

Youth News

Picnic in the Park

Youth and families gathered again for the annual picnic. This year it was held at Stoner Park which is part of the Manheim Township Park and Rec. Those who helped to organize the meal were Cathy Betz, Laura Bowser, Donna Brubaker, Wendy Holsinger and Renea Snyder. The rain held off this year so we had a chance to

play a little basketball, frisbee and Volleyball before the meal.

Afterward families participated in a scavenger hunt. The one twist was that each family unit

was required to stay as a group by holding on to a jump rope as they walked around the park collecting items. The Snyder Family succeeded with the most number of items from the list of 54 and won a Gift Card to Olive Garden. After the game families each were given a folder of information for their youth. Pages included a schedule of expected event dates, the 2012-13 Medical Safety forms, a roster of Youth for Jr High or Sr High, and a parent survey. Youth families who were not able to attend will find their folders in the church mailboxes.



(Some serious players and the winning team - The Snyder Family - Mike, Renea, Connor and Paige, plus Donna Lunger as a bonus member. Both Connor and Paige are in Youth this year - Jr. High and Sr. High)

Back to . . .

The calendar is full of times we are getting “back to” something, like back to school or back to work or back to routine. There is also getting back to nature or back into shape or back to basics.

Getting “back to” something implies we have veered off course and now have a need to return to a direction we once pursued.

As this is the “back to” season it’s another good time to take stock of our priorities and goals to check to see if the direction our lives are heading in is where we really should be going.

In our pursuit of a Christian life - if our goal is to be a follower of Christ - we can all take some time to think about what God would have us get “back to” - back to Church? - back to Sunday School? - back to daily prayer - or maybe just back in touch. Maybe God’s just waiting for you to reopen that door of communication.

What habits of faith are we investing in regularly? We can’t expect our youth to be motivate to form habits of faith if they don’t know we are investing time. And if we aren’t investing time in faithful pursuits, we surely can’t expect them to invest in them now or in the future.

In this time of families getting back to that school routine of life it brings to mind the verse from Psalms about our own education - “Show me Your ways, Oh Lord; Teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day.”

- Linda B.

Family Team Work on the Courts and in the Game



The largest family, the Rodriguez family, seems to have the largest fun at the scavenger hunt. Mike Snyder and George Betz worked up a sweat keeping up with the youth on the court.



Brief News You Can Use

Messages of Thanks

Thanks to all of those who have volunteered to help in Youth Ministry during the summer months.

Sunday School Teachers:
Chuck Denlinger, Christine Turkki, Linda Husted, Mark Forsha, Susan Adsitt and Kelsey Murray.

Advisors for Work Camps:
Laura Bowser and Alix Sable for Jr High, Ricky Reynolds for Sr High in Caimito Puerto Rico and Jay Murray and Mike Snyder for Camp Colorado.

Meal organizers for the Youth Picnic: Cathy Betz, Laura Bowser, Rene Snyder, Wendy Holsinger and Donna Brubaker.

Oversight Team

Youth Oversight Team meets once a month on the first Tuesday (usually) at 7:30 in the Youth Room. Currently serving are Laura Bowser, Cathy Betz, Ricky Reynolds and Melissa Heck. The group helps support the Youth Ministry by sharing ideas thought and opinions for encouraging youth participation through events and activities.

We will be in need of adding a new member in December for a two year term. We are trying to stagger terms so the team is never replaced at once. If you are interested in serving (you don't need to have a youth to serve), contact Linda

Soup and Salad

The schedule is set for the season. Please see your Sr High schedules for all of the dates. Our first will be happening this month on September 23. Cathy Betz is now heading up the team work. Mary and Brian Snyder will be helping with much of the food purchasing. Cathy is still seeking a few Sr High parents to sign up to help out each month.

Just a reminder, the youth need to wear closed toe shoes and hats or hair nets for kitchen prep. **Meet the Kitchen at 9:00 AM.**

GO YOUTH - !

Fall is back to school and for some - back to sports and school activities. It would be great to list all of the youth of our church who are active in teams and other noteworthy activities. It will be posted here in Youth News!

And remember - if you see Linda at a school sport event - you can earn a dollar by just stopping to say hello. AND - if you invite Linda one of your events this year there may be something in for you too (not sure what yet)

Wednesday Night Live

Begins again Sept. 19th. This year there are several schedule changes. The meal will begin at 5:00 and there will be takeouts available.

