

## 2006 Youth Department Report

This year was an eventful one for the Youth Department, which organized four events throughout the year:

EYC convention was held at Epiphany in Gunterville. After the group became orientated with the process of electing new Youth Department members, the delegates from each parish that were present gathered and elected ten new Youth Department members. The program for the event was rooted in the phrase “and now for something completely different...Bible Basics.” With this phrase in mind, Jennifer Riddle and Kee Sloan answered an assortment of questions, which dealt with “basic” bible facts that are often overlooked. After the voting finished, and the questions were answered, the group of youth took a short bus ride to Cathedral Caverns. Once we all done exploring Cathedral Caverns, the group headed back to Epiphany to enjoy a “Talent/variety show & band.” The weekend helped bring youth from all over the state to elect new youth church leaders, and have a huge amount of fun in the process.

The first event for the “new” Youth Department to staff was Spring Break Conference. A group of devote youth from various cities across the state “sacrificed” five days of their spring break to have an amazing time at Camp McDowell. As is the custom, the music for the session was performed/provided by non-other than Fran McKendree. The program for the session was put on by Marc Burnette Tom Poynor, and Jeremy Lucas and focused on discovering how to tell the “story” of our lives. Marc, Jeremy, and Tom did this through examining narrative stories and film. Apart from program, Spring Break Conference was filled with both free time and afternoon activities that served as a break from school and allowed the group to grow closer through the various games.

Held at Christ Church, Fairfield for the second consecutive year, fall work weekend was a huge success. Jeremy Lucas led an inspiring program encouraging the reflection of God’s light into even life’s smallest dark spots. Small mirrors were handed out for the practice of this action. After a productive afternoon of painting, cleaning and clearing the areas in and around the church, the diverse group of youth took part in an exciting night of cosmic bowling complete with spectacular neon shoes. Besides being an amazing weekend of worship, insight, and productive action, fall work weekend gave youth from different spectrums of race, economy, and culture the opportunity to connect on a comfortable and common spiritual level.

The Youth Department ended the calendar year with Christmas Conference, which was held at Camp McDowell. Led by Tom Poynor, the program of Christmas Conference involved examining certain areas of film theory, such as “character introduction”, “observing the surroundings of a character”, and “the moment of decision.” All of these questions, and discussed some others, were in a general sense during program time, and answering these expounded upon during small groups by questions in a more in-depth manner. Apart from the intriguing program, Christmas Conference was filled with free time for hanging out with old friends, making new friends, and partaking in afternoon activities that ranged from a viewing of “The Little Mermaid” to an intense game of

ultimate frisbee. This combination of a great program with a group of fun activities created a truly amazing event.

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