



Youth Breezes

Winter 2007

Upcoming Youth Events

February 7

Evening Worship for Peace at Christopher Dock High School

This is an invitation to all youth groups and youth sponsors of Christopher Dock Mennonite High School students. The event will be held at 7:00 p.m. on the lawn in front of Detweiler House. (If the weather prohibits, the event will be held in Longacre Center.) This worship service will be a culmination of the Day of Fasting/Day of Silence in which many Christopher Dock students will be participating. All youth groups are invited to attend this event as an alternative to usually-scheduled Wednesday evening activities. RSVP to Marlene by email at mfrankenfield@franconiaconference.org

February 9-11

Peace Retreat - *The Path is Made by Walking: Discipleship and Skills for Peacemaking*

Through a variety of interactive activities, participants will develop their own vision of peace and creatively articulate the connection between peacemaking and Christ's call to "Come and follow me." Led by MCC Peace and Justice Coordinator Grant Rissler. This retreat will be held at Spruce Lake Retreat Center. Cost is \$65 for youth. For more information and registration go to efjpc.pppjr.org

March 14

Pastors' Day @ Christopher Dock High School

March 16

The Apologetix! @ Penn View Christian School

This concert starts at 7:30pm. Tickets are on sale now for \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. Call 215-723-1196 or email sschrag@pennview.org

2007 A Year of Jubilee – Making sense of God's best for all Marlene Frankenfield

As youth leaders we help youth find a foundation of faith to stand on. The inspiration for youth ministry comes when the roots of faith grow deeper and the strong branches extend beyond our churches to the new relationships and experiences that youth encounter.

We are entering a sabbath-jubilee year. The Old Testament story mentions the year of Jubilee being a time of restoration and renewal where life and shalom were restored. Our Mennonite confession of faith calls us to a life of stewardship (article 21. Christian Stewardship) that guides us as we teach and allow youth to experience the Year of Sabbath -Jubilee.

Julie Ellison White, speaker at the youth leadership retreat in November, challenged youth to a Sabbath life, individually and as a youth group. Julie's closing story challenged youth groups to take action by sharing the gospel, healing the sick, and sharing possessions. Youth groups gathered in holy huddles with a box of macaroni cheese dinner in the center that represented sharing faith and passions with those in need. This year is a great opportunity to teach and live out of a Sabbath-Jubilee year.

Youth leaders have impacted so many youth that are now young adults. These young adults are making life choices out of a deep-rooted faith that they received in their congregations. Sometimes we find it hard to measure the influence we have on young people during the years of junior and senior high. Nonetheless the impact is of great importance and influences the depth of faith that they experience.



March 23

**Jr. High Lock-In
@ Christopher Dock High School**

Mark your calendars! The annual Jr. High Lock-In will be held on March 23 beginning at 9pm and ending on March 24 at 7am. Watch for more info to follow...check FMC website or call Marlene @ 215-362-7069

March 25

**Why Object?
@Franconia Mennonite Church**

Join us Sunday, March 25 from 2pm - 5pm for an afternoon of worship, discussion, and pizza focused on issues of military recruitment, conscientious objection and voluntary service. Titus Peachey will be leading the event. Look for more information in your mailbox soon!

July 2-7

**Live the Call! San Jose 2007
Youth Convention - for more
information visit www.sanjose2007.org**

I noticed evidence of this recently as I attended a wedding of two young adults who committed their lives to each other. The service was a celebration of the faith and values that model stewardship of life, strongly positioned by *The Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*. The way that their educational and congregational communities came together to support and encourage them, as they began their lives together, left a lasting impression. As I looked around at all the young adults attending the wedding I thought about all the congregations that have had a huge impact in nurturing these young people in a strong Anabaptist faith.

many of you were a part of their lives. These young adults that I noticed are now being nurtured and educated beyond this community, through service and cross culture experiences. Young adults are making life choices that are a result of dedicated youth leaders and congregations. These young people are already a voice of jubilee as they live, work, and worship in whatever community they find themselves in.

The stewardship that you and your congregation model and the stories that are told can be so impacting to many youth, more then will ever be measured. May you be encouraged in your work with youth knowing that the spirit of God will move in the lives of young people beyond what we could imagine.

Do we have the courage and faith to live with the concepts of jubilee for ourselves personally, with our congregations, and with the youth? "God's Spirit is on me; he's chosen me to preach the Message of good news to the poor, sent me to announce pardon to prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to set the burdened and battered free, to announce, 'This is God's year to act!'" (Luke 4:18-19 , The Message).

Teens are very willing to take the risks of faith that could change the world.

blessings for a refreshing and inspired year of jubilee.

Need Ideas for Summer 2007?

