

Chesapeake Bay
Mission Center

Youth News

Fall 2011

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Camp Shenandoah Springs

The last time I spoke to the conference about youth ministry; I challenged you to take a risk on our youth. I am proud to say we have taken some risks over the last 6 months. The most significant risk was daring to change camp grounds and what that would mean for our youth and our wallets. This year we had 48 youth and 26 staff members from throughout the Mission Center join together at Shenandoah Springs in Madison, VA for our youth camping program. The theme was 'Uncharted' and it seemed fitting as we embarked on a new campground. We examined how Christ is calling us even into the uncharted waters, and what that means for us. For many of us, from the moment we stepped onto the

grounds, the presence of God rested upon us and was known in every activity. Camp was a success although with all new adventures there are growing pains and things we needed to learn to work with, and sometimes, work around. Our youth had amazing experiences; archery, rock wall climbing, hiking to waterfalls, fishing, lake swimming, canoeing, ropes courses, even a zip line. We are exploring creative ways to work out the kinks, but anticipate returning to Shenandoah Springs next year.



Check out the article about the North Atlantic Delegation (that's us!) on the church website- www.giveyour10.org/stories.aspx?initiative=abolish

Spectacular

SPECTACULAR is a gathering of nearly 1000 teens from the USA and Canada. We have opportunities to deepen our relationships with God and each other through arts, leadership, sports and worship. 15

youth and 2 staff also attended SPECTACULAR this year. We graduated half of our campers with 4 youth who have started Graceland this fall. We had amazing worship, fellowship and classes at SPEC that pushed our youth and their faith perhaps further than ever

before. SPEC is an amazing opportunity to experience the church on a much larger scale. This school year, we have 9 students attending Graceland University.



Threads of Hope

In February, I introduced at the Ski retreat and many other gatherings the organization Threads of Hope. Aligned with our Mission Initiative; Abolish Poverty, End Suffering, the goal of the TOH organization is to “bring help and hope to children at risk” and more specifically to help stop human trafficking. We have partnered with TOH in a fundraising effort to sell friendship bracelets. Half the money goes to help support our youth camps and activities and the other half is returned to TOH to support their efforts. To date we have sold nearly \$20,000 at various festivals, schools and events. At SPEC our delegation sold \$3000 worth of bracelets and at Sunfest in Ocean City, Maryland we sold \$8,100 worth of bracelets. As a result of our effort, we have been able to help offset the cost of

camp for all campers, give assistance to many who needed it, and begin our efforts for next year’s camp.

As a result of the success of TOH, we are hoping to continue our efforts in the coming year. Please consider how your congregation can get involved. If each congregation was willing to run the booth at a local festival or fair, we could easily meet our fundraising goals while engaging in mission together!



High Flying Fun- Bows and Arrows?

Well those two things really don’t go together but at camp, our youth at each camp got to experience many new and exciting activities. Archery , canoeing, paddle boats, ropes courses and zip lines are only a few of the many activities offered at Camp Shenandoah Springs. Being out in nature, learning a new skill is a great place to mentor youth. Many youth walked away having conquered a fear, tried something for the first time or found leadership skills they never knew they

possessed! Take a look at these and more pictures on the Mission Center website www.cofchrist-cbmc.org . You can find the photo gallery under “Past Events”.

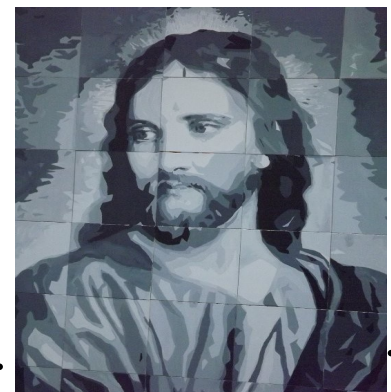


Reunion- Focus on Mission!

In addition the busy summer of camps, we also engaged 15 youth in discussion and practice of our Mission Initiatives at Reunion. Together we discussed how the Mission Initiatives applied to our real lives and many youth committed to realizing some of these initiatives in their own communities. What would

the kingdom of God look like if it came to my neighborhood, school, family, street?

The youth created this Jesus mosaic. Each tile was painted then put together one at a time during the Sunday morning worship.



Vacation Bible School

Many congregations in the Mission Center hosted Vacation Bible Schools this summer. All of them had great activities, fun crafts, games and singing. All of them also presented valuable Bible lessons and Scripture that reminded us of God's love and the story of Jesus.

Vacation Bible School is a great way to interact with our neighbors, inviting the community children to learn, worship and have fun with us.



Have Love, Give Love Quilts

Last year I started a traveling ministry called Have Love, Give Love. It is based on the Deuteronomy 24:20 in which we learn to give to those in need, not simply because we can or should, but because we remember what it was like to be in their position. Each of the quilts have a simple message. The quilts are blessed, then given away. The

"I have it, you need it. It's that simple"

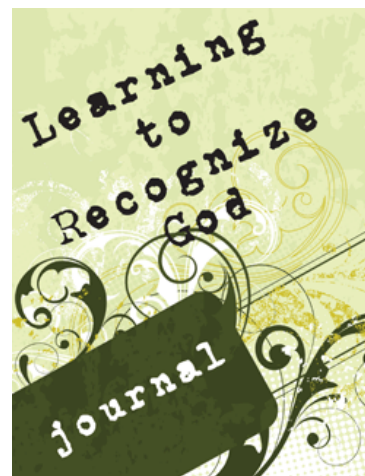
intention is that when the recipient of the quilt no longer needs it, or finds someone who needs it more than they do, they will give it away. HAVE LOVE, GIVE LOVE, Each quilt is designed by the youth participants and is made mostly of fabric cut into the shape of a heart. We started at Reunion that year and created the bones of our first quilt. The tree quilt was later finished

by donations from the Springfield congregation and given to a young boy with brain cancer. Another quilt was created by the Outer Banks congregation and given to a congregational member. The dove quilt was made by youth attending the Unity Walk in Washington, DC. And another quilt has been started in Dundalk and hopefully finished by members of the DC congregation at their Day of Service. The initial intention of the quilts was to show that no matter what, you always have something to give: LOVE. I have it, you need it. It's that simple. HAVE LOVE, GIVE LOVE.

Learning to Recognize God

.Learning to Recognize God offers four weeks' worth of brief video meditations with an accompanying downloadable journal. Each day features a different spiritual practice exercise based on those found in the spiritual formation resource Yearning for God.

You can find the videos, journal and additional information on the church website— <http://www.cofchrist.org/discernment/learning.asp>





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YOUTH UPDATE

We proclaim Jesus Christ and promote communities of Joy, Hope, Love, and Peace.

www.Cofchrist-cbmc.org/youth



Youth Engaging in Mission

How can we continue to engage in mission with our youth? Especially when there are only a few in each congregation?

One idea would be to invite the youth to be a part of mission that is already going on in your congregation. Youth need to see adults engaged in mission, and work alongside them as we do. Another idea is to form cluster groups within the MC in order to get the youth from several congregations engaged in activities, worship and service together. I look forward to meeting with congregational leaders to explore cluster groups and what that could mean for your geographical area. My goal is to continue to take risks and challenge our youth to truly

live the mission of Jesus Christ. I cannot possibly do it alone. "If we are to take apprenticeship with Christ seriously, we need the input and guidance of people who are masters in various areas of faith and who live as examples of the tangible kingdom." (Tangible Kingdom Primer, 158) Please join me in this adventure, for the sake of our youth. There is still so much more to be done.

Grace and Peace,
Sarah