Also, there is some change in the time. **Youth will begin at 6:00 and end at 7:30.** Our first half hour together will have a musical focus for all youth attending. (if your Youth age child is in the building they will be expected to attend - youth room doors will not be open) At 6:30 the

group will be able to spend some "supervised" time together in the youth room. Children not in 6th grade or above will participate in the Children's ministry activities. The Youth will be expected to remain together in the youth room or outside (if doing something as a group there) from 6:30 to 7:30. Youth who have music lessons with Matt Shenk will be with Matt or with the group. (not wandering through the halls)

The emphasis to know where our youth are and to be sure they are supervised while at our church activities is also part of our goal to have a Safe Church.

Youth are still welcome to invite and bring friends on Weds. nights. They will be expected to participate the same as the our own youth. Our WNL program will be geared toward the Jr High age Youth.

Safe Church Education

On **Sept. 23** the congregation will hold it's first meeting to educate all of us about developing a church environment that can address the issues of sexual abuse and sexual predators. The goals of this education is to help the church make changes to our programs, building and policies to better ensure we are prepared to be a safe place for all. It will address the issues of the abuser and the abused.

All of our parents should attend this meeting along with their youth. Parents and youth who are volunteering to help at Soup and Salad will be invited at 12:30 to join the meeting. There is a crew of volunteers who will complete the kitchen clean up.

Gone but not Forgotten

This summer we said good-bye to the Turkki Family. Christine was able to transfer her job and relocate the family to Orlando, Florida. This will give Tristan and Grant the opportunity to use their Florida State school savings when they begin colleges in the next couple of years. (Tristan graduates in 2013) They had a busy summer. After attending the Work Camp in Caimito, PR, they moved to a temporary home, then the guys left for two weeks in Finland with their Dad and family and once they returned it was time to pack up and go south.

The guys have started at a new school. Tristan shared a photo on Facebook that shows you can see the roof tops of the Harry Potter section of Universal Studios Theme Park from the entrance of their school building. (like being at Hogwarts) Grant and Tristan can still be found on Facebook and they are hoping to attend National Youth Conference in 2014.

Jr High Event to the Disaster Relief Auction

Again this year we are planning to take a short trip north on Rt 72 to the Atlantic Northeast District Disaster Relief Auction at the Lebanon Valley Fairgrounds. Jr High Youth will be meeting at the van in the church parking lot at 7:30 AM. Youth need to sign up in the Jr High room or contact Linda for a seat in the van. If we fill the van we may need additional parent to drive. At 8:30 the youth will be helping to put together "Kits from the Heart" that are sent around the world to people in need. After our volunteer service is complete there will be time for the youth to walk around the fairgrounds in groups. Youth will need cash for snacks and/or lunch.



Families are welcome to join the fun! (van seats will be first reserved for our Jr High Youth) It is a great place to learn about the work of the church and the Disaster Relief ministries. There are things to do for younger kids too. If you have never experienced the Auction it is worth the time to see the many ways Brethren raise money to fund this out reach.

Youth don't forget - invite your friends from Summer Camp and District Events to meet you there. You may just happen to see them at the Auction. Several Youth groups have attended in the past.

Youth Ministry Must Have Volunteers

As our policies will be changing in light of the Safe Church initiative, all of our scheduled Jr High and Sr High Youth events will be required to have at least two adults present (and hopefully participating). Our events this year will include Jr High activities on Weds. Night, Sr High's NEW Youth Time and any events we hold at the church.

Sign up sheets are in the Youth Sunday School classrooms or you can contact Linda to learn when a volunteer is needed.

District events will also need additional adult leadership of travel in the church van. Any

volunteers serving at District activities will also need to be added to the District list as approved adults through Child Protect.

Sr High Youth Time

This year beyond Sunday School and Soup and Salads and the occasional district events our Sr. High will be meeting once a month on Sunday after church. We'll plan to get lunch together and do something else. We don't know what the something else is going to be until after our first get together on Sept. 9. As will all youth events we will be calling on adult volunteers to be a part of this new event.

September Events

- Sept 9 - Sr High Youth Time - 11:30**
- Sept 16 - Church Picnic**
- Sept 19 - Jr High Weds Night Live** begins 6:00 ends 7:30
- Sept 22 - Jr High go to Disaster Relief Auction in Lebanon - 7:30AM**
- Sept 23 - Sr High Soup and Salad** meet in the kitchen @ 9:00
- Safe Church Meeting** begins @ 12:30 (All Youth Families should attend this meeting)
- Sept 26 - Jr High Weds Night Live** begins 6:00 ends 7:30
- Sept 30 - Sr High Sunday School** lesson will be about Choosing a Bible Translation

October Events

- Oct 7 - Love Feast**
- Oct 14 - Sr High Youth Time - 11:30**
- Oct 20 - Sr. High Barn Party**
- Oct 21 - CROP Walk** Movie "Amish Grace"
- Oct 26-28 - Jr High District Retreat** @ Camp Swatara