**OC Tabernacle: Strengthening Families Through their After-School Program**

Ocean City, NJ (January 24, 2019) -

The OC Tabernacle’s Son Club after-school program is making a splash in Ocean City! When the dismissal bell rings at school, over 150 students, from Kindergarten through eighth grade, make their way to 550 Wesley Avenue for Son Club.

Studies show that after-school programs keep children safe, improve academic performance, promote student well-being, and help strengthen communities. Supervised by certified teachers, these students are enriched with a Christian-focused curriculum with informative Bible lessons. They also receive homework help, music classes, gym activities, crafts, snacks and more!

Pastor Jay Reimer, recently hired as the Ocean City Tabernacle’s new CEO, has focused on furthering the mission of the historic location as a Family Ministry Center, where the Gospel is central. Both he, and the board of directors, understand the importance the Son Club hason its community. About 90% of parents with children in the program work during post school hours. The Son Club allows them to keep their jobs and avoid leaving their children unattended.

Lauren, a Son Club parent, states, “I’m thankful my son has a place to go after school while I’m at work. He has fun playing, learning about Jesus and practicing the guitar!”

This year, the Son Club directors, Colleen Dice and Julia Wiggins, began EPIC (Everything’s Possible In Christ), a program for the intermediate school students. Working alongside Youth Pastor Jonathan Gonzalez and Lead Teacher Corrie Stevens, formerly of Youth with A Mission, these students get exclusive faith-based studies to fit their age range. Once a month, these students also help the Kindergarten and first graders with crafts and bible lessons, allowing them to put their leadership and community service skills to use!

Parent Barbara J Henderson comments, “I have one son who attends Son Club and one son who attends EPIC.  They both love going.  They have lots of fun playing with their friends and have learned about the Bible also! I think the most special thing about Son Club/EPIC is the leaders.  Both my boys love the staff and I think it is wonderful that they have some wonderful role models. I think it is very cool to watch the elementary school students being dismissed and walking to Son Club.  It is neat to see how excited they are and how much they love their teachers.”

The Son Club and EPIC programs serve the community on weekdays until 5:30pm. For more information on the OC Tabernacles student programs, visit octabernacle.org, call (609)399-1915 or email info@octab.org.