventures, games, crafts, music, snacks, and tons of fun!

*We can't wait for an amazing week together!*

## DAILY DISCOVERIES



**Sunday**- God is Our Creator



**Monday**- God Knows Everything



**Tuesday**- God is Our Safe Place



**Wednesday**- God Loves Us



**Thursday**- God is Forever



**Friday**- Closing Program

## INTERESTED IN HELPING?



If you would like to be a part of the team to help, please see **Michelle Hall**. We need many hands and prayerful hearts to make VBS possible!

### **JUNE 28 1:30 PM** **VBS VOLUNTEER** **TRAINING & LUNCH**

Join us for lunch, volunteer training, and hands-on VBS preparation.

### **JULY 5-10** **THE RAINFOREST** **TAKEOVER**

Decorating is underway! Stop by between **10:00 am and 3:00 pm** and lend a hand creating our rainforest.

### **JULY 11 8:45 PM** **THE FINAL PUSH**

**All hands on deck** as we complete the Rainforest Falls transformation and prepare for opening night.

### **JULY 12-16** **RAINFOREST** **FALLS VBS**

Rainforest Falls VBS is here! All volunteers should plan to arrive by **6:30 pm** each evening

### **JULY 17** **VBS CLOSING PROGRAM** **7:00 PM**

**Everyone** is inviting to celebrate what God has done during the week. Refreshments will be served.