

January • 2005



Dear Parents of Youth:

It has been a quarter or so since you received your last installment and I'd like to give you a brief update on the happenings in the youth group. You should know first that the ccym leadership team is slowly but surely becoming more familiar with your children. This increasing level of familiarity is breeding affinity – we like your kids! We are also growing in our understanding of how to most effectively inspire, instruct, and influence those we are ministering to. By His grace, we anticipate witnessing the growth of your children, and in some cases, I believe we already have.

Sunday School • 9:15 – 10:15 am • Room 101 (grades 7 – 12)

A major part of the mission of ccym is to instruct the youth of Clearcreek Chapel in understanding the life-orienting truths and principles found in the whole of Scripture by formally and informally communicating the Scriptures through various techniques. Instruction takes place formally on Sunday mornings during the Sunday school hour. During the winter quarter all the youth will be together in Room 101. We are currently finishing up a reworking of the series that was recently completed on Sunday evenings – Words of Salvation. During this series the youth are coming to understand biblically the concepts of redemption, justification, sanctification, reconciliation, regeneration, and propitiation. As soon as we wrap up this series, mid-January, we will be diving into what will be the first of a 6-part series on “Reading your Bible.” This series will occur once a year and is designed to teach the youth to read their Bibles through a historical-redemptive lens. That is, reading parts of the Bible with the whole in mind in efforts to understand all of Scripture in the context of the story of redemption.

In the spring, the youth will be split into two groups again. For logistical reasons, the 9th graders will join the 10, 11, and 12th graders. The younger class will be comprised of 7th and 8th graders only. As you pray for your children and this ministry, please pray that ccym would be able to identify more individuals apt to teach with these age groups.

Sunday Evenings • Usually following special music • Kitchen • OTM, 3D

The nature and form of Sunday evenings is still experiencing some evolution, but is well into the process of taking a more definite shape. What was earlier SME (Sunday morning enhancement) has transformed into 3D (disciples digging deeper) and is working increasingly well as a vehicle for more deeply considering the material preached on Sunday mornings. We look to see On the Media (OTM) further develop over the course of this year as well. We plan to show short video clips during OTM over the course of the next year from a variety of movies. The clips will always be reviewed carefully for appropriateness for the youth. In saying this, I know that families have a variety of standards regarding movies. If you have any concerns, please see me. I can share with you what movies we will be using clips from and, as the date of any particular OTM nears, what clips specifically will be viewed. As most of you know, between movies, TV, Internet, and video games, your children are exposed to an incredible amount of influence. In many cases, the hours associated with this exposure are great. There is plenty of evidence to suggest, both scientific and otherwise, that children are significantly influenced by what they take in from these sources. Our desire with OTM is to be able supply the youth with the skills to intelligently digest a variety of medias from a biblical world and life view.

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

Our first In-home event is coming up on Friday, January 14, 7:00 – 10:00 pm and will be held at Jonathon and Michelle Cooper's home. Our last In-home event at the Cooper home was a lot of fun and was attended by 20+ youth. We engaged in a giant ping-pong, carpet ball, and golf putting tournament. The winner earned the opportunity to paint their hand white and leave a handprint on the wall of the Cooper's basement. As always, announcements about this event will come via Sunday school, Sunday evening, the bulletin, and the most up-to-date source, the website. Several of your children have brought guests to In-home events. Know that guests are always welcome and encourage your children to bring them to any event, activity, or Sunday program.

Activity & Service Events ● As scheduled

Our most recent service event was the all church baby-sit in early December. Fifteen youth, a handful of youth leaders, and 44 children under the age of 12 came together for an evening of managed chaos! The youth served well and we were exhausted, but encouraged, by the success of the activity. Many parents were able to complete some Christmas shopping or go to dinner and a movie. Very recently, on New Year's Eve, several of the youth did excellent work helping move an individual who has fallen on hard times to a new apartment. These young men carried out this task with effectiveness, efficiency, and good attitudes. The individual in need was greatly assisted. Our next activity is a lock-in at the church scheduled for February.

<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. This website is our main point of distribution for information, so check it often, particularly as events near to find details. 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.

It is a joy to serve your children. As always we welcome any feedback you would like to give to us. Pray with us for your children's continued Godward growth, whether that be salvation or continued spiritual maturation.

May all our efforts result in Christ's glory,



Devon Berry on behalf of the Youth Ministry Team