

## Testimonials Are Us

### Vacation Bible School Solves Mystery

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is a perfect place for children to discover the wonders of God's Love, make new friends, learn new stories from the Holy Bible, widen their world, uncover talents and find adults who care deeply about them. Bible school this year had over 40 different children attend and averaged over 30 in attendance each night.

It also had 40 adults who said, "Here am I, Lord. I want to help." Some of the adults had been Centenary VBS volunteers for generations. Having seen their children through VBS, some volunteers are now helping their grandchildren learn more about the community of believers Jesus wants for all his children. The number of VBS volunteers almost gave one-on-one attention for the children in attendance. *"How wonderful. How marvelous."*



**VBS CRAFTS with Lois Newton, adult standing left in photo and Meg Glueck, standing right.**

Lois and her late husband, Jim, had a farm off Dover Road. As they looked toward retirement, they began a search for a church home. They had several options but visits to different churches had not given them the sense of belonging they were looking for. One day Jim asked, "Is my church too big?"

The "my church" Jim was asking about was Centenary. Jim had grown up in Centenary having earned perfect Sunday School attendance during some years and a lot of great memories. He was 15 when his family moved to another part of the community and a church closer to their new home. However, Jimmy Newton never forgot the church that had made him feel at home all those Sundays ago.

Lois recalls the Sunday they tried Centenary, "It was July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007 and **Ted (Igleheart)** asked us to sit with him and to come to Sunday School. I've been coming ever since." Jim found his church home that Independence Day, too, but was called to his eternal home November 1, 2007. Lois found her Centenary family by her side then and through other life challenges. It is a church family Lois loves so much she wants to share it with others. That's why she sent a card to a family visiting Centenary in 2011.

**Meg and Tom Glueck** and their foster children, Ally and Lexi, new residents on Dover Road, visited Centenary one Sunday in 2011 and were greeted by Lois. Although Lois had moved from Dover Road she still knew the area well enough to deduce the Glueck's address so she dropped them a card inviting them to make Centenary their church home. Over the next three years Lois did not see the Gluecks. She wondered what had happened to the family she had encouraged to come back to her home church. She hoped wherever they were they were happy in their church. The mystery was happily solved when Lois and Meg were paired to help in crafts for VBS. Even in a church as small as Centenary their paths had not crossed in nearly three years.

Meg Glueck, a paralegal, now devotes her time to a title she happily calls, "Foster Mom". She and husband, Tom, a UPS pilot, gave Centenary a second look after they had been visiting several area churches (Simpsonville, LaGrange, Shelbyville) in 2011/12. The Gluecks had moved from Pensacola and the transition had taken time postponing their search for a church. Meg had been a Methodist but their new location gave them a choice of several churches. Their first visit to Centenary impressed them, "the warmth of everyone there."

One VBS faithful is **Lois Newton**. Lois, the creative, talented lady she is, often ends up helping with crafts. Lois has been an active member of Centenary since 2007. What brought Lois to Centenary is a sweet story.

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I remember we were greeted by Charlotte and Fred Bond.” However, they decided to continue their search until they realized that although all the churches they visited were nice, “nothing felt right.” Meg says, “We decided to checkout Centenary again. We found everyone so warm and welcoming we decided to stay.”

The Gluecks are members of **Jennifer Decker’s class** whom Meg says is, “awesome”. The why of making Centenary their home church is, “hard to explain. Everyone is so wonderful. The more we get involved we can see that.” Getting involved from Sunday School, to Impact Shelby, to being Greeters has been, “a blessing”. It is funny though that even in our small church Meg and Lois didn’t get to renew their acquaintance until VBS nearly three years later. Meg said she couldn’t remember the card and the lady associated with it but, she did remember the sincerity she felt from the invitation to come back to Centenary. Thinking about VBS Meg says,

“I was blessed to be there. Lois is a neat lady and I was able to learn from her.”



Meg Glueck and Lexi

Meg’s foster girls, Lois met in 2011, now live with their mother in Oldham County, but the families maintain a supportive relationship so Meg picked them up each day for Bible School. Meg and Tom are now foster parents of baby Sophia. “She’s a blessing,” they joyously report. Meg explains, “Foster parenting was something I always thought of doing. (The idea) was placed on my heart as something I wanted to do. It is interesting, good and hard. We have been blessed in doing it.”

Centenary has been blessed by families like the Newtons and Gluecks who found a church they could worship and serve because of the warmth and fellowship of its members. *“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow.”*



## Happy Birthday, Helen – 95 and Serving Our Lord

Helen Hisle is Centenary’s much loved and admired Grande Dame. She wouldn’t bestow such a title on herself. In fact, title giving or accepting is not her style. Yet, the pastor’s wife, mother, teacher, sister, friend, Methodist, Child of God has had many titles since she came to Centenary in 1961 with her husband Edwin and their children that grew up in our church: Nancy, Judy, Joy, Bill and Holly. Helen’s memories of those early years in Centenary tell a story of a house that had as many of the church youth running through it as there was of her own, often more. Of watching the smiles or maybe an eyebrow raise as the pastor and his wife or a child might ride by on his motorcycle. Of taking care of the family while Edwin doubled his duties as a chaplain in the Air Force.

Celebrating her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday with her sister Louise and members of Centenary, Helen said, “I believe this is the best birthday I have ever had. If this were my last it would be OK could because it has been the best.” Helen we are counting on celebrating at least your 100<sup>th</sup> with you.

Is not wisdom found among the aged? Does not long life bring understanding? Job 12:12 NET

Gray hair is like a crown of glory; it is attained in the path of righteousness. Proverbs 16:31NET