

“Splash Day”
The Baptism of Carter Thomas Reddinger
August 30, 2009
By Marianne Brock

Last week I went on a family vacation.

It was the best family vacation ever because we went to Walt Disney World, and if you know anything about my family at all, you know that we LOVE Walt Disney World. For those of you who don't know, Walt Disney World is this wonderful place in Florida where happiness is created out of fiberglass and concrete, and grown-ups walk around wearing hats like this,



and no one ever thinks twice about it. It's fabulous, and I love going there.

My family had never been to Walt Disney World in August before. Did I mention that Walt Disney World is in Florida? It was REALLY hot! But the people who live in Florida all the time are very smart and they had thought of some pretty clever ways of cooling people off.

For example, I was walking along in Adventureland, just trying to get to the Pirates of the Caribbean ride, hot as anything, when I had to stop and wait for my family, who sometimes has trouble keeping up with me in the parks. I stopped in front of a grouping of ten-foot tall Tiki statues, thinking that I could stand in their shade while my family caught up with me. I was really hot, and I was standing there thinking about how stinkin' hot it was in Florida, when, all of a sudden, the statues were spitting cool water at me!! I was so surprised!! I couldn't believe it!! But I have to admit, that it felt really good and I kind of wanted to stay there.



Later that evening, we decided to go on Splash Mountain,



which is a wonderful ride that Pastor Easton convinced me to try. I was a little bit afraid, because it's one of those boat rides with a really big drop at the end, but we were really hot and tired and thought that the "splash" part might be refreshing. So, we started off on our little boat ride, and the beginning part of the ride is really gentle and serene-like... and I was riding along thinking, "Well, this isn't so bad..." and it wasn't, until another boat came down the big drop, right next to where we were floating serenely along, and all of a sudden, we were splashed with all this water from the other boat!!! We were really surprised! And we got really wet! But it cooled us off, and we really enjoyed the rest of the ride.

We continued to be surprised by water throughout our trip. We saw an upside-down waterfall,



fountains that seemed to dance to beautiful music,



and we even saw a 3-D movie where a dog sneezed and everybody got sprayed with a little bit of water.



Every one of these surprises felt really good to us.

Today, when Carter's mom and dad were getting him dressed for worship, I don't think Carter ever imagined that, right here in front of everybody, Pastor Brock would take him from the nice cozy arms of his mommy and pour water over his head. I think he was probably pretty surprised when that happened.

But what's even more surprising is that Pastor Brock didn't just give Carter a bath right here in Fellowship Hall.

In that water something much more important happened.

In the water, God claimed Carter as God's child.

Carter became a member of God's family.

God promised to love Carter forever.

And Carter's baptismal water reminds all of us that we are each marked as God's children for all time.

There will be many times in Carter's life is that he will be splashed with water. He will take lots of baths, he will jump into swimming pools, he will run through puddles, my dog might sneeze on him...



My prayer for Carter, and for you, is that when you get splashed, when someone surprises you with water, that you will take that time remember your Splash Day, the day you were baptized, and that you will thank God for adopting you into you this family.

And I hope it feels really good to you.