

Youth News

December 15 Baptism

The Lancaster congregation has been holding baptism regularly around the time of Palm Sunday in the spring. (and most likely this will be offered again in April 2014) We say "offered" because it is a free choice and there are several steps the church and baptismal candidates need to take prior to jumping in (not literally of course).

There was a time when youth considering the commitment would enroll in lessons as a group to learn about church history, hear about the call to be baptized and what membership in a congregation means. Baptism is a very individual choice, so currently we wait for individuals to request this rite of the church. After that we begin the conversation about all of those things. Church history we try to touch on during Sunday School each year.

Most youth thinking about baptism may begin with questions - who do I want to model my life after?, what does taking this step mean?, where do I see myself and God in the future?, why is membership in a church important to me?, and how do I witness to others a commitment I have made in my heart? Sometimes youth start asking questions of parents or youth directors and some times parents start the conversation to ask the youth about faith and life direction. Either way, it's an important subject to bring up within a family.

Important to remember is that the act of baptism is the start of a journey. Baptism is recognizing the point at which we begin to make choices that will welcome Christ to be with us as a guide in our future.

The practical side of the church offering baptism in December is - it takes a lot of hot water to fill the pool in the church and when we do - we want to welcome everyone to think about "jumping in". The Maranatha Fellowship have several members preparing for the experience so we are inviting all to join the event.

Any youth or adult interested in learning more about baptism should speak to Linda or contact the church office.



Why Go to National Youth Conference?

Every four years our denomination offers an experience for the youth of our congregations throughout the United States to join together to hear great speakers, learn about growing faith in our journey and discover something more about the Church of the Brethren. NYC is a unique opportunity. It is not often around 3,000 Christian youth gather together in one place.

Most everyone who has attended has a story to tell about how the experience at NYC shaped them in some way.

NYC seems a long way off but by the end of **December we need to have those planning to go committed with a \$100 deposit.** Your commitment represents that these dates are marked off on your calendar, you are willing to continue to serve in raising funds through Soup and Salad or other potential activities, and that you are willing to prepare spiritually for the experience.

The speakers for the conference have been announced and more information can be found on the Brethren website.

If you have any questions about the trip as you think about whether or not to go - please feel free to ask Linda Byers or anyone who has taken the journey to NYC.

- Linda B

Jr. High Retreat

October 25-27 Jr High Youth from all over the Atlantic Northeast District gathered for the annual weekend retreat at Camp Swatara.



Attending:

Ava and Sadie Bowser,
Alex Nye & Ronny
Tavarez. Edison
Rodriguez attended as
a member of the
Youth Cabinet in
leadership for the
weekend.

Pg 3 Sr High Barn
Party: Odett & Edison
Rodriguez and Luis
Rivera.



Brief News You Can Use

Messages of Thanks

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

Thanks to youth who spoke at Love Feast: Drew Smith, Alex Bookman and Jack Smith.

Thanks to Renea Snyder and Mark Forsha for teaching the Jr High class.

Our team for Soup and Salad: Carol Shearer and Renea Snyder and all of those who helped - George and Cathy Betz, Mike Snyder, Terry Shearer, Michele Shertzer, Sue Lines, and John Lines.

Thanks to David Byers for going as an advisor to the Jr High Retreat weekend at Camp Swatara.

Success at Soup and Salad

Thanks to all who helped prep and serve the meal on Oct 20. For the second month in a row the **Work Camp Fund**



earned OVER \$1,150. The congregation always appreciates the youth providing this meal before the semi-annual congregational business meeting.

Sr High Next Meet To Eat

We are seeking a Date, Time and Location for our next gathering for food. Sr High youth should vote in the youth room for the restaurant and choose the day of the week that works best for you.

NO Jr High Sunday School

On **November 24**, the Morning Psalm service will be Doing Service. This part of our congregation will be meeting briefly in the Family Life Center at 9:00 and then moving out into the community to serve in many different ways.

Our Sr. High Youth will also already be serving that morning to prepare for our Soup and Salad.



