

Youth News

Ring in the New Year TWICE

There is nothing like celebrating New Year's Eve two times. That's what happened for the youth who came to the "NOT New Year's Eve Party" at the church on December 28-29. Because it is the holiday season and families often have plans for the actual New Year's Eve - we moved up the party. It was like having two birthday's too, for Odett Rodriguez, who really does celebrate her birthday on January 1.

Eight youth were able to attend and four dedicated parents were there to brave the night, at least until just after midnight for some.

The evening began by playing with the life size Angry Birds game set up in the Family Life Center. Youth took turns lobbing playground balls painted like Angry Bird's characters at the more than 40 cardboard boxes set up to topple. The set up included the evil green pigs made from paper globe lanterns. The slingshot was an auto cargo net strung between volleyball poles. It all worked relatively well as we tweaked a few things. Two teams then formed to compete against each other. One team would set the boxes to make scoring more difficult and the other team would try to break their plan.



At 11:30 we paused for a Bible lesson about the physics of God. Talking about leaning not on our own understanding and building on a solid foundation. (verses from Proverbs and Matthew). Pizza arrived and all "pigged out" (an Angry Birds reference) before the midnight countdown. Fireworks were to begin at 12:00 but we had a short delay until the Police Officer left. (it's good to know our silent alarm is working - just wish the late shift at the security office would have gotten the memo) It was good to get the OK from the officer to proceed with the fireworks display.

Next we retired up stairs for popcorn and an Old 70's Scrooge movie that Linda likes (it worked - put the youth right to sleep! - well not all) After the movie, Sue Lines and Linda Byers stayed with the girls in the Sr High room while the guys stayed in the Jr High room where Dave Byers kept watch (not really - He was out like a light!) In the AM - we had a little breakfast and the youth helped to tear down the boxes and set up the room for Sunday services.



It was a fun way to bring in the New Year - even if it was a few days early.

Sr High Youth Time - Shoots for a Goal

Playing basketball is a big part of what several of our Sr High youth like to do together. Youth Time meets once a month (usually the first Sunday of the month). There is time to eat together and Tim Heck leads the group in the FLC for some court time. The first 30 minutes of our meeting, the group has been forming a plan for a project to support a charity. Several months ago the conclusion was to support the Lancaster County Council of Churches Food Bank. At the January 6th meeting they decided to use the event "Souper Bowl of Caring" as the way to raise funds. Many church youth groups (including many Brethren Churches) have become regular supporters of this event. In fact, this year the entire denomination is encouraging our youth to participate in the event.

On Feruary 3, the day of the Super Bowl, our Sr High Youth will be waiting at the doors of the church as the congregation exits each service. The Youth will be holding large soup pots and waiting for folks to share by dropping in their donations. (Cash or checks made out to LCoB) **Some youth have already suggested they may make this a competition to see who gets the most donations that morning.**

On the following Sunday, February 10, we will again be asking for donations. This time in the form of canned goods as people enter for Soup and Salad.

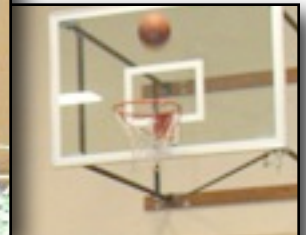
There are several youth committing to volunteer for this project. Cory Betz will write an article for the church news letter. Connor Snyder created a table sign to let people at our spaghetti meal know more about the February plan. Chris Holsinger will also announce it at the meal.

We have most of the exit doors covered with two volunteers on the day of the event (February 3) - posted outside the Chapel at 8:30 - Cory Betz. After the early Morning Psalm service (around 10:00) Lukas Murray and Connor Snyder will be at the Heritage Center doors. Traditional Service should be covered at three exits at 11:00 - Chris Holsinger and Colin Betz (at the exit door facing Sunset Avenue), Cory Betz and Justin Shertzter (at the Gathering Place sanctuary doors). The second Morning Psalm service exit at 11:00 will be Shane Heck and Alex Bookman.

We are still in need of volunteers to stand at the sanctuary door that leads to the parking lot at 11:00 and it would be good to have another youth at the Chapel doors at 8:30. (let Linda know if you are willing and able) **We will need additional youth to serve in collecting cans on Feb. 10 at Soup and Salad (just as folks come in)**

After this event is complete we still are planning to meet for Youth Time in March and April. Our discussion time will need to change to begin plans for Youth Sunday on May 5.

Youth not interested in playing basketball, the youth room will be open to play pool, games or ping-pong ONLY if there are enough adults to supervise. Safe Church calls for two adults present for all activities. We can always use MORE volunteers! Volunteers do not need to pay for lunch but all do need to sign up by the Friday before.



Brief News You Can Use

Messages of Thanks

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

Thanks to our guest speaker for Jr High Sunday School talking about their ministries: Gene Mummau, Gale Shirk and Todd Bookman, George Harmes, and Ken Harnish. And to Linda Husted for teaching Sr High and Mark Forsha and Carol Deck for leading Jr High.

Thanks to John and Sue Lines and John and Donna Buckwalter for being our attending parent at the "Not New Year's Eve" Party. Also the David Byers, Mason Byers and Troy Nace for helping to set up Angry Birds.

THANKS to Melissa Heck for her service on the YMOT

Special Honor and Trip

Odett Rodriguez learned that she will have the opportunity to travel to, Japan with a select group of other 8th grade students from the School District of Lancaster. Odett will travel to Sano, the sister city of Lancaster, for a week where she will live with a host family and learn about their culture.

Congratulations Odett for earning this honor!