**DOOR - Discovering Opportunities for
Outreach and Reflection**

www.doornetwork.org

Offers coordinated experiences designed to challenge groups and individuals from all denominations to "See the Face of God in the City" as they are introduced to urban life by spending various lengths of time volunteering, listening, worshipping and reflecting on their experiences. Located in Atlanta, Chicago, Denver, Miami and San Antonio.

MDS - Mennonite Disaster Service

www.mds.mennonite.net

Check with MDS to see what options they have for your size group. We've heard many positive experiences from youth groups who served!

Unexpected "Retreat" During a Busy Time: A Youth's Response to the 2006 Leadership Retreat

erin landis, plains mennonite church



As I arrived at the Leadership Retreat my head was occupied with school, work, and other things that typically worry a teenager. I felt a bit obligated to attend this retreat...as a learning experience...and knew that I would, as a

SWAP - Sharing with Appalachian People

www.mcc.org/swap

A great service opportunity for youth or inter-generational groups.

2007 Youth Convention in San Jose

www.sanjose2007.org

Theme: "Live the Call" Eph. 4:1-6.

You should have received adequate information by now. If you would like to get better travel rates, contact Hackman Travel (215-584-1747) and team up with other groups. Have you received the Newsletter? If not, call 574-523-3048. If you need more information, contact me.

Service in Your Community

Contact local agencies to see how you could serve your home community and interact with the real needs around you.

Spruce Lake Retreat

www.sprucelake.org

Spruce Lake is in need of volunteers to help with programming this coming summer. This is a great opportunity for a low-cost service weekend for small youth groups. Dates available are May 25-28, June 30-July 1, July 6-11, July 20-22, July 27-29, August 3-8, and August 31-September 3. Contact Eric Horst at 800-822-7505 x133 or revhorst@sprucelake.org

Plan an Event with Another

FMC/EDC Youth Group

Contact leaders from another group and plan an event together to build relationships. Be creative: include fun times, worship, teaching, or whatever!

result, have more catch-up things and projects to complete when I returned. I also was a bit apprehensive about not knowing a lot of the kids and was not quite sure that I was looking forward to the weekend.

We arrived on Friday evening, found our cabin and were immediately ushered into the auditorium. Everyone was chatting away like they'd known each other forever. After short introductions and a few "getting to know each other" games, I was pleasantly surprised as I began to feel like part of the group and make new friends. I was especially pleased to meet some friends of my older brother who is in college. The next day was crammed with sessions, seminars, boisterous meals, and a little free time and with the busy schedule the weekend passed by quickly.

I came to this "retreat" expecting some lectures about how to lead people, build healthy relationships, get things done, and follow God. But, surprisingly, the focus and discussions were about how to take a "pit stop" and be human "BE-ings", not human "DO-ings". The main speaker, Julie Ellison White, spoke about how, in a world full of hustle and bustle, we need to take time out of our busy schedule to relax, spend time with ourselves, and with God. The emphasis was about how easy it is to lose focus on your goal in a world full of distractions, especially when you are busy 24 hours of the day.

this was a refreshing view and an unexpected look at leadership especially in the midst of a difficult year of my high school career with a lot of other pressures constantly competing for my attention. It was good to be reminded how important it is to take a break every once in a while from work, school, even family and friends...from life in general. This is one of the most forgotten points in my daily life...I'm good at getting things done, but usually don't take the time to reflect or think about the past day. This different perspective from the weekend prompted me to think about how much I can benefit in a given day by doing absolutely nothing and talking to God.

I went home thinking about what I had learned and how quickly my fear of not fitting was dispelled by everyone's openness and honesty. So, at the end of the weekend, although I was cramming for tests the next day, and making up schoolwork that should have been done before Sunday night, **i was absolutely glad i had gone to the leadership retreat and learned a thing or two about relaxing and taking a break from doing.**

I've already made some small changes in my life that I think have made a big difference for me.



Youth Leader Events

March 2-4

Youth Leaders Weekend at Camp Hebron

Well known speaker, Walt Mueller, president of Parent/Youth Understanding, Elizabethtown, PA, will be the resource speaker for this event. Focus areas include music, media and the cultural forces that influence youth. Also included in the weekend are Saturday workshops, great times in the gym, playing volleyball and basketball, hiking, relaxing, worship, and meeting others who care deeply about youth. Check out Walt's website: www.cpyu.org. This event is sponsored by Camp Hebron, Atlantic Coast, Lancaster and Franconia Conferences.

March 29-30

Leaders Addressing Pornography Together

Brenda Martin Hurst, professor of Practical Theology at Eastern Mennonite Seminary, will be leading these sessions at Souderton Mennonite Church. Credentialed leaders and lay leaders from congregations are invited Thursday evening, 7pm - 9pm. Credentialed leaders, including youth ministers, are expected to attend Friday from 9am - Noon.