Jr. High Youth are welcome to join their families to serve and work at the job sites. Otherwise, we will not be holding Sunday School class that morning because of this event. There will be activities held for Praise Kids and preschool.

GO YOUTH - !

Congratulations to Edison Rodriguez who earned Student of the Month honors at McCaskey. And also to Ava Bowser who is Student of the Month at Manheim Township Middle School.

Alex Nye is playing this season on the Rheems Under 13 team in the Winter Lacrosse League at Lanco Fieldhouse.

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

Missing Medical Forms

Every Youth family received a folder full of information a couple of parent surveys and a very important blue paged Medical Form. Please be sure if you haven't already, take some time to complete these pages and return them to Linda ASAP in mailbox # 9 - Thanks

Guess What's for Dinner ? and Where ?

Jr. High Youth will be getting together early this December. We are planning to hold a progressive dinner style meal on **Friday evening December 6**. We will also be seeking more volunteer hosts to provide a course when the group will drop by. Please watch your email for announcements and more information. Let Linda know if you will be planning to attend this Jr High Event.

November Events

- Nov 10 - Jr High Youth Sunday Sr High Youth Time - 11:30**
- Nov 13 - Weds Night Youth goes to Lititz CoB leaving 6:10 returning 7:45**
- Nov 20 - Weds Night Youth goes to Lititz CoB leaving 6:10 returning 7:45**
- Nov 24 - Sr High Soup and Salad meet in the kitchen @ 9:00**
- Nov 24 - NO Jr High Sunday School Class**

Youth Ministry Must Have Volunteers and Teachers

With our Safe Church initiative, all of our scheduled Jr High and Sr High Youth events are required to have at least two adults present (and hopefully participating). Our events this year include retreats, Weds. Night, Youth Time and any events we hold at the church.

Contact Linda to learn when a volunteer is needed.

Sr High Bears Game

B - E - A - R - S - bears, Bears, BEARS Wooooooo!

If you don't know this familiar chant that happens every time the Hershey Bears Team scores a goal - then you need to join us on Sunday March 2 for a trip to the Giant Center. **Plan now, tickets will be ordered in December.** The discounted cost will be **\$10 per youth** and adult leader. (our youth fund will cover the rest). The game begins at 4:00 so we will need to plan to leave a 2:30 to be sure to get our seats in time for the drop of the first puck. We may plan to grab a meal together on the way home.

Wednesday Night by Special Invitation

We have been invited by Jeffrey Keller (Youth Pastor) to join the Lititz Church of the Brethren Youth and Youth Families for a special event being held Wednesday nights November 13, 20 and December 4.

The speaker, Mike Wenger, is the executive director for TNT. The subject of his conversation is **called "Talk to Me"**. The focus of this event is on our changing youth culture, and creating dynamic understanding through communication in the modern world. Jeff tells me Mike will be hitting on a whole slew of topics from the impact of social networking on teens, to their identities being formed through media and culture. Jeff said, "Every time I've ever listened to Mike address the crowd he's

made it fun and entertaining, and has also left the crowd with encouragement."

ANE District Youth Cabinet

This is a group of Sr. High youth grade 9-12 who get together once a month during the school year at churches around our district. Meetings are usually held on a Sunday and involve discussions of leadership skills and faith building experiences. Cabinet members have the opportunity to develop friendships with other cabinet youth and the adult leadership. This group plans and leads our District Jr High and Sr High activities under the leadership of Jess Ross and the advisors.

Applications are due in April of 2014 for the next year.

Those who would fit well into this responsibly would be expected to regularly attend all district youth activities and show leadership among their peers. These are youth who have positive attitudes, are willing to step out of their comfort zone and are able to help include others in the fun.

Edison Rodriguez is currently a member of the district cabinet. Ask Edison or Linda if you would like more information.

December Events

- Dec 4 - LAST** Weds Night Live Lititz Church of the Brethren leaving 6:10 returning 7:45
- Dec 6 - Jr High** Progressive Dinner begins 5:30 at the church
- Dec 30- Sr High** Deadline for \$100 deposit for National Youth Conference