

Dear Parents of Youth:

We are well into the New Year and I am writing to provide you with an update on the youth ministry over the past 5 months or so. A lot has taken place! We have moved through some “heavy” teaching in Sunday School, provided babysitting for about 36 children during the holidays, and rolled our faces in butter at a recent lock-in. All this in the midst of a group of youth who are growing up fast! As they do, we see signs of maturation in

So you own an adolescent. There are no owner’s manuals for this product. Most of what you have learned has been by trial and error. And most of that knowledge is tenuous at best as the same thing never seems to work twice. One major concern can be the peer group your teen appears to be drawn to. Perhaps “that group of kids” dresses in a less than attractive way, seems so disrespectful, seems to be up to nothing good, is constantly making less than subtle overtures to the other gender, etc. While there are numerous approaches to working with your youth around this issue, the opportunity should not be missed to discuss with your child the desires and beliefs of their heart – as they are revealed by the choices they make. For example, “peer pressure” or what the Bible describes as fear of man or craving the approval of man, can be a hugely shaping influence in the life of a teen. This is easy to observe – just sit back and watch your teen change in demeanor, speech, action, and attitude as they move between social contexts. The problem here is not only that your youth can be influenced negatively (Proverbs 13:20; 24:21-22), and therefore receive the negative consequences of such associations, the problem is that their heart craves or idolizes the praise and acceptance of people over the glory of God. They sin. In these instances the temptation is to clamp down and make demands and commands...often when this is done, an opportunity is missed...(to be continued).

many. We also see many increasingly engaged in the youth group. We have been recently blessed with the addition of Kelly Stasko to our youth leadership team, while concurrently saying good bye to Tom and Sue Lawson as they relocated to Columbus to pursue new job opportunities.

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

Over the holidays, we completed a long and arduous series discussing reformed theology with substantial help from a R.C. Sproul video series. This was fundamental but high-level material for the youth. Our hope is that in stretching minds we will foster both an *aptitude for understanding* and an *attitude that prizes* the truths of Scripture. Future series will continue to expand upon and reinforce the basic biblical truths taught.

This series was followed by a five-week viewing of the “made for Hollywood” movie, *Luther*. We were not, however, simply after some good entertainment after a long, hard, and intellectually challenging series with R.C. Sproul. We used this movie (and lots of verbal annotation) to historically contextualize the men and events that were responsible for the beginning of the reformation and the protestant church in the mid 1500s. In this film we witnessed men and women not only boldly proclaiming the truth, but risking their lives to speak out against false teaching.

Presently, we are beginning Part 2 of our Winter Series, *Can You Read? Learning to Comprehend the Bible*. This series focuses on teaching a redemptive-historical approach to Scripture. It is through coming to understand the overarching design and message of the Bible, as consummated in Christ, that the Bible can be properly understood and valued. As presently scheduled, this series will take us through the end of April.

Sunday Evenings • New Schedule! • Kitchen

We have another scheme in place for Sunday evenings – we shared this information with the youth several Sundays ago, so you may have heard some about it already. From now until June (when we begin planning for our next Flashback Flamingo Friday–esque event), youth will be in the Sunday PM service all but one Sunday a month (see attached calendar). On the Sunday that we are out of PM service, the youth will meet from 4:15 pm to 7:15 pm for a time of fun, fellowship, worship, and teaching. On Sunday evenings when the Scripture Sowers stay over for game nights, the youth will *usually* meet during game time to simply hang-out and eat.

So what is our rationale for yet another change? As the elder overseeing youth, part of my responsibility is to ensure that what is taught in our church is biblical (Titus 1:9). Another aspect of my responsibility is to “shepherd the flock” (1 Peter 5:1-4). This includes considering the long-term spiritual good of those that I have been given to minister to. In the case of Sunday evenings with the youth, I have to ask myself if the youth are served well by leaving the Sunday PM services during the teaching time. In other words, is what we provide for the youth while out of the PM service of more value than what is provided in the

service? After careful consideration of this question, we as a youth team decided that it was not. And, given the youth team's resources at this time, the youth program could not be changed in a way which would consistently justify absenting ourselves from the teaching during Sunday evening services. After arriving at this conclusion, one important concern arose, how can we maintain the "face-time" with the youth that allows us to build relationships and hold influence in their lives? The answer to that question is the new Sunday PM schedule described above.

We were encouraged by the youth's response to this news. They took it in stride. One of the consistent emphases of the Sunday AM curriculum over the past seven months has been the importance of teaching in the church. I hope that part of their ability to accept this somewhat major change is explained by their increasing understanding and valuing of teaching in their own lives.

In-home Events ● As scheduled ● Home of parents orccym ldshp team

In-home events occur roughly every other month and are alternated with Activity & Service events. In-home events are always no-cost, low-key, and lightly structured. We aim to build relationships and extend influence toward and among the youth during these times. Our next In-home event is May 12th at the Surls. Watch for more details as the date nears.

Activity & Service Events ● As scheduled

Activity events happen three to four times per year and usually have some cost associated with them, require more planning and structure, and generally require going somewhere. Our most recent event was the Lock-In. You'll soon be able to see pictures from this event on the bulletin board in the foyer. Our next event is bowling on April 16. Service events also happen three to four times per year. These events are designed to engage the youth's strength and energies in the service of others, both inside and outside the body. Our next Service Event will be an outdoor work day at Dayton Gospel Mission on June 10. We were a big help to the Mission last year and we hope to do the same again this year.

<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. We will soon be making some changes to the website to hopefully increase its utility for families of the youth. In case you are not accustomed to checking the website, flyers and bulletin announcements are almost always sent out with each event.

When you pray for us if you could keep several thoughts in mind we would appreciate it. First and foremost, pray that teaching of the Word would be effective in the youth's hearts and that many would be saved. Secondly, pray that the youth would continue to mature and grow up in the Lord. It has been a blessing to see many make visible and practical godward changes. Adolescence, however, is a time of life marked by character-shaping decisions and great temptation. The youth need our prayers and encouragement to go hard after God. Thirdly, our group is growing in size. In the past month we have enjoyed attendance levels between 27 and 31. This makes the kitchen somewhat cramped, and although not un-usable, less than ideal for the ministry.

We greatly enjoy the privilege of serving your children. As always we welcome any feedback you would like to give to us. Pray with us for your children's salvation and growth in grace. May God transform the desires of their hearts that they might taste and see that the Lord is good.

Thank you,



Devon Berry on behalf of the Youth Ministry Team