

Youth News

District Service Project

Sign up by April 8, Easter Sunday

The Atlantic Northeast District Youth will again meet together to work at GAIN, Saturday, April 21, beginning at 9:00 am. GAIN is the Global Aid Network and they are located in Mt Joy. This organizations partners with local churches, missionaries and other agencies to help distribute compassionate aid to impoverished countries around the world. They also work to mobilize mission teams to distribute the aid and respond to disasters. In addition their goal is to support medical missions, help with orphan care and bring evangelistic outreach to the places they serve.

This opportunity for youth to help is for both Junior High and Senior High (and friends are welcome too). After arriving at the Distribution Center we will be assigned to work at various stations. This center operates year-round in receiving, processing and packing the items needed to be shipped overseas. Because this is warehouse work, everyone will need to be sure to wear close toed shoes (no sandals or flip-flops). Around noon we will gather for lunch (most likely pizza) and there will be a presentation for us all to learn more about the work of GAIN.

Those who live close to the facility at 1506 Quarry Road in Mt Joy can meet us there. If we have enough who would like to travel together from the church, we will meet in the parking lot Sat. morning at 8:15. There are two forms that need to be signed for youth to participate. One was distributed in mailboxes at church. This form MUST be returned to Linda by April 8. The other form is the usual ANE Activity Release form that needs a parent signature and can be brought to the event. EVERYONE must register with Linda by April 8 to attend. Contact Linda is you have any questions.

Love is a Growing Pain

A father shared with us once at a Little League game that his very athletic young son had suddenly become a complete klutz. He was bumping into things and tripping and falling down stairs. Someone might think that he had a medical problem but, the reality was - he was growing. He had grown several inches taller and increased his shoe size - two sizes - in a very short amount of time. How his brain judges distances in walking and moving had not caught up to the new size of his feet and the length of his legs. What was once easy, was now challenging. Where he was once graceful and accurate at running and throwing, he was now clumsy and unpredictable. The change was there for him to grow in size and stature but his brain needed to learn how to react differently to this new reality.

It can be a little painful to watch. Where one time something was fun because it was easy - now it had become challenging and frustrating. Everyone goes through these frustrations at some time.

Parents don't enjoy frustrated teens (not one does) Where children learn to cry and sulk, some teens tend to settle on anger as a way to cope with frustrations. Loud angry words, rolling eyes, dirty looks, stomping away, slamming doors, clenched jaws - most parents have experienced some form of this teenage wrath and these are growing pains too.

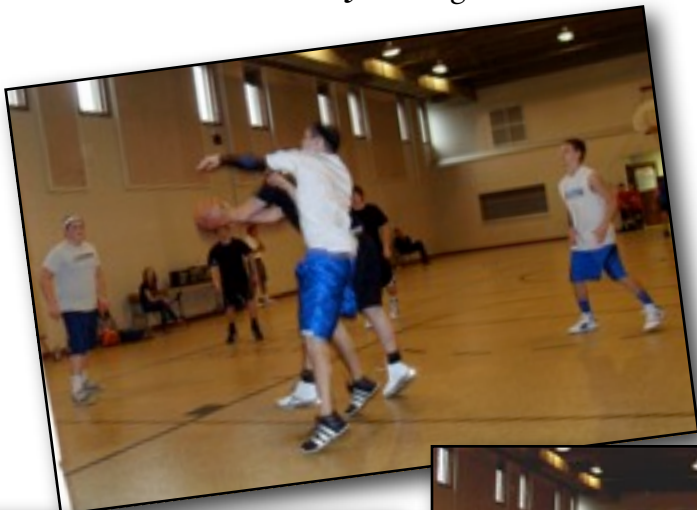
It is a painful reality to learn you don't control the world (it's not all about me) - It is a painful frustration to find that your time is not your own (others depend on me) - it is a painful annoyance that we must learn to live in community with others and consider their well being too (what I do affects others).

These pains can challenge teens - and adults. To grow, we need to learn a better way to react to the ever changing circumstances of our reality. Wasting energy in being angry and staying stuck in annoyance don't benefit our growth. In our faith journey we should strive to 'grow our thoughts' to include the love Christ teaches. This love should lead us to better understand how to react. Paul teaches, in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, a way to know we are reacting in love. You may not be able to instantly change your reality but you do have the power to change your mind. Grow in love and watch your growing pains disappear.

- Linda B.

Helping Hempfield CoB Youth

On Saturday, March 24 a few of our Lancaster CoB youth, adults and some of their additional friends joined the Hempfield Church of the Brethren Youth for a Basketball Tournament Fund Raiser for their mission trip this summer. We had two youth teams and one adult team to 'represent' in the 3 on 3 tournament play. Even a small cheering section of parent attended the games. Lancaster youth and adults who joined in the fun were: Colin Betz, Chris Holsinger, Grant Husted and Connor Snyder. Our adults were Tim Heck and Jon Bridgeman.



Brief News You Can Use

Messages of Thanks

Thanks to all of those who have volunteered in to help in Youth Ministry during the last month.

Ben Lattimer for hiding shoes (ask a Sr High work camper about that one)

David Byers and Ricky Reynolds for being advisors for the All-Nighter.

Rich Bowser, Dan Hufford and Todd Bookman for helping during Weds. Night Youth.

Tim Heck for helping to organize the teams playing in the Basketball Tournament.

Easter Sunday

Our Education Ministry Team who is in charge of helping with arrangements for Sunday School classes (among other things) will be hosting a **Meet and Greet** in the Gathering Place on Easter Sunday. During the regular Sunday School Hour the children will continue to share in their classrooms. The Jr and Sr High Youth are invited to help at that time to distribute some of the goodies to the children's Sunday School classes. Please meet in the Gathering Place around 9:00 to help.

