

6 MINUTE FOR MISSION

FAITH IN 3D WEEKEND HELPS YOUTH SEE NEW DIMENSIONS OF CHRISTIAN FAITH

Supporting youth in building a foundation of faith... what a wonderful thing, and what a special part of serving in the Spirit during Pentecost. Studies show that a foundation of faith established during childhood through young adulthood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people in Christ and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. Let me tell you about a wonderful experience, a faith-building experience, for youth across the nation, thanks in part to our Pentecost Offering.

Last year, more than 2,000 youth from three denominations, including the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) saw a snapshot of the world through the lens of faith at the Faith in 3D weekend at Walt Disney World's Epcot. Participants were urged to consider how their faith impacts the way they live in a world made smaller by the forces of globalization.

"We had discussions with the kids about what it means to be a Christian in the global world, and to be a global citizen," says Adam Bowling, associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Morganton, N.C. "We talked about what it means to love your neighbor and what 'being a neighbor' means. We discussed international mission partnerships and partnerships with mission co-workers."

Held on the weekend when America was honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Faith in 3D wove King's themes of the beloved community and nonviolent change throughout the programming.

Mason Streppa, a high school junior from First Presbyterian, Morganton, said he was struck by the relevance of King's message for the present day. "What he said back then, about racial justice, is still very much on the minds of people today, and it is still being heard today," he said.

Mason's involvement at Faith in 3D set him on a course that led to his ordination as a youth deacon for mission and outreach. Prior to his ordination, he went to Guatemala on his first international mission trip and discovered that what he had learned at Faith in 3D proved helpful. "At Faith in 3D, I was able to stick my foot in the water of foreign cultures," Mason says. "When I got to Guatemala, things started coming back to me from Faith in 3D about the different cultures, languages, and food."

The Pentecost Offering helped make these life-changing experiences possible. Sixty percent of the Offering goes to the national church to support ministries with youth as well as children at risk and Young Adult Volunteers. Forty percent of the offering is retained by our congregation.

By supporting the Pentecost Offering, we are helping to shape a positive future for young lives, for our church, and for our world. Please give generously.

Let us pray ~

*God of the Future, We give thanks for
young people who commit themselves
to your vision for our world.*

*Encourage them and strengthen them as
they work for your purposes.*

*Help all of us to be faithful disciples who
listen for your call and do your will.*

Amen.