

September • 2004



Dear Parents of Youth:

We officially begin the new 04/05 ministry year this month and we are excited to make you aware of the product of our thinking, praying, and working together over the summer. First, it is our delight to welcome the new 7th graders to ccym. There are a number of graduates and we not only are happy to have them added to our number, but look forward to their contribution as they serve and learn among the other members of ccym. Because many of you will be receiving this letter for the first time, I would like to review with you, in brief, the schedule for ccym. For those of you who have been around awhile, this will be an introduction to the changes for this new ministry year.

Sunday School • 9:15 – 10:15 am • Room 101 (grades 10, 11, 12) & Room 102 (grades 7, 8, 9)

Sunday School, similar to the adult programs, runs in one quarter or 12-13 week blocks. Each quarter, a new theme, topic, or book is taken up. A new six year, 24 quarter, curriculum is currently being designed. It will include four major threads which will be woven throughout each year and will progress in depth and sophistication as the students develop. The first thread will carry over directly from what is being done in the children's ministry, it is all about learning to see Christ throughout the Scriptures and understand God's overarching plan for history or a "historical-redemptive" view of Scripture. The second thread will take the youth through studies of six books in the Bible which, while no more important than other books, present major themes foundational to grasping the Word. They include Genesis, Proverbs, Romans, Luke/Acts, Ephesians, and James. The third thread will include a series of book studies written by godly men and women. The fourth thread will include projects – hands on activities in which the youth are actively involved in preparation/contribution to the material each week. Some examples would be the reading of Christian biographies and autobiographies or learning to use Bible study tools such as a Vine's Expository Dictionary or a Bible encyclopedia. This curriculum will begin to unfold in January of 2005.

This quarter, Ron Surls is leading the 7th, 8th, and 9th graders in a video series examining the biblical understanding of Genesis and the account of creation. Mark Nickoson is leading the 10th, 11th, and 12th graders in a study of Romans.

Sunday Evenings • Usually following special music • Kitchen • OTM, SME

I had in earlier letters indicated that the timing of our Sunday evening program was going to be changing, but we have decided to hold on that as we experiment with some other refinements. Therefore, youth will continue to meet during the Sunday evening service so long as there are not special events occurring in the service. Sunday evenings will involve two programs this year. The first, OTM, or On the Media, is designed to help the youth learn to become intelligent, biblical, consumers of media products (movies, music, video games, Internet) who are able to understand and evaluate what they take in from a biblical perspective. Our intent is not to instruct the students about **what** to watch, but rather, **how** to watch (listen, play, etc.).

SME or Sunday Morning Enhancement is aimed at taking the content of the Sunday morning sermon and further exploring, understanding, and applying it. This will not involve formal teaching, per se, but rather a 'facilitation of grasping.' We want to see the youth come to prize and value ever more the teaching and preaching of the Word as being fundamental to the life of the church and fundamental to their lives as maturing believers.

A third aspect of Sunday evenings is Sunday afternoons. I know, it is counterintuitive. On some of the Sundays during which youth will be staying in the evening service, they will be invited to the home of one of the ccym team for the afternoon. Some of you may remember that Beth and I use to do something like this before we left for Seattle – inviting the youth over after church on Sunday for an informal time of food and fellowship.

In-home Events ● As scheduled ● Home of parents of youth or ccym team

Every other month the youth will come together in a home for recreation, food, fellowship, and informal influence. These events will not require money and will generally be low-key and less structured. **Our first In-home event is coming up on Friday, September 10, 6:30 – 9:30 and will be held at Jonathon and Michelle Cooper’s home.**

Activity & Service Events ● As scheduled

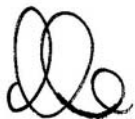
Finally, in the months during which no In-home event is planned, there will be either an “activity” (bowling, canoeing, paintball, etc.) or a service event (spring clean-up, all-church baby-sitting, canvassing, etc.). These events may involve cost and will involve more structure and planning.

<http://www.clearcreekchapel.org/> >ministries ● keeping up-to-date

To stay up-to-date on specific event information and calendar changes you can view the ccym website at the web address in the gray bar above (also, the ccym website is now much easier to find, thanks to a rearrangement of links). This website is our main point of distribution for information, so check it often, particularly when events near to find details. With this letter you have received a hard copy of a calendar. It is exactly what appears on the website. However, dates, times, and activities can and do change. Also, event specifics will usually be linked to the event itself as the time nears. If you do not have easy internet access, please let me know and I will be sure that you receive updates of this calendar in your church mailbox.

Thank you, as always, for taking time to read through this letter. I appreciate your role in your son or daughter’s participation in ccym. It is our desire to see each youth openly, freely, and joyously claim Christ as their Lord and then grow into mature believers who consistently live in a manner that brings glory to Him. We seek to do this by inspiring, instructing, and influencing your child as we endeavor to partner with you in the hard work you are doing in your own homes to raise your children well.

May all our efforts result in Christ’s glory,



Devon Berry on behalf of the Youth Ministry Team