

Youth News

Serving Together

Jr High and Sr High work together to serve at Calvary Home

This school year we started a new idea to use one Wednesday night each month to serve in some way. We began with the Sr High by cleaning the church courtyards and then started a project that began with a suggestion by Laura Bowser.



The Calvary Home is located in the neighborhood of the church and has several different styles of resident homes for those over 55. After contacting the home, Linda spoke to the activity coordinator who helped to find a way the group could serve on a Wednesday evening. This led to the idea that the youth could be involved in creating some decorations for the hallways in the unit caring for those who need extra help in caring for themselves.

Taking several Wednesday nights between the two groups, the youth made snowmen from paper plates. Fabric was cut into strips and used for scarves

and chenille sticks (formerly known as pipe cleaners) were bent into shape for the nose and arms. They had black puffball eyes and some included buttons for decoration. Both the Sr and Jr High even cut our snowflakes from paper which we discovered was quite challenging for some of the adult leaders (Mike Snyder) and the Sr High kids. Some snowflakes, although very creative, turned out in squares or triangles but, of course it was all in fun to bring something interesting to enjoy for the folks at Calvary.

What seemed a very simple task to do ended with a trip to the home to visit with the residence while we decorated. The original plan to walk to the

Hershey Bears Hockey Tickets

Sr High Youth and Families make plans now to attend the church outing to the Hershey Bears game on Saturday January 7th. Tickets need to be purchased in the Gathering Place or contact George Harms. The cost per ticket is \$18 per person and includes a Hot Dog, Soda, and Popcorn at the game.

home was foiled by the rainy evening so luckily volunteer parents were found to drive us to and from the place. (thanks Rich Bowser, Christine Turkki and Melissa Heck) Some of our youth really seemed to enjoy meeting the older folks. At one point we could not find Ava and Elliot because they were busy having a lengthy conversation with one of the residents.

It seems it was a good to learn sharing something so simple - as a door decoration - can be used as a way to a conversation. The group heard many thank-you's from the staff, residents, and loved ones who were visiting at the time.

Three Youth Attend Footprints

The Footprints Conference is held in the fall of each year for Sr High Brethren youth within our geographic region. The idea of the conference is to encourage conversation, spiritual growth, leadership growth and relationships among our denominational youth beyond National Youth Conference.



Regional conferences are held throughout the US. The conference is small and shares conversational workshop opportunities similar to those offered at National Youth Conference. This year's goal was to send a youth representative from our Lancaster Youth from every graduating class in our Sr High.



Mason Byers, Tristan Turkki and Grant Turkki attended. As the youth began to arrive on Friday night it was neat to see some good friends who attended NYC with us the summer of 2010. The Atlantic Northeast District (that LCOB



is a part of) was well represented. The other districts attending were Middle PA, Western PA and Southern PA.

One draw to the conference was Mutual Kumquat, a group who preformed during NYC, played a concert on Saturday night. The main speaker for the weekend was Walt Wiltschek who worked several years with *Messenger* magazine in Elgin, IL.



The workshop classes included titles like: Connecting "Mountain-Top" Experiences with Daily Faith; Spiritual but not Religious?; In Mission For Jesus; Faith: What Are You Going to Do with it? and more.

Footprints was held at Rhodes Grove in Chambersburg where we stayed in 'hotel' like accommodations. The food service was great and the beverage bar was open all of the time. The worship sessions and workshops offered a lot of good ideas and insight. If you get the chance ask Mason, Tristan and Grant about it.

Jr High - Brethren Heritage Trip to Ephrata Cloister

Our Jr High Youth have been covering the history of the Church of the Brethren in Sunday School. Some of our related history includes Conrad Bissel who was the founder of the Cloister movement.

After Soup and Salad on Nov. 20 a group of 5 youth and advisors

Doug and Donna Lunger, Laura and Rich Bowser (and Sadie Bowser too) headed off to tour the historic site.