Earning the trip is an honor but it also creates a need. Odett needs to raise the funding to go on the trip. She will be looking for donations and support to go. She needs to raise \$1,500 of the cost of the trip. In simple terms- if 75 people are able to support her

with a \$20 donation - she can reach her goal for the trip. If anyone is able to help please contact Linda.

Oversight Team

Youth Oversight Team meets once a month on the first Tuesday (usually) now at 6:15 in the Youth Room. Current members are Linda Byers, Ricky Reynolds, Cathy Betz and Laura Bowser. Carolina Rodriguez (Mom of Odett and Gabby) has volunteered to join the team, replacing Melissa Heck. We are always seeking new members in for a two year term. If you are interested in serving or think of someone who might be if asked, contact Linda or one of the members of the Oversight Team.

The Waters of Baptism

Any youth interested in exploring what it means to join the Christian faith and the church through the act of baptism should contact Linda Byers. Several youth have expressed interest and we will be planning a date to baptize most likely before Easter. There are no "classes" to join in but all of those expressing interest will be invited to discuss their thoughts and the meaning of baptism in a couple of personal conversations. There is a packet of information available to share with you to get started on this journey.

GO YOUTH - !

We had several youth sharing talents in worship in the month of December. The following participated in Christmas Eve

service in the Family Life Center: Ava Bowser, Alison Buckwalter, Anya Curran, Andrew Lines, Drew and Jack Snyder, Paige Snyder, Connor Snyder and Sarah Shearer.

If your youth is doing something to cheer about. Let us know. - email Linda

Wednesday Night Live

Begins again January 16. There is new and changing vision for the youth at WNL. The hope is to incorporate mostly musical into the time together. Matt Shenk and Jamie Nace will be leading the movement to teach piano, drums, music theory and music reading to all youth who come out on Weds. nights. This is a once a week group lesson. (at no cost) More instruments like guitar and bass may be added. Those interested in singing are welcome too. Matt has been teaching several youth regularly on Weds. nights and now this is being widely open to all youth from grade 6 to 12.

It would be great if this regularly meeting group would work to preform during Sunday Services but it's not the only goal and not a requirement. The first thing is to learn, explore, and improve our musical talent because all our talents are God given and we can serve and praise together through music.

Youth Contra Dance at St John's Episcopal Church

This style of dancing is like square dancing but most every dance you move around and change partners. Youth need to be at least 13. Contact Linda if you are interested. Don't know how to dance - arrive 7:15 to learn. Jan 26

Youth Events

Please be sure to check your email for updated information.

This News Letter may not include all dates, times, meeting locations or registration instructions for all events.

If you are not receiving youth email contact Linda at:

lancob.youth@comcast.net

Sr High Ski Trip to Big Boulder

February 23, Sr High will spend a day on the slopes. We will leave from the Church parking lot by 8:00AM. Be sure to bring money for Breakfast at McDonald's on the way up. Cost of a lift ticket is \$50 and ski or snowboard rentals will be \$32 - this does not include the tax. (helmet rental is \$12 extra) Price is a little less for youth under 16. Youth will be responsible for their own payment. We can expect (if weather conditions are good) to stay at the slopes until 4:30. From there we are invited to dinner at the cabin with Doug and Donna Lunger before heading home. Youth can also bring along dry clothes for the ride home. **We will be in need of another adult to travel along - to ski, snowboard or catch up on a book in the lodge.** The trip - of course, is weather permitted. If we get a blizzard or ice, we'll need to evaluate the risk. E-mail sign up will be forwarded two weeks before the trip.

Register NOW for the National Jr High Confer.

Parents of Jr High Youth - you must go online to register your youth for the **National Jr High Conference**. This is our trip for the summer. We are not planning to attend work camp as a group.

Youth total cost for the trip will be \$52. THE CHURCH WILL PAY THE DEPOSIT - but you need to send (forward the email) the confirmation to Linda.

The denomination needs a check to hold the registration within two weeks of registering - Please don't delay - We'd like to send just one check for the whole group.

We would like ALL who are going to register BY - JANUARY 18 - next Friday

Return confirmation to this email address:
lancob.youth@comcast.net
Linda will be at the church on Wednesday night - Jan 16 (after youth at 7:30) to help anyone with registration

REMEMBER ALSO:

Before registering your junior high youth for NJHC, you must complete the [Parental Permission Form](#) at the Church of the Brethren Website. You will receive a parent permission number via email which you will need to register your youth for conference. If you already filled out the Parental Permission Form, the number you received is applicable for any Church of the Brethren event (i.e. workcamps, NJHC, etc).

Brethren website to register is:
<http://www.brethren.org/yya/njhc/>

January Events

Jan 4 - Jr High Registration opens for the Jr High Conference

Jan 13 - Sr High and Jr High Spaghetti and Salad meet in the kitchen @ 9:00

Jan 18-20 - Sr High District Retreat Deadline to Register Jr High Conference

Jan 26 - Contra Dance for Youth over 13 - meet at St. John's Episcopal Church



Jr High Lock-in at LVC

Stay up all night long with about 100 other youth and youth leaders to play games, go swimming, watch a movie, or create something crafty. SOUNDS LIKE FUN ! It's the annual District Lock-in at the gym at Lebanon Valley College in Annville, PA.

Registration Deadline: February 11

Contact Linda to register. Parent permission slip is needed + medical form on file. Cost: \$10 per Youth.

February Events

Feb 3 - Sr High "Souper Bowl of Caring" Collection Day

Feb 10 - Sr High Soup and Salad meet in the kitchen @ 9:00 Canned Goods Collection Day

Feb 15-16 - Jr High Lock-in @ LVC

Feb 23 - Sr High Ski Trip to Big Boulder - 8:00AM-9:00PM