

**6/14/26 Children and Student Sunday – Reflections**

“Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All God’s people here send their greetings. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” (**2 Corinthians 13:11-14 NIV**)

**Reflection by Charlie Kautz**

Good morning. My name is Charlie Kautz. I’m 16 years old, and I’m a student here at Brewster Baptist Church. Being a part of this church and youth group has allowed me to meet all different kinds of people, experience life-changing activities, and grow in my faith.

Growing up in the church has allowed me to mature in faith from the very start – having two amazing parents rooting me in, helping me start a relationship with God, which is a relationship I want to keep on growing.

When I was little, going to children’s worship every week and being taught by Miss Jeni cemented the teachings of how God loves us and cares for us every single day, and more than you could ever imagine. We learned about all the miracles Jesus did, and how he came, died, and rose again to save us from our sin.

Going to VBS, as a kid, also allowed me to be in community with lots of other believers. It was incredible seeing God’s creation through different animals, singing songs, realizing how God is working in other peoples’ lives, and having prayer time together.

Being a part of this church is one way that God has put life-changing people into my life. Two of those people are Bob Linnell and Jon-Peter Songer. While they don’t look exactly alike, both are quite funny and have very young personalities.

My grandpa has been a part of this church for a long time. So long, in fact, that he got his own episode for the bicentennial year. He has shown me how to work hard, how to laugh, and how you can always contribute. Jon-Peter is 5 years old, and brings so much joy into my life. He has shown me a new level of creativity, and how to make a game of anything.

Being a part of the youth group has also helped me to expand my relationship with Christ. It has given me the opportunity to continue to learn about Christ, and how to strengthen my relationship with him. Being a part of a youth group has also allowed me to be in communion with people my age and grow with them.

It has also allowed me to go on different mission trips, and see God's creation in many different ways and places. For example, at Grotonwood – working at the camp and then having time to go to the lake and see God's creation and sit in awe to think that we worship a God who can part the sea.

Another place that God has shown his presence is Berea. We go there one weekend each year, and it's a place where we, as a youth group, get to hear God's message, and leave feeling closer connected with God and with each other.

Going on the Camp Judson mission trip was eye opening. We got to live together and experience God's presence and creation. Every morning, we had a devotional where we learned how God created us all with a purpose, and that we all have ways in which we can help God's kingdom.

Another experience we got to have at Camp Judson was time as a community. We got to paint together, go through the low ropes course, clean trails, see the sun set, go on walks, go fishing, have time in the prayer tower, and so much more.

After finishing our work, we got to do spiritual practices – one of my favorites being 30 minutes of silence. We all went to the beach, found our own spot, and sat and listened. My spot was sitting on a rock that was just barely peeking out of the water. Sitting there, being in creation and feeling the waves hit the rock and splash onto my pajamas, feeling the peace of God and being submerged in God's creation – it was incredible.

The day I got baptized is a day I'll never forget. In September of 2024, I got baptized in the bay, and I remember coming out of the water in awe, and feeling God's presence so close.

This summer, I'm going to be interning at church. I'm most excited to learn more about all the different roles of the church. I'm also excited to take on a larger role at VBS.

I chose *2 Corinthians 13:11-14* because I find it so important that we are all here worshipping together, growing together, learning from each other, and helping each

other. God has used these experiences to put life-changing people into my life. I would like to say thank you to everyone here because everyone has a role in the church, and this church family has had a huge impact on my life. Thank you.

“Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have boldness to enter the sanctuary through the blood of Jesus — he has inaugurated for us a new and living way through the curtain (that is, through his flesh) — and since we have a great high priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed in pure water. Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, since he who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching.” *(Hebrews 10:19-25 CSB)*

### **Reflection by Hunter Marshall**

Hello, my name is Hunter. I’ve been going to BBC for three years, but I’ve been coming to the youth group for more like five years.

I grew up with Charlie, and he invited me to youth group one time. I would come every now and then, but then I went to Berea – I was in 7<sup>th</sup> grade then. A few years later, my sister was old enough to be in youth group, so she went, and my mom also came to chaperone. Now, this year, my dad also came, and had a splendid time.

After my first year going to Berea, I asked my mom if we could start going to BBC on Sundays, and she said yes. Now, as a family, we are very happy here. Then, a few months later, I started going through some really tough times, and the BBC community really came through for me.

One person, in specific, stood by my side, and every Sunday, he would ask me how I was doing, and say that if we ever needed something, he was always there. I felt more connected to God and the community than ever, and they helped me put the pieces back together. Because I was raised in a Catholic Church, I was baptized at birth – which I have mixed feelings about – but I got baptized again in the bay, two years ago, and that was a great experience. I felt better knowing that I made that choice myself. And just about two years ago, my mom got baptized, as well.

More recently, we went on a mission trip, in Pennsylvania, to help out at Camp Judson, and I saw God in a lot of ways that week – whether it was the big things, like the sunsets over Lake Erie, or the simple things, like just seeing how well people of all kinds get together for a greater cause. One day, we went down to the beach and just sat there in solitude for half an hour, and I really enjoyed that. Since then, I’ve had more time in solitude to think, and talk with God. When we were on that trip, we would have our morning devotions, and one of the verses really stuck out to me – that was *1 Corinthians 12:15-23*.

“Now if the foot should say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,’ it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,’ it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I don’t need you!’ And the head cannot say to the feet, ‘I don’t need you!’ On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty.”

I feel like it really ties into my whole talk today about community in the church, and how none of us are more special than anybody else, and we all need each other – like when I was going through hard times, people helped me out, and now I do the same for them.

Two weeks ago, I was doing the greeting, and I was really nervous about that, and I choked up a bit – but there were my buddies in the front row; that made me feel a lot better. When I went to do the 10:00 service, I thought that Charlie was going to be in class and wasn’t going to be there, but he stayed with me and kept my spirits up. When I was looking for verses for this talk, I learned that, biblically, the word that is translated as church, “ekklesia”, refers to an assembly of people called out by God, never a physical structure, and I think that’s a great way to sum up my talk. I just want to say that the community here is great, and I love you all.

**Questions for Discussion or Reflection**

1. Do you remember the first time you graduated from something? How did you feel about that day, and what lessons remain with you from that experience?
2. Jesus highlights for us the special significance of children and young people in God's kingdom. In what ways are we called to be childlike in the life of faith, and in what ways are we called to be mature and complete, not lacking anything?
3. How do you see God at work in this season of your life? How do you see God at work on Cape Cod? In what ways is the Holy Spirit inviting you to lean into being part of that work today?
4. Do you have any favorite childhood memories, vacations, or events you would like to share? How can you bless someone else's childhood or mature Christian walk today? Pray for wisdom, discernment, and grace to love, grow, and share God's love well with others.
5. As our choir sang on Sunday, God's love has never failed us – and never will! How can you dream big for God's kingdom and make a kingdom impact this summer?