

# Youth News

## Sr. High Serving Other

### *Shopping for Angel Tree Gifts and Mall Hunt.*

A while back on December 4, 2011, seven Sr High guys and 5 Mom's, gathered at the Wal-mart to do a bit of shopping. Well, this is unusual enough to see all of these young men with Mom's - at a store -together -SHOPPING !We needed a photo moment!



Others in the store had to know we had a reason to be there - and we did. Moms - Cathy Betz, Wendie Holsinger, Gail Murray and Renea Snyder had organized the event. The boys divided into two groups and shopped for "Angel Tree" gifts, to be Santa for some young kids and families in need. It was quite interesting to watch them choose the best doll or purse for the little girls on the list. At first, they seemed a bit uncomfortable but with some Mom tips, they all did a great job! They even got to relive some of those childhood memories as they searched the shelves for legos and cars and super hero toys. (not to mention the light saber fight in the isle - just for fun)

After shopping the group headed to Park City to do a scavenger hunt. Teams of two used a list to find information or take a cell phone photo of items in the mall. One even included looking for George Betz in the mall. Connor Snyder and Mason Byers took away the prize for finding all of the answers in the quickest time. The group then headed to the food court to grab a bit to eat and end the event.

Thanks to the 4 Mom's who did a Great Job! Next year the youth need to make a hunt for them!

## New Year's Resolutions

Resolve to grow your connection with God. For some that might mean finding time to add daily scripture reading or prayer time - but hey - we've all heard that before and then we begin thinking... "We are all crazy busy as parents and families with work, school activities, homework, doing things (even the things we do at church) You think, "Really, like I have time to add something more to my life?"...

Paul talks about praying constantly in 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22. I have found that I can pray and do other things, and God finds it perfectly acceptable to meet me there. I have had great conversations with God over folding laundry and mowing the grass, even driving from place to place. When I am doing something but all is quiet around me (no TV, no music), I know God is there with me. It's a good time for those real heart to heart conversations. I try not to start out with the complains of the day either. The conversation may begin with, "Lord, help me to hear you, show me where I need you the most..." and then, no doubt, something will come to mind.

Why seek God daily? Well, that's easy, it will change you - how you live - how you view and treat others - how you care for yourself. God offers us peace, joy, patience, kindness, gentleness, self-control, faith, love - don't we all need more of that? Gandhi, a devout Hindu leader, got it right when he said "Be the change you want to see in the world." When we resolve to grow in faith and our connection with Almighty God - we will begin to live "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

- Linda B.

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## Jr. High Learn the Christmas Story - again

I can't believe I missed taking any photos at this event on December 18. The Jr High youth met at the church to hold a "progressive dinner" and Christmas party. We loaded into the church van and began our tour to see surrounding neighborhood Christmas lights and count how many nativity scenes we would find along the way. It was impressive to know that even among all of the Santa's and reindeer there are still many home that display the Holy Family for the season.

We first arrived at the home of Pastor Ron and Robin Bohannon (some of the newer members of our congregation). They served the appetizer and we were introduced to Ron's talking feathered friends. The Bohannon's have three pet parrots. After the youth learned about the behavior and antics of the birds, Ron shared reading the story of the birth of Christ. As the youth listened to the message they had to count how many times each character in the story is named. This game carried on throughout the night as we stopped at each home.

The next stop was for vegetables at the Bowser's home. (Rich and Laura - parents to Ava and Saddie) They shared plates of good healthy foods including

hummus and radishes which many of the kids had never tried before. It was neat (and somewhat surprising) to see them try new things!

Next stop - after viewing "creepy Santa" in the window of a house on Longfellow Drive - we stopped at the home of Doug and Donna Lunger. They served the "meat" of the meal with bar-b-que sandwiches in front of the fireplace. Here too the Bible story continued.

Desert was next, of course, and that was waiting for us at the Lattimer's home. Cindy and Ben offered us awesome cookies and brownies and we all got to meet Jake the newest member of their family.

It was time to return to the church and now the youth had to search through the church to find the exchange gifts hidden (by Ben and Cindy) in some very creative places while we had been out having dinner.

We all had a good time, getting to know everyone and even singing Christmas carols with the radio in the van. Seven youth attended and a big thanks to David Byers for driving! I only wish I had the photos to remember it by!!!!



