The Youth Groups at Bethlehem Christian Church

Youth Newsletter

September 2008

Youth Groups Preparing for a Busy New Year

As summer comes to a close, the youth leaders at Bethlehem are busy preparing for the start of the 2008-2009 youth group season.

The youth group season will officially "kick off" with our annual Youth Group Cook-Out on Sunday, September 7, from 3:00pm until 7:00pm at Bennett's Creek Park. There will be plenty of activities available, including a playground for the kids, tennis courts, nature walking, and fishing. We will also be grilling hamburgers and hot dogs under the shelter. This event is for all ages, and families and friends are encouraged to attend, so everyone come out, bring your friends, and help start off the youth group season right!

The youth group schedule for the entire year is being finalized and will be available in the coming days, both at church and on the internet at http://www.bccyouth.org (under Documents & Forms). Our first Regular Meeting will be Sunday, September 14, beginning with dinner at 5:30pm and ending at 7:15pm.

Special events and mission projects are already being planned for all age groups, including the annual Junior and Senior High Ski Retreat, the World Vision 30 Hour Famine, and a return to Camp Piankatank for summer camp in 2009. Also, we're hoping to schedule more frequent visits to the nursing home, as well as a summer mission project for Senior High youth.

We are also hard at work planning for our sixth annual Community Harvest Festival. This has been one of our largest and most successful outreach events, but the help of everyone in the congregation is needed for this event to continue to be successful. Please contact David Salerno to let us know in what area you would like to help.

YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULES

ALL CLUBS

September 7	Youth Group Cook-Out, 3:00pm-7:00pm Bennett's Creek Park, Shelter #2
September 14	Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm
September 21	No Regular Meeting *Sunday School Picnic*
September 28	Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm
October 5	Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm

Training and leadership growth opportunities will be made available to all youth leaders during the youth group season, including special children's ministry training sessions for our Pioneer Club leaders, and youth ministry seminars for Junior and Senior High leaders.

This year, we welcome a new youth leader—Lisa Tarkington—while all of last year's youth leaders return for another exciting youth group season. However, we always have a need for more leaders and volunteers, and are especially in need of volunteers to help serve dinner once a month during the youth group season, so please consider helping build tomorrow's leaders today and contact David Salerno at 539-1966.

"My personal goal for the year is for us to become more outreach-oriented, reaching out to families in our community and growing our youth fellowship program," commented David Salerno, Youth Director. "I will be working with the Youth Advisory Committee and our pastor to accomplish this, and will encourage us all to work together in unity with one mind—the mind of Christ."

We invite you and your children to participate in the Youth Groups at Bethlehem, and hope you will join us for an exciting and active new youth group season! And, please, invite all your friends!

Don't Forget!

If you completed the Summer Bible Reading Challenge, you must turn in your Bible Reading Certification Card by Sunday, August 31, in order to receive your award at the Youth Group Cook-Out!

Please call David Salerno at 539-1966 with any questions.

Alphas' Pool Party

On Sunday, August 17, the Alpha Youth Group started their youth group year with a pool party at the home of Paula and Jerry Thornton.

The group swam in the pool and played games, such as finding coins in the pool and seeing who can find Bible verses the fastest. The youth were treated to pizza, chips and salsa, vegetables and dip, and brownies. A total of ten youth were in attendance.

(left to right) Taylor, Tori, Laura, Jacob, Chelsea, Sarah, Melissa, Ginger, Tristan, and Chase had a great time in the pool

Youth Group Cook-Out

Sunday, September 7 • 3:00pm-7:00pm

Bennett's Creek Park • Shelter #2

Hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, drinks, and dessert

Softball • Kickball • Volleyball • Badminton • Football*
Frisbee • Horseshoes • Tennis • Fishing* • Nature Walking*
**Please bring your own softball glove, tennis racket and balls, or fishing equipment*

There is also a playground with swings, slides, and other activities for the children

There is limited space under the shelter. You may want to bring your own chairs or blankets.

This is the opening activity for the 2008-2009 youth group season. All children and their families and friends are encouraged to attend!