Soup and Salad

Our next Sr. High soup lunch will be on April 15. Please be sure you let Sue Lines know in advance if you (youth) are not able to participate. Sue is in charge of dividing the tasks and needs to know who is available to make up each of the task teams.

Work Camp Payments

Travel arrangements have been made for all of those planning to go to Work Camps this summer. Each work camper should have received a form to let you know the flight times or travel times along with a monthly payment plan. Checks should be made to Lancaster CoB and placed in mailbox #9 so they can be recorded as paid. The total amount can be paid off at any time. If you have any questions about them please let Linda know.

Male Work Camp Advisor FOUND

Alix Sable of the Marantha Fellowship will be joining the Harrisburg work camp with Jr High - **June 20 to 24**. Alix is currently the Pastor of the congregation. Thanks Alix for volunteering to serve.

Camp Swatara

If you need something else to do this summer, especially those in Jr High - **You can ADD a week, or SUMMER CAMP to your schedule.** Be sure to register by May 19. NOW you can register Online! Go to : <http://www.campswatara.org/camps/register>. Brochures can be found in the Gathering Place and at the Bulletin Board across from the lower elevator doors. Lancaster CoB will cover 1/2 of the cost with a "Good as Gold" Certificate (available from the church office) and there is scholarship money available through camp for those with financial needs. Ask Linda or Donna Lunger if you have any questions.

Shameless Plug!

Please let me know if you have any interest in hosting an international exchange student - I'll help you find one! - Linda B.

Sr High Work Camp Meeting

Our second **mandatory** meetings for all Sr High youth and advisors attending work camps will be held **tonight (April 1) 7:15** in the Youth Room. Please, let Linda know if you are not able to attend so you can schedule another time to meet.

The next Sr High Work Camp meetings will be held **May 13**. There will be an additional meeting with *parents* and youth for each group just prior to travel. Then we will go over details for packing and any additional planning.

A meeting with all of those traveling with the Jr High will be planned for May or early June.

If you are a Sr High youth NOT going to work camps - you are still welcome to join our discussions. The things we go over you will be able to apply to other similar challenges in team building.

Maranatha Fund Raiser

Our Maranatha Youth will be performing at a Fund Raiser Lunch featuring Spanish Cuisine on **Sunday, April 22** in the Family Life Center at 11:45. Come and enjoy the fellowship and support the youth. Money raised will go to help their kids participate in youth events.

SAVE THESE DATES

Reminding you of these dates on the Event Calendars:

May 6 - Youth Sunday

June 3 - Graduation Sunday

April Events

- April 1 - Baptism - Palm Sunday**
Sr. High Work Camp
meeting 7:15 in the Youth Rm
- April 3 - YMOT** meeting 7:30@ church
- April 4 - NO YOUTH**
- April 5 - Love Feast**
- April 8 - Easter Sunday**
- April 11 - NO YOUTH**
- April 15 - Sr High** Soup and Salad for
the Congregational Business
Meeting
- April 21 - District Service Project**
- April 22 - Maranatha Fellowship Meal**

Sr High ALL-Nighter

The "Nerd" themed bowling and game event was held at the Skippack Church of the Brethren. Five of our youth attended and two advisors. Mason Byers, Alex Bookman, Ashley Kline, Tristan and Grant Turkki attended with Ricky Reynolds and David Byers.

GO YOUTH !

We have SEVERAL noted youth to tell you about.

Mason Byers and Andrew Lefever (who attends both traditional services) completed all of the requirements to earn the Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout Award.

Cory Betz earned his drivers learners permit and the Betz family is working on their 4th driver in the family.

Carly Deihm will be one of the principle dancers in the Hempfield Dance Theatre Production held May 4,5 & 6 at the High School. Sarah Shearer will also be performing in the production for the first time.

Ava Bowser has earned a place on the Honor Roll and Drew Smith has appeared on his school's Distinguished Honor Roll to two semesters and is Student of the Month.

Colin Betz has been nominated for National Honor Society and received a 'perfect' 800 score for his math SAT.

Youth Sunday - May 6

This is an important event in the life of our church. It is the annual event where the youth of the congregation serve in various roles during worship. This year we will be doing so in the 10:15 **Traditional Service.**

Youth Sunday takes place on this date for Brethren Youth throughout the US. The theme we will follow is the same many churches will be sharing and can be found at the Church of the Brethren website.

ALL Sr High Youth should expect to participate in some way. Several options to share are available. There is a skit, several reading opportunities and you may be able to serve in taking the offering or behind the scenes roles. Tasks and responsibilities will be divided at Soup and Salad on April 15.

Youth Ministry Oversight Team

YMOT works to schedule youth events, evaluates activities and seeks ways to instill opportunities for growth in the faith of our youth. Starting in June we will be searching for two members to

join the team. The team meets regularly once a month. The anticipated term is 2 years with the hope to rotate members every 6 months. Please contact Sue Lines or Linda if you are willing to serve. Thanks

Graduation Sunday

June 3 we will recognize all of those who are reaching this milestone in their lives. This includes those who are graduating from High School as well as those who have achieved degrees from colleges and universities and other schools of higher education.

This year our High School graduates will include Mason Byers, Carly Deihm, Jennifer Lines, Ashley Kline and Andrew Lefever. All should plan to attend to be introduced as part of our worship on that Sunday.

Summer Sunday School

Plans are in the works for a Movie themed summer for our youth Sunday School lessons. If you have interest in sharing a lesson or a favorite movie with a message you think should be included let Linda know.

May Events

- May 6 - Sr High** Youth Sunday
meet in Youth Room 9:00am
- May 13 - Sr. High** Work Camp
meeting - 7:15 in Youth Room
- May 20 - Sr. High** Soup and Salad
last one until Fall

June Events

- June 3 - Graduation Sunday**