When asked in Sunday School about what was remembered most about the trip, Justin Shertzer recalled the low doorways. They were made that way so members

of this faith would need to lower their heads whenever entering a room. Several commented on the use of outhouses and Ava Bowser talked about the woodblock pillows as the need for the faithful to stay awake waiting for the return of the Lord.

The tour was enjoyed by all.

Brief News You Can Use

Messages of Thanks

Thanks to all of those who have volunteered in to help in Youth Ministry.

The Soup and Salad Team! for all of their work in Sept., Oct. and Nov. (enjoy the Dec break!): Sue and John Lines, Mary and Brian Snyder, Cathy and George Betz, Renea and Mike Snyder, Donna and Scott Brubaker and Gail and Jay Murray.

Thanks to Doug and Donna Lunger and Rich and Laura Bowser for taking Jr High youth to Ephrata Cloister.

BIG Thanks to Mike Snyder (with additional help from Jay Murray) for organizing the Youth Leaf Raking.

Thanks also goes out to our Mall Hunt (Sr High) planing team, Cathy Betz, Gail Murray, Renea Snyder, and Wendie Holsinger.

Those volunteering for the Jr High Christmas Party: the Lunger's, Ron and Robin Bohannon, the Bowser's and Cindy and Ben Lattimer.

Another Thank you to Calvin Wenger for teaching Jr High Sunday School twice in Nov.

GO! YOUTH!

Congratulations to Connor Snyder who made the team and will be playing Basketball for the Conestoga Valley Buckskins this season. Way to Go CONNOR!

Soup and Salad Report

November's Soup and Salad was well attended by youth, but not so much by the congregation.

It happens. November is a busy time for many. Our income totaled **\$667.00**. Just a reminder, youth families could include inviting neighbors or relatives who may live close by to come to the meal. It could be a good way for them to support your attending youth work camp funds.

NEW YMOT Member

Melissa Heck will be joining the Youth Ministry Oversight Team for her first meeting, Dec. 6. We are still looking for another person to begin serving this spring or earlier. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month and the group advises the goals and funding for both the Jr High and Sr High. The meetings also share a time of prayer and ideas of how to meet the needs of youth and families within our congregation. Current members are Sue Lines (ending her term in 2012), Christine Turkki, and Linda Byers.

Also, there is currently no **leadership filling the roll of Jr High Team**. This would be a group who may meet every other month to assist in making arrangements for our monthly Jr High activities. There have been several parents, and Doug and Donna Lunger, who have been very supportive of the Jr High events this fall so the youth continue to be active even without a 'named' team. Anyone interested in helping to organize this team and future activity plans should contact Linda.

Busy Month in January

December's activity list is rather slow - hopefully it helps allow youth and families time

together during the holiday season. But **WATCH OUT** starting in January there will be a flurry of events to attend and prepare for.

First and foremost is the Sr High youth and families going with the church to the Hershey Bear's Game on **Jan 7** -

Then on **Jan 15** - **BOTH Jr and Sr High** will serve for our **Spaghetti Lunch** - during the lunch we are going to need to start informing the congregation of the NEXT Soup and Salad that Happens on **Feb 5 - SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY** - that is not misspelled. The Youth will be working to raise money and food donations for the **"Souper Bowl of Caring"** and holding a Soup Bowl auction-

In addition on Feb 5 - the **Bridgewater College Deputation Team** will be visiting the church. This is a group of college students, including Kelsey Murray, who will be leading our Sunday worship services that day. We are going to need to find a way to get our youth to connect with this dynamic group of young adults. -

Not to miss too - the Sr High Youth will be getting together for a **Super Bowl Party** later in the day.-

SO, BEWARE there is a lot on our plate Feb. 5 and you don't want to miss it! -

Also in Jan., Sr High youth will be attending the District Retreat at Camp Swatara, (Jan. 20-22). It's a great time to reconnect with the youth groups who attended NYC with us in 2010 and to meet the youth you may go to NYC with in 2014.

