City-Wide

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certainly has earned her no-nonsense reputation with her brand of tough Christian love.

Speaking to the assemblage of youngsters before and after rehearsals, Oats touched on various subjects, such as how to dress appropriately, the Godly kind of attitude she expected the participants to have, and even her views against homosexuality.

"The kids get interdenominational fellowship, education ... and community in a healthy, nurturing environment," said Oats, "And in all the years we've been doing this, we've never had any discord."

Oats says that the program is such a success that the church simply isn't big enough anymore to holdeveryone. She's also thinking of expanding the preparation time to more than a week

Steven Wesley, musical director, was pleased with the outcome after working hard all week to whip the youngsters into shape.

"It was good," he said of the presentation, "I had a ball. I remember hanging with some of these kids' parents doing this when I was younger. Now, the next generation is carrying on."



Andrea Coleman, above, sings a hymn during the week-long City-wide Music Workshop. (Adjacent) Jani Jeppe dances. Unidentified participants (man with his hand up and the little girl) enjoy the festivities. Below and left to right are Erica Johnson, the step team Varcoup, the bespectacled Elbert Black and Keana Howard (middle).

Sentinel-Voice photos by John Broussard













