

Youth Ministry Report

July 22, 2014

Mission Statement:

“Our Youth Ministry exists to reach non-believing students, to connect with other Christians, to help them grow in their faith, and to challenge the growing to discover their ministry and worship God with their lives.”

Key Verse:

1 Timothy 4:12, “Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity.”

Sunday School:

Averaging around 10 between the 2 classes. Chad & Maria are teaching sr. high and using The Gospel in 6 Words curriculum.

Scott & Julie are teaching the mid high. I'm not sure of the name of the book they are using, but it is a standard, topical, scripture based youth lessons book.

Both classes are going well. The sr. high is a smaller class, so discussion is sometimes lacking, but you can tell their learning from/pondering the lesson at hand.

Youth Group:

I am enjoying getting to know the youth! Numbers have been fairly consistent; averaging around 7 each week. (14 different youth have participated at least once so far this summer.) It only took about 3 or 4 weeks to get them to pray for one another during the closing prayer time. Hurray!

Ben is fantastic! I appreciate his commitment to the youth!

Service Opportunities:

This week some of the youth are helping with the VBS games & meals in the parks.

A Note on Numbers:

In youth ministry, the rule of thumb is that a successful youth ministry size is about 10% of the worship attendance. This includes all youth activities provided in the week. So last week's total youth participation would include Sunday School & youth group attendance, while this week's total would include both those numbers plus the numbers who help with the games and meals in the parks.

Under those guidelines, our numbers for June were only 1.32 students below the target. So far this month we've been right on or above the target each week. I realize, however, worship attendance has been down as it generally is in the summer, plus the pulpit changes have an effect on numbers. I've also had youth gone each week for camp, vacations, and summer ball. So, we'll check in with the numbers again after the school year gets underway.

Coming Soon:

Youth Mentor Program: I have at least 3 adults who have approached me about this already! I'll be focusing in on getting this set up in the next couple of weeks. Basically, I have renamed my youth group volunteers. I call them mentors instead of volunteers. It helps them to understand their role and seems to be a more attractive position. I don't match them up with specific youth; I let the Holy Spirit guide those relationships. Basically, I'll schedule 2 mentors to participate in youth group each week based on their availability, and will utilize them in leadership based on their gifts & interests.

Naming the Youth Group: The youth wanted to name the group The Flying Flamingos of Faith... I told them we can have a fundraiser named that! So, we may name the group, but we've not settled on anything at this point. They do want to keep 1Timothy 4:12 as their theme verse... We'll work on a name out of that and the mission/vision statement.

Tween Ministry? Rhonda and I have been brainstorming and praying about how to more effectively engage the 4th & 5th grade students as there are some feeling too old for children's ministry, yet they are not old enough for the youth ministry. Parents are being polled on a few options at the moment. We will work more on this after VBS.

Calendar Extras:

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| July 27: | I will be directing a conference mission trip in St. Joe. Ben, Betty, & Chad will cover youth group. |
| M-TH, July 28-31 | Some of the youth will be helping with VBS |
| Tuesday, Aug 5 | Macon Electric Annual Meeting- our youth group has been hired to help with this event 4:00-6:00 p.m. |
| Aug. 17 | Parent & Mentor meeting- This meeting will provide parents & mentors with information about the youth ministry plans for the upcoming school year. Hopefully this will put all of our expectations on the same page! |
| Aug. 24 | Acolyte Training- Some of the older youth are wanting to pull out of serving as acolytes. In the coming weeks I'll be visiting with them, Carl, & Rhonda about how we might train & utilize their gifts in other ways in worship. |
| Sept. 6-7 | Camp Jo-Ota Youth Rally- This event will serve as our "fall kick off". We will come back to the church for lunch Sunday after the rally to give the youth information they need about the ministry plans. |