December Events

- Dec 4 - Sr High** Mall Hunt and shopping with purpose time to be announced
- Dec 11 - Sr High** Youth & Parent Meeting after 10:15 services
- Dec 18 - Jr High** Christmas Party meet at 5:00 at the church
- Dec 25 - Christmas Day**
No Sunday School
- Dec 31 - Sr High** Last day to register for the Sr High Retreat in Jan.

January Events

- Jan 15 - Jr High and Sr High** serve for Spaghetti Dinner
- Jan 18 - WNL** (Weds. Night Live) 6:30 - 8:00 - painting bowls
Jr. High - Service Night
Sr. High - Service Night
- Jan 20-22 - Sr High** Dist. Retreat
- Jan 25 - WNL** (Weds. Night Live) 6:30 - 8:00 - Games
Jr. High & Sr. High

Report on SH Movie Night

Not a large crowd attended for the Sr High movie night on Nov. 6 to see Soul Surfer - but thanks to George Harms for preparing the fresh popped popcorn and Jeff Shirk for helping to set up the computer and sound for the DVD it was a pretty cool time. It was like having a private movie screening in the FLC. Several youth helped bring the Sack Chairs down on the elevator and the lounging chairs for the Jr High room. It was a great way to watch a movie on the BIG screen.

Jr High Christmas Party

Dec 18 at 5:00 the Jr High youth will be meeting at the church for a FUN and hopefully filling event. Plans are being made for a progressive dinner and Christmas Light drive followed by a gift exchange.

A "progressive dinner", for those who don't know, is when a

group travels from house to house to eat a meal. The first home will offer us one part of the meal and we continue to travel around neighborhoods with awesome Christmas light displays to get to the next house for another part of the meal (like - main dish, side dish, desert and so on...) Nothing fancy, just fun. At each home there will be something we'll need to do before we can move on to the next house. Once back at the church we'll hold a gift exchange game.

Each Jr High youth will need to bring a wrapped gift - that should cost no more than \$5. Dollar Tree and Five Below are great places to shop in addition to any Grocery Store (snack food or gum is a good gift idea too). Something that both a girl or boy would enjoy receiving.

Sign up in the Jr High classroom or email Linda by Dec. 15 if you are planning to attend.

Soup Bowl Auction

The Super Bowl of Caring happens on Sunday Feb 5. As part of this event we'll be holding a Soup Bowl Auction during the Soup and Salad that Sunday. "Where are the bowls coming from?", you may ask. On Weds. Night Jan. 18 we'll be meeting to paint ceramic bowls to go on the auction block. This takes little to no artistic skill and it's all going to a good cause. Watch your

SAVE THESE DATES

Reminding you of these dates on the Event Calendars and NEW events:

- Jan 15** - Jr High and Sr High serve for Spaghetti Dinner
- Feb 5** - Soup and Salad Souper Bowl of Caring Deputation Team Visit SH Super Bowl Party
- Feb 24-25** - Sr High Ski Retreat
- Mar 16-17** - Sr High District All Nighter at Skippack CoB

e-mail for more information and plans. Your Bowl could be one that brings the most money to feed the homeless.

Sr High Retreat Weekend

Sign up in the Sr High Youth room by Dec 31 for the Sr High District Retreat at Camp Swatara. The weekend is Jan 20-22. Cost per youth is \$30 per youth (LCoB cover the remaining \$60)

SUMMER 2012 WORK CAMPS

Please be sure to read over and ask any questions you need to for the up coming summer work camp plans. We will need to know by - **Jan 9** what your work camp commitments will be.

The following Work camps will be recommended by the YMOT:

Jr High Camps :

Harrisburg, PA June 20-24

New Windsor, MD Jul 30-Aug 3

SR High Camps:

Kyle, South Dakota July 22-28

Camp Colorado Jul 30-Aug 5

Idaho Mountain Camp June 24- July 1. This is an

Intergenerational Camp and parents are encouraged to go along.

All of these choices will depend on available leadership. Youth and families should read over the descriptions of all of the camps offered. Be sure you have a second choice ready when making your online reservations in case your first choice is full.

More information can be found at the Church of the Brethren website. (<http://www.brethren.org/workcamps>)

Any Questions?

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