

Parent's Youth Ministry Meeting Minutes June 18, 2007

The June Parents Meeting was held June 18th at the Coffee Talk Café and began at 7 PM. We opened in prayer and then discussed the recent Monthly Fellowship Activity at The Ridge where we went miniature golfing. We also discussed other ideas such as going to Adventureland or Lost Island. Neither of these was chosen due not only to the cost but also the drive and the cost of gas. Other activities discussed were a Kernel's game, going to a movie, swimming, a scavenger hunt, and a lock-in. It was decided to go bowling on July 20th at Castle Lanes in Marion. Cindy Page is checking into the cost and time for the night.

We talked about fundraising. The next fundraiser is a bake sale on Saturday, June 23rd during the free concert in the park (Marion Square Park). We will also be selling the remaining Hy-Vee coupon books that we have. For the future we discussed selling the Community Day coupon books before Community Day and also on November 10th at Younker's. The benefit of this fundraiser is that there is no cost to the youth group. Terry is checking into cleaning Veteran's Memorial Stadium during the 2008 season. We also discussed selling calendars and cards from Youth Group Promotions. The calendars are the same ones that we sold in 2005 (God's Creation Calendar). Terry is checking into getting samples of the Youth Group Promotions items. A fundraising dinner was also discussed and tentatively placed on the calendar for February 23, 2008.

The Camp Wyoming Fall Retreat was next on the agenda. The dates for the retreat are October 26-28, 2007. Registration is tiered this year:

- July 1st - 31st: \$60
- August 1st - 31st: \$65
- September 1st - 30th: \$70

Registration is not refundable, but it is transferable. Payment is due with registration. More information is coming and will be sent out as soon as it is received.

Terry is checking into local mission opportunities through:

Habitat for Humanity
Willis Dady
Madge Philips

Planting trees
Serve the City Care 2007

Terry is also going to ask the youth if they want to continue serving the meals at 1st Presbyterian Church in 2008. The remaining dates for 2007 are: August 5th, October 7th, and December 2nd.

We watched a brief video on ArkALMIGHTY and briefly discussed what it is. ArkALMIGHTY is a good deeds program that matches up the needs in your congregation with the talents and skills of the members of your church. Gathering the needs of your attendees, these requests are compiled on a Craigslist-type website administered by your church. Then, the members of your church can easily search through the needs and find ways they can help.

Maybe there's a single mom in your midst who doesn't know how to teach her son to throw a baseball, or an elderly person who needs a ride to the doctor, or a young couple who would love advice on saving for a home. Maybe there's a college student who could use help moving into her first apartment, or a widow that could use a helping hand washing her windows, or a recently laid-off worker who could use help polishing up his resume. There are countless needs out there that, up until now, have had no way to be met. But now they do, thanks to ArkALMIGHTY.

The ArkALMIGHTY.com website is designed to enable youth groups and churches to easily get involved in practical and tangible volunteer outreach. Can you balance a checkbook? Can you hang a picture frame? Can you throw a spiral? You might not think of these everyday activities as volunteering, but for the people around you who can't do them, your ability and your willingness to help is exactly what they need. You'd be amazed how a simple act of kindness can change lives.

Churches in the Greater Cedar Rapids area that are currently involved with ArkALMIGHTY are Eastview Christian Church, Knox Presbyterian Church, Ellis Community Church, First Presbyterian Church (Marion), Antioch Christian Church.

MessFest is a massive community wide activity where Middle School youth (6,7,8 graders) get to play extremely messy games that are not gross. The focus is to get the youth to see three key realities about sin. 1) That their sins are real (as real as the messy stuff they have all over them). 2) That they cannot remove that sin on their own (just like they can't remove the messy stuff on them). 3) That Jesus' blood is the only thing that can wash away their sins (just like a good water bath will wash away the messy stuff on them). The date for is tentatively scheduled for August 13th with the 14th being the rain date. The event begins at 1 PM and concludes at approximately 4 PM. The site for the MessFest is the new New Covenant Bible Church property on Center Point Road.

Movie night was next on the agenda. It has been suggested by the parents to put movie night on hiatus until September/October. Terry will be suggesting this to the youth at the next youth group. A schedule will be setup with the following movies:

Cats & Dogs	Road to Redemption
Kindergarten Cop	The Rookie
The Mighty Cop	Rudy
Miracle	Snow Dogs
The Perfect Man	Weekend to Remember (<i>family version</i>)
Remember the Titans	

We talked about getting t-shirts for the youth group. Terry is working on a sample to show the youth group and see if they are interested.

We again discussed the possibility of splitting the youth group (4th - 7th and 8th - 12th). Some of the obstacles for this are time and volunteers. Terry will be talking to the high school youth to get their input. Some of the reasons for this need are:

- That lessons need to be geared more towards the younger youth, which can make it boring for the older youth.
- Topics that are relevant to the middle school youth are not the same as those for the high school youth.
- Attention spans are different.
- Neither group will have the opportunity to grow until they are split.

During the May meeting it was suggested that we take the youth to a conference. There are two conferences specifically designed for teens. Those are Dare2Share and Acquire the Fire. The conference season for these has come to an end and more will be discussed as information is received on the next conference season.

Before closing with prayer it was suggested and approved to move future meetings to the 4th Monday. The next meeting will be at 7 PM on July 23, 2007 at the Coffee Talk Café.