

Greetings everyone,

I apologize for the lateness of my last newsletter. June was perhaps the busiest month of my year of service! The biggest piece on my plate was, of course, Vacation Bible School. We built, painted and decorated a swamp shack, a dock, and 8 mini cypress trees. My time was spent organizing, asking people to donate time and/or supplies, making staff T-shirts, and other various activities. By the time the big week came I had 45 kids and had to turn more away! It was astounding. Overall I thought Crocodile Dock went very well. As with all things, there were some bumps along the way but with the support of some wonderful people I made it through.

(All pictures from VBS: Top- My group of preschoolers pose; Mid- Gator Games; Bottom- Our awesome scenery)



Our children's summer Sunday School, The Community Connection, has been a challenge and joy to me as well. Our first visit to our mission, the retirement community Sunrise of Metairie was lots of fun. The kids handed out bookmarks they had made as well as performed a few songs for the residents. We look forward to visiting them in the coming month and performing with some musical puppets!

Montreat, the Presbyterian youth retreat center, will be welcoming our group in just a few weeks. I've been reading through my manual and preparing myself to be

the best small group leader I can be. The youth have been doing all sorts of things to raise money! They've auctioned desserts and appetizers, hired themselves out to the community, as well as had a giant garage sale. Please pray for our safe travel as we drive around 1370 miles round trip to North Carolina and back.

Our YAV day this month led us to cooperate with Trinity Episcopal Church. We made sandwiches, loaded up the mobile "Loaves and Fishes" van, and brought food to the poor and homeless in a variety of areas. Afterward we took the streetcar and the ferry for the first time and visited the Westbank, specifically, a little town called Algiers. We took our own walking tour through that quaint area of town. We praised God when we found a café that sold bottled drinks!

It's hard to believe that on August fifth my time as a YAV will be finished. In the coming month I will be preparing to stay down here another year. I've decided that I can't leave this place that I've fallen in love with and the people at the church seem to feel similarly. I will, hopefully, be taking the Christian Education Coordinator position that is now open and the Dayschool will be hiring me as a teacher's assistant as well. God has provided and I pray that I will be faithful. In the coming weeks I will be providing you with more information about the New Orleans 'shindig' I will be throwing when I come home to visit in September. Highland Presbyterian has graciously permitted me the use of their space for some traditional New Orleans food, a short presentation and many heartfelt thanks.

With love in Christ,

*Alicia Weber*

