

## Monroe UMC Youth Ministry Report

Written and Submitted by Brittany Henson

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*All Youth Ministry programs can be divided into one of two ministry areas 1) ongoing ministry and 2) one-time events. Please see the report below to find out information on both.*

### On-Going Youth Ministries:

#### 1. Sunday Mornings:

- "Worship"— The 9:30 Praise Team has 3 currently participating teens. To highlight the teens a bit further, we have arranged a new schedule for the fall that includes more youth in special music for the 9:30 service, that will train a few of the youth in sound ministry for the 8:30 service, and that will allow a mini youth-team to lead worship in the 9:30 service once a month. These changes are on a temporary try-out basis, but already we have enjoyed seeing more youth involved. Also, Pastor Tim & I have set the date of our fall Youth Sunday, Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>.
- "Feed the Flame"—We have combined for the summer with the 10:45 adult education class & have been studying the difference between Christianity & other religions. The conversation has been lively & the topics really informing.

#### 2. Sunday Nights:

- This Summer— We are currently hosting BLAZE in our home for the summer, having combined students & parents for a book & bible-study focused on the power of Prayer.
- Plans for the Fall—
  - a. Three Sunday Schedule—Marty & I plan to meet in the middle of our current 2 & 4 week Sunday night schedules & instead bring 6<sup>th</sup> graders up to 3 events per month, and move 7-12 graders back to 3 events per month.
  - b. Splitz Nights—Aside from her two Sundays per month with Jump-Start, 3-6<sup>th</sup> graders, Marty has agreed to co-host with me a 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday night per month where she & I will split up Jr. & Sr. High students. Although we will rotate on occasion, Marty will primarily lead the 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders once a month, while I will lead the 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders. These nights will be notated on the church calendar for all to know the dates.
    - Side note: I also plan to begin breaking up girls and guys once a month as well, and these dates will be known in advance as well.

#### 3. Wednesday Nights:

- "Discipleship Nights?TBA?"— We are not currently sure that there is enough adult interest to resume hosting Wed. night church dinners this fall. After peaking at 50 people initially, attendance slowly declined and the job of the meal was an on-going weekly burden to me personally. I do not plan to host a meal on Wednesday nights this fall, and instead I am deciding whether to host youth rehearsals or youth leaders only on Wednesday nights.
- "Homework Helpers?"—The program successfully involved more than 10 adult volunteers and more than 15 students in the Monroe area for reading & homework assistance. The youth ministry gained 1 new student through this program, and 2 different Hornet Haven families participated as well. All else were from the community. However, after the first half of the school year, we no longer had any teachers or former teachers able to serve the elementary age group in the program, when initially launched with that promise to the families. Without the Wednesday dinners or the draw of educated/trained tutors, I am not certain that we will offer this program again in the 2011-2012 school year. Perhaps instead we could encourage more in-classroom help for interested volunteers.

**Student Leadership:** We will again take applications for underclassmen Student Leaders this year. For Jrs & Srs only however, we hope to launch a new program entitled "Youth Interns", to help our eldest students take on more adult-like leadership tasks & begin transitioning them out of youth ministry & into young adulthood successfully.

### Upcoming Events: (Dates Known)

-RIOT Night: Friday Sept. 23rd- 9:00pm-1:00am

-Acquire the Fire Youth Conference: October 28-30<sup>th</sup>, Cleveland, OH-

Cost: \$100/student, Depart Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm, Return Sunday Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm

-Youth Sunday: Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>-

-Dare2Share Youth Evangelism Training Event: March 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, Dayton, OH -

Cost: \$50/student. No overnight stay, return home to sleep, then return 2<sup>nd</sup> day to Conference.

### -Lakeside Summer Camp-

Sr. High (Option 1) June 24<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>

Sr. High (Option 2) July 1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>

Jr. High July 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>

We have to choose our preferred option for Sr. High dates for next year. Every single one of the students who attend with us this year had a WONDERFUL time & I'm so thankful to those who helped to make the trip possible. Below are just a few comments, written by students about their experience:

"Camp was very impactful...Jesus really touched me and all of us there...and I am extremely happy that I had the opportunity to experience it..." (written by Jordan Waugh)

"I grew in my faith and many of the people from our group prayed and repented of sins in their lives. We will all be coming home as completely new people with a stronger faith in God. This trip was life changing..." (Marisa Regan, friend of Carly Benken)

"(At camp) I spent some real time with God and he touched me." (Brieona Johnson)

"Camp truly impacted my life." (Aaron Basford)

"(At camp) we all grew in our faith and we're more ready to go and spread The Word." (Jacob Benken)

"While I was there, I learned about apologetics, it was interesting to learn more about that.." (Tyler Benken)

"Camp impacted my life greatly. All the speakers, singers, and performances made me realize some of the changes that need to be made in my life. I learned about repenting. This was very important to me because I realized that I can be forgiven for my sins and they do not follow me as I continue walking with Christ..." (Felicia Shadwick)

"At Lakeside, I had new experiences, made new friends, and got closer to God. I grew in my faith so thank you to everyone who helped me get here..." (Cheyenne Daye)

"Lakeside was life-changing and I wish I could live there forever..." (Carly Benken)

"It really meant a lot for me to get to come to camp because once I got here, I was instantly changed." (Matt Fink)