## Jr Higher - Odett Rodriguez - Shares her talent in Signing to Music

During Advent in the Morning Psalm service, Odett shared her musical expressions. Odett is a member of the Maranatha Fellowship and is in the seventh grade.. She learned this technique as a member of a group who preformed together at a church she previously attended. With the

song playing in the background Odett wears a pair of white gloves and expresses with sign language the key words of the song. Odett preformed this song on her own. She was very poised as she shared her talent. It was inspiring to watch.

### SAVE THESE DATES

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

**Mar 2-3** - Jr High Lock In @ LVC

**Mar 16-17** - Sr High District All Nighter at Skippack CoB

## Brief News You Can Use

### Messages of Thanks

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

George Betz and Mike Snyder for getting involved in getting the Sr High youth to the Hershey Bears Hockey Game.

Big thanks to Mark Forsha who begins teaching the Jr High Sunday School class this month.

Aslo thanks goes out to Linda Husted, Christine Turkki, Chuck Denlinger and Tim Heck for continuing to teach the Sr High Sunday School class.

### GO! YOUTH!

Congratulations to Sarah Shearer who will be representing Hempfield in District Band. She is also smiling a lot brighter these days too because Sarah got her braces off in December!

### Remember in Prayer

We have two people in our youth circles who are traveling abroad this month and would be happy to be included in your prayers.

Megan Eldridge (who is also recently engaged) is currently in Haiti and the Dominican Republic working in cross cultural ministries. Her fiancée who has just moved to Lancaster may be found wondering around without her at church. Please be sure to welcome Tim in her absence.

Also Kelsey Murray will be doing some study in Israel in January also.

Pray for safe travel for both.

### Soup Spaghetti and Salad

#### NO SOUP FOR YOU!

That's right, it's the annual spaghetti lunch instead. This meal both the Jr and Sr High youth work together.

**Jan. 15 - 9:00** the youth will again gather in the kitchen to chop and prepare vegetables. Sr. High youth will be expected to help guide the Jr. High and work together with them to serve and clean up from the meal.

Be sure to remember all of the food safety rules - long hair must be pulled back or wear a hat or hair net and only close toe shoes. Dress to work in casual clothes.

Watch your email for a reminder note from Sue Lines.

### Sr High Super Bowl Party

We have a location to get together to watch the game AND parents of Sr High youth are invited too. The Holsinger family will open their home for us to watch the game. Youth will be on the lower level (basement/game room) and parents can remain to watch the game together upstairs.

The Holsinger's have even offered to supply us with food. Wendie let me know they are happy to provide munchies, pizza and wings, cookies/ brownies for the game and if anyone has a specific drink or snack that they can't live without - they can bring it along.

### Change in Plans

The Deputation Team that was going to be visiting with us on Feb. 5 from Bridgewater College will now be joining us on Mar. 4 instead. Both Kelsey Murray (a

graduated member from our youth) and Kyle Remnent (who was an advisor who went with us to NYC in 2010) are members of the Deputation Team.

### Work Camp Volunteers

Volunteering to travel with and lead a group of teenagers on a flight across the country or over the ocean to another "country" all together may not be the most recommended way to spend your vacation days but thanks to several brave parents we have advisors for 12 youth to attend work camps this summer. Thanks to Jay Murray, Mike Snyder and Ricky Reynolds for planning to be those volunteers.

Jay and Mike will be attending the camp in Colorado. Ricky will be planning to travel with the group going to Puerto Rico. Linda is planning at this point to go to South Dakota.

It's exciting to have so many youth able to attend this year's work camps. We will all have much to report on when we return from the events of the summer.

### Sr High Sign up for Ski Trip

The last weekend of February Doug and Donna Lunger will be welcoming us to their mountain cabin for the weekend. We'll be holding a "retreat" weekend including a day of winter sport activities (if the snow cooperates).

Youth can choose to ski - snow board or go snow tubing on Saturday. Youth will need to bring their own money to cover equipment rentals and lift passes and lunch at the ski lodge.

More information will be coming in the Feb. Youth News.

