

# AWANA has begun its 10th year at Shiloh Baptist Church

*Meets Sundays from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.*

By Cindy Miller

In September, Shiloh's AWANA program officially began its 10<sup>th</sup> year. Leaders once again welcomed children both new and veteran to the program. The children, proudly wearing vests decorated with achievement badges earned previous years, helped encourage new members, who eagerly prepare to earn their uniforms under the encouragement of their leaders. Throughout the year, children, preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> grade, earn patches and pins for character, commitment, and diligence as they study Bible verses, learn new songs, and play organized games and sports.



*Kerry Childers has been a leader in AWANA for 10 years at Shiloh. Here, she teaches this Sparky her Bible verses.*

AWANA, which stands for Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed, is a Bible-based, Christ-centered program for children. It is a club program adopted by many churches throughout the world. Shiloh began its AWANA program in the fall of 1998, but AWANA has been around for almost 60 years.

Each meeting opens with all groups gathered around the game circle for prayer, followed by their pledge of allegiance to the American and AWANA flags. The children then break off into their perspective groups, where they not only learn new Bible verses but also learn to communicate with others in a good wholesome atmosphere. The meetings consist of three main segments: Game Time (challenging physical activities), Handbook Time (when children memorize bible verses), and Council Time (when they learn important lessons about God). Yearly dues and fees pay for uniforms, handbooks, awards, and incentives for children's participation and accomplishments. Shiloh's AWANA still accepts new members and meets at the church during the school year on Sundays from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. Financial aid and/or scholarships are available for those who need assistance.

Co-commanders of AWANA are Ray Tubbs and Terry Morgan under the supervision of Mark Morgan, Shiloh's Minister to Students, who strongly believes the AWANA program is instrumental in discipling children, which will help them live an effective Christian life. Morgan says, "The emphasis on memorizing scripture, learning about God's character and the precepts in His word, will help children live an abundant Christian life." The AWANA children at Shiloh read, memorize, understand, and apply Bible verses to their lives.

The name AWANA is derived from the Bible verse, 2 Timothy 2:15. The approved workmen are regular people in the church who work with the children and youth, share the gospel with them, encourage them, and have fun doing it. AWANA turns members of the congregation into an army serving God. People who do little or no volunteer work find a place of meaningful ministry through AWANA. It helps everyone grow spiritually and benefits the church, the community, and, of course, the children.

For more information about AWANA, go to the church Web site at [www.kgshiloh.org](http://www.kgshiloh.org) or call Mark Morgan, 540-775-7946. Shiloh is located at 13457 Kings Highway.