

CALVARY HEIGHTS

May 8, 2013

Get ready for
the ride of your
life!



COLOSSAL COASTER WORLD 2013 Vacation Bible School

By Pastor Matt Higgins

Are you ready for the ride of your life?!?

This summer's Vacation Bible School (VBS) theme is **Colossal Coaster World**.

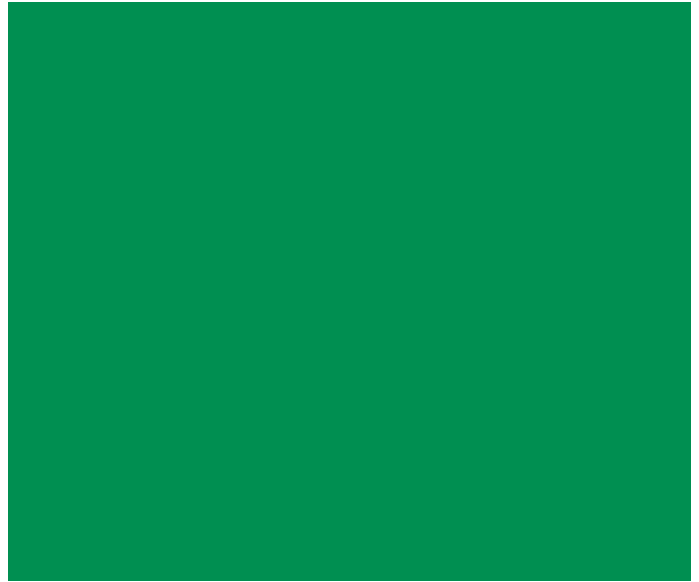
Our VBS will challenge kids to face their fears and trust God as they zip along the roller coaster of life. Through every twist, turn, and dive kids will learn that God hasn't given them a spirit of fearfulness, but a spirit of power, love, and sound judgment. At the end of the week, kids will want to do it all over again!

Our Vacation Bible School ride will leave the station on **June 23-26, 2013 (6:30-8:30PM)**. Our VBS is open to kids rising Kindergarten to 8th grade. We will also be offering VBS Bible study time for the adults. Contact the church office at (765) 342-7585 to pre-register your kids for this summer's VBS. The cost to you is FREE, nada, zip, nothing, zero!

Our week of Vacation Bible School will be capped off with a performance of "Creation

Investigation" by our **King's Kids Puppet Team** on **June 30, 2013 at 6:00 PM**. Be sure to bring family and friends and stay for snacks and fellowship after the program.





Our Next Sermon Series: Storyteller

By Pastor Matt Higgins

Everyone knows someone who is a natural storyteller ... That friend or family member who sits down at the dinner table and captivates every eye and ear as an elaborate story is woven. Or maybe you think about the children's storyteller at the library who makes the children laugh in delight.

Jesus was the greatest storyteller of all time. His stories, called parables, have captivated people for thousands of years. Terms like "good Samaritan" and "prodigal son" have entered into the English lexicon singularly due to the stories of Jesus. Most importantly, the stories of Jesus had an important

point: They point us to the reality of the Kingdom of God. Jesus' stories challenge our faith and lead us home to a God that loves us, forgives us, heals us and restores us.

Join us for worship beginning **May 19, 2013** at **10:45AM** as our pastor preaches through the greatest stories of all time, including the parables of the good Samaritan and the prodigal son. We will also be working through some of Jesus' more challenging parables, including the parables of the rich man and Lazarus and the unjust steward.

Come experience the stories of Jesus!

PREVENTING CHURCH MEMBERS FROM DROPPING OUT

Taken from the blog of Thom Rainer, President and CEO of Lifeway Christian Resources

Gary McIntosh and Charles Arn recently released a delightful new book, *What Every Pastor Should Know*. I love the data and research in the book. One of my favorite sections dealt with retention of members. Two of the most critical findings were:

- **Of all the members who drop out of church, 82 percent leave in the first year of their membership.** Retention efforts are thus critical in the first twelve months after a member joins a church.
- **The pattern of dropout is not random.** Most leave close to their six-month tenure or close to their twelve-month tenure. So church members seem to give new churches a “test” at both six months and twelve months. If the church passes the test at six months, the member will stay for another six months. If the church passes the test at the one-year mark, the member is likely assimilated into the church.