## January Events

**Jan 15 - Jr High and Sr High**  
serve for Spaghetti Dinner

**Jan 18** - NO WNL meal We are meeting at Pottery Works in Lancaster  
6:30 -8:30- painting bowls

**Jr. High & Sr. High**

**Jan 20-22** - Sr High Dist. Retreat

**Jan 25** - WNL (Weds. Night Live)  
6:30 - 8:00

**Jr. High & Sr. High**

**Jan 29** - Meal with Jesus

## Change For Weds Nights

Something old is something new again - sort of. Beginning Wednesday January 25 when WNL meals begin at church again, we are planning to change the activities a bit for both the Jr and Sr High. This evening event has a history of being many things and the YMOT continues to evaluate and discern the use of this ministry time for our youth.

The church has used this time in the past as choir time, youth club time, Bible study time, teaching time (to learn cooking, music lessons and knitting and so on). The youth time had evolved this into "Hang out Time" most recently but we changed this in the fall to try to allow for youth with many interests. The hope was, if youth liked sports - they may be more interested in attending a "ball night" more than a "game night" or if youth liked going to something with a purpose they could try "service night". Or there was challenge night to meet with other youth groups and/or do some more physical games.

So, Weds. nights have always been particularly challenging to be sure the church is offering a time of good fellowship that engages youth but is also a ministry.

The meal time is also a part of the reason people come to church on a Weds. night. That was intended to encourage families to take time at least once a week to come and sit together for a meal and to build our community of faith by hosting many generations to share around the table. It's not supposed to be about what they are serving that night - but what we can get from spending time together.

So, in this long winded answer is the reason for the change we will try for Weds. nights. Again, just as in the

fall, we will continue to evaluate and discuss change and effectiveness of ministry. Weds. night will make a leap to go back to some intent to try to engage both youth and families. For youth - this will be more like going back to "Hang Out Night" the addition will be that games - board games and our in room table games will also be open for youth and families to share. Come and play a game of pool or fussball.

If youth have need to do homework, the rooms (Jr High and Sr High) will be open for that too. If you just want to sit around and chat with others, that's great too.

## Soup Bowl Painting

At 6:30, Weds. Night Jan. 18 we'll be meeting to paint ceramic bowls to go on the auction block at Soup and Salad Feb 5. We will meet at The Pottery Works on Orange Street in Lancaster. No need to find parking to drop off youth. You can usually pull over or use the alley at Central Market to let kids off to walk up Orange or if there is no street parking use the Prince Street garage or Central Market lot.

Painting bowls takes little to no artistic skill and it's all to raise money for Lancaster County Counsel of Churches Food Bank.

Youth are asked to donate \$5 toward the cost of the bowl and studio fee. (Please pay Linda - not Pottery Works)

**If you are NOT able to paint on Weds Night but would like to create a bowl for the auction, let Linda know. You can still make one.** You can go to Pottery Works on your own and paint before January 18th. Call Linda for arrangements.

## February Events

**Feb 5 - Sr High** Soup and Salad AND Super Bowl Party  
Jr High needed to help with the bowl auction.

**Feb 24-25** - Sr High Ski Retreat

**No Jr High Event are Currently Scheduled for February**

## WORK CAMP REGISTRATION

**Monday January 9 beginning at 8:00 EST.** Log on to the Church of the Brethren website: (<http://www.brethren.org/workcamps>)

After our meeting on Dec. 11 it appears we have 12 youth interested in attending. If you go on the website and have any difficulties - let me know - that night. I plan to be at my home computer doing the same. (my number 390-2725)

There is a sample registration on the site now. Please follow these instructions when completing the online registration:

**#1 - BE SURE** to use the email address that will get information to either youth or parent! **Youth** - if you don't look at email often - don't use your email address. They will send inquiries and information to this email address first.

**#11 -** Use the name of the attending advisor for your trip. This way they will know what youth goes with which advisor for the week.

**Use - Mike Snyder** or

**Jay Murray** for Colorado

**Ricky Reynolds** for PR

**Linda Byers** for SD

**#12 -** Use church email address. This is back up email so I will know if paperwork is missing or not returned.

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**#20 -** Use one of the other 2 camps LCoB are currently attend - ONLY if that date works for you. IF NOT - let me know or leave blank. (if site allows)

ONCE you have completed registration send me an email so I can track everyone's placement.

Our next step will be securing flights for each group. Payment for camps will follow and there will be a schedule for installments to be completed by May.