April 26

Preparing for San Jose @ Christopher Dock High School

Join youth pastors and youth leaders from 7:00-8:30pm For an evening of questions and discussion about how to set the tone for a life-changing week in California. We will walk through the sponsor handbook, share ideas on preparing youth and parents, meet other youth leaders attending, and take time to pray for the convention planning and the youth and leaders who will attend. The meeting will be held in the Conrad Grebel Library in the Rosenberger Center.

April 30 – May 3

Princeton Forums on Youth Ministry www.ptsem.edu/iym

"How will we create a cohesive community among the youth in our congregation?" @ Princeton Theological Seminary.

Special Course for Youth Leaders Biblical Survey and Anabaptist Hermeneutics

Marion Bontrager, long-time professor of Bible at Hesston College, will lead this course. It will be an excellent course for youth ministers. This is a Gateway Course, one of the basic courses required for ordination in FMC if a person did not have a similar course in college or seminary. Class will be held all day Friday and Saturday, April 13-14, May 11-12, and June 8-9 at Conestoga Mennonite Church in Morgantown, PA. Cost - \$150 for audit and \$945 for those who register for three hours of college credit. Brochures with more information will be coming soon.

Curriculum

Faith For The Journey

Designed to help youth, pastors, and other leaders journey together through *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*, this resource includes a session on each of the 24 articles of faith. Each session connects the topic with life experiences of youth, probes Scripture for other connections, and invites youth to begin their personal journey. Can be purchased at www.os.mennonitemediausa.org.

Peace DVD

A new study DVD inspiring youth - and adults - to imagine what the world would be like if every person tried to make it a more peaceful place. Two-hour DVD with 24 stories designed to be used in six-session series. The DVD also connects to an interactive website, www.peaceDVD.com. Can be purchased at store.mennomedia.org

Living Beyond Our Means

A biblical approach to stewardship for teens living in a material-oriented society. Realistic sessions on how and why we are called to be stewards for God. Can be purchased at www.os.mennonitemediausa.org.

Shalom Lifestyles

This best-selling video curriculum for youth by producer, writer and theologian Jerry L. Holsopple, focuses on peace, justice, service, and the environment. Fifteen sessions on topics like: The Hunt for Happiness, Images in a Box, TV Violence, Can the Earth Be Healed, and more. Can be purchased at www.os.mennonitemediausa.org.

Relate: A Christian Service Newsletter www.service.mennonitemission.net/relate

An Anabaptist youth ministry resource for pastors, sponsors and lay leaders working with youth and young adults from middle school through college. You can receive this free HTML newsletter every other month.

Jr. High

What Gives? Using God's Money

This Fast Lane unit addresses some of the questions that junior high youth face as they start to earn, save, give, and spend money: Whose money is it anyway? How should I spend it? What am I saving for? Available at www.os.mennonitemediausa.org.

10 *Ways to Show Youth Ministry as a Core Value*

- 1. Just be there.** Pastors occasionally attend youth events/weekends and spend time with youth without any formal responsibility or agenda.
- 2. Let go and let them.** Involve youth in a wide variety of ministry events, allowing them to experience and test their gifts.
- 3. Listen to positive passions.** Invite youth leaders and youth ministry staff to a council meeting to share their passion, joys, and challenges. This enables your congregational leadership to encourage and support them in their ministry.
- 4. Lend an ear.** Include youth on congregational leadership committees whenever possible and make sure that their voices are respected and heard.
- 5. Mark milestones.** During congregational gatherings, celebrate benchmark events in the lives of youth, such as receiving their drivers' licenses, or graduating from high school.
- 6. Teach an old dog.** Show adults how to greet and recognize youth at congregational events. Youth need to sense that they are welcomed and valued by adults.
- 7. Mix old and young.** Plan inter-generational activities to build relationships between youth and adults.
- 8. Eyeball and smile.** Take time to look into the eyes of a youth and smile at them.
- 9. Mentor to success.** Trust youth with responsibilities in congregational life, and mentor them so they succeed.
- 10. Bring leaders into the loop.** Build awareness of your congregational youth ministry and philosophy among all congregational leaders.



Excerpt from article written by Merv Stoltzfus & Marlene Frankenfield.

Attention: FMC Youth Leaders

Continue to keep me informed of upcoming youth Sundays or events that I could attend. I am open to helping with youth ministry needs and concerns that develop in congregations. I would also appreciate if you could keep me informed of sponsor changes so everyone involved in youth ministry can receive mailings. **Marlene**

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