The first “test” consists of three questions. Though the church member may not ask these questions specifically, he or she is evaluating three critical issues to determine if it’s time to move or stay. These are the issues around the six-month point.

1. **Have I made friends in this church?** New members who remained active in the church made an average of seven new friends in these first



- six months. The drop-outs had an average of less than two friends.
2. **Is there a place in the church where I fit?** Critically important to this question is whether or not the new member is in a group or class.
3. **Does this church really want me?** Are the members still as friendly as they were when I first joined? Am I being invited or encouraged to participate in ministries in the church?

Assuming the new member feels good about these first three questions, he or she is likely to stay another six months or so. At roughly the twelve-month point, the new member then evaluates the church on three more issues.

1. **Are my new friends as good as my old friends?** The members begin to assess the quality of their relationships.
2. **Does the group meet my needs?** By the time the new

- member has been involved in a group for more than six months, he or she is asking if the investment of time in the group is really worth it.
3. **Is my contribution important?** Everyone wants to be a part of something significant, something greater than themselves. Church members join a church with those expectations. Near the end of the first year, they begin to evaluate that issue and their contributions to the overall mission of church.

Though there are no great surprises in these six issues, what is new in the study by McIntosh and Arn is the timing issue. Most of those who will drop out will do so before the end of their first year.

How do you evaluate these six questions? What can your church do to prevent members from dropping out?

GET INVOLVED! @ Calvary Heights

By Pastor Matt Higgins

A new **Sunday Night Bible Study** will begin on Sunday evenings starting **May 19, 2013** at 6PM. Our pastor will be leading through an in-depth study of the 1st book of the Bible: Genesis. Every Sunday evening through the summertime, we will (attempt to) tackle all of the tough questions from Genesis, so come join us as we learn about the Creator and His creation.

The final night of Children in Action and REVEAL youth group prior to summer break will be **May 22, 2013** at 6:30PM. We're having a pizza party to celebrate an awesome year of learning about missions. Children, youth and their parents are all invited.

Starting on **May 29, 2013** at 6:30PM, our pastor will begin a mid-week Bible study on Wednesday evenings asking the questions: "What is a healthy church?" and "What is a healthy church member?" We invite you to join us as we learn what the Bible says that a vibrant church community should look like.

Come get involved!



CALVARY HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH

532 N. KRISTI ROAD

MARTINSVILLE, IN 46151

WEEKLY EVENTS:

Sundays:

9:30 AM - Sunday School
10:45 AM - Worship
5:00 PM - Puppet Team Practice
6:00 PM - Bible Study

Wednesdays (Summer Schedule - Starting 5/29):

6:30 PM - Mid-Week Bible Study
7:30 PM - Worship Team Practice

MONTHLY EVENTS:

New Member Class - 1st Sunday every month (9:30 AM)
Prayer Meeting - 1st Monday every month (6:30 PM)

UPCOMING CHURCH CALENDAR:

May 17-18 - Man Camp (Highland Lakes)
May 19 - Genesis Bible Study begins (6 PM)
May 22 - Children in Action & Youth Group Pizza Party (6:30 PM)
May 27 - Memorial Day
May 29 - Mid-Week Bible Study begins (6:30 PM)
May 30 - Final Day of School (Martinsville)
June 2 - New Member Class (9:30 AM)
June 2 - Communion & Pitch-In Dinner (Noon)
June 2 - Business Meeting (5 PM)
June 3 - 1st Monday Prayer Meeting (6:30 PM)
June 7-15 - Ecuador Mission Trip
June 17-21 - Mission Adventure Camp (Highland Lakes)
June 23-26 - Vacation Bible School (6:30 - 8:30 PM)
June 30 - Puppet Team Musical (6 PM)
July 1 - 1st Monday Prayer Meeting (6:30 PM)
July 7 - New Member Class (9:30 AM)
July 8-12 - Student Fusion Camp (Highland Lakes)
July 15-19 - Student Fusion Camp (Highland Lakes)
July 23-27 - JAM / Super JAM Camp (Highland Lakes)