

J u n e • 2 0 0 4



Dear Parents of Youth:

Much has happened since the last letter sent out and I wanted to share some of what has transpired over the past several months in relation to the youth ministry. First, there have been many changes in the youth ministry team. The Braxtons, as most of you know, are relocating to Tennessee. We were able to host both a “good-bye & thank you” for the Braxtons and the McDonalds several weeks ago on the lawn of the church. Thank you to those of you who were able to attend. The Warrix and Amy Frederick have consistently served the youth well over the past several years and are now transitioning into other areas of ministry. We plan to recognize them in days to come as well. Following on the heels of those who have served well are a group of individuals that constitute the new youth ministry team: Mandy & Jonathan Zemmer, Nathan Kennedy, Sue & Tom Lawson, Pete Frederick, Michelle & Jonathan Cooper, and Beth & Devon Berry. We are excited about serving the youth – please pray that we would do so courageously and wisely.

A second area of change is the conduit for information distribution. An “integrated” youth calendar is now available at the church website. You can get to it by going to <http://www.clearcreekchapel.org> > ministries > edification > youth ministry; or more directly by going to [http://www.clearcreekchapel.org/Ministry\\_Youth.htm](http://www.clearcreekchapel.org/Ministry_Youth.htm) . If that is a blur to you, don't worry, the youth have been introduced to it and should be able to navigate to it without difficulty. The calendar contains Sunday AM, PM and other events schedule. It will be updated frequently, particularly as events near. Check their often to remain abreast of what is happening. Also at the website are updated forms of our mission and vision statements. These statements are important as they guide our thinking and activity in the youth ministry. Please take time to read over them – the mission statement can also be found in the footer of this letter. Each of the youth I have talked to have stated that they have “easy access” to the Internet – if this is not the case for your family, please let me know and I will be glad to provide paper copies for you.

As you will see, the summer calendar is a bit of a patchwork bridging us to the beginning of the 2004/2005 ministry year in September. There are several changes that we are considering for the new ministry year, some of them very practical, and others to help us better accomplish our mission. I'd appreciate your feedback on these potential changes:

1. Six “activities” a year: Activities are those events that require more planning and often some amount of money. Activities may be service or fellowship oriented (examples include helping church members with spring cleaning and yard work or going to play paintball).
2. Six “in-home” events a year: In-home events occur in the home of a parent or a youth leader and focus on purposeful relationship building in an informal setting. These events are low structure and no cost. If you desire, you will have the opportunity to serve the youth by hosting them in your home on a Friday or Saturday, let us know!
3. Bi-monthly Sunday afternoon/evening meetings: Currently, youth meetings occur somewhat sporadically on Sunday evenings during the service, largely depending on what is occurring during the Sunday evening service. Because we value corporate worship, teaching, and body life and believe that the youth benefit when they are involved/exposed to certain events, such as communion, baptisms, guest speakers, and other special events, it has been our practice to have the youth remain in the service when these events occur. If you glance at our church calendar over the past six months, you will quickly realize that this commitment makes it very difficult to maintain regularity

in the Sunday evening youth meetings. The solution we are currently considering is to meet either prior to or after Sunday evening services, similar to what the Scripture Sowers do on “game night.” In fact, we are considering coordinating with Scripture Sowers. These pre/post service meetings would occur every other week and would allow the youth ministry to develop some type of continuity and benefit from being part of the corporate Sunday evening service. There are a host of difficulties that could be associated with that idea – and there are also a host of benefits. Share with me your thoughts as we plan and think toward the fall.

I’m working on getting these letters a bit shorter, I’m not sure this represents much of an improvement over the last one, but thanks for your patience in reading through. If you do not know members of the new youth ministry team, please seek them out and introduce yourself. Also feel free to share with me any of your thoughts on the changes introduced above; I would value your input. As we endeavor to be used by God to inspire the youth to a high and glorious view of God that changes who they are and how they live, pray that we will effectively influence and instruct them in a manner that reflects the example of Christ.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Devon Berry', written in a cursive style.

Devon Berry on behalf of the Youth Ministry Team