

# Youth Ministry

Information Packet  
Grades 6-12

Youth  
Group

Open Cave

Sunday  
School

Confirmation

ASP

A.W.O.L.

One Life

2009

Choir  
&  
Handbells

# Youth Ministry

at

Bound Brook Presbyterian Church

## Information Packet

**JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH:** Students in grades 6-8 are considered Junior High. Junior High activities include Youth Group on Sunday afternoons, Open Cave, Sunday School, Choir, Handbell Choir and A.W.O.L.

**SENIOR HIGH YOUTH:** Students in grades 9-12 are considered Senior High. Activities for Senior High include Youth Group on Sunday evenings, Open Cave, Sunday School, Choir, Handbell Choir and ASP (Appalachian Service Project).

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**YOUTH GROUP** ... Sundays, October through early June.

Youth Group gatherings normally take place at the church in the Cave (located in the basement of the church). Youth Group meets for fellowship, fun and lite discussion about life and faith as it relates to young people. Periodically we gather for special events like retreats, Dorney Park, movie outings and other adventures.

- **Junior High Youth Group** meets Sunday afternoons from 5-7PM
- **Senior High Youth Group** meets Sunday evenings from 6-8PM
- **Retreat:** Once a year, usually the first weekend in December, we take both JH & SH youth on a three-day retreat. We travel by bus and leave on Friday evening and return around 3PM on Sunday. We stay at a retreat center where youth stay in cabins with bunk beds. This is one of the highlights of the youth group year!
- **Communication:** Monthly Youth Group schedules can be found in the church newsletter, The Presbyterian, or online at [www.bbpc.org](http://www.bbpc.org). Weekly updates and reminders are sent by e-mail to students and parents as well as appear in the worship bulletin. We also communicate periodically by facebook.
- **Permission Slips & Releases:** Every event that requires that we take the youth off-site requires a permission slip. Parents can register their children for youth group in the fall, providing medical and insurance details. Then for each off-site event parents need only sign a permission slip that permits their child to attend. In September parents will also be asked to sign a promotional release form that allows the church to publish pictures, videos and slides of youth participating in youth group activities on the church website or on facebook.

**OPEN CAVE** ... Tuesday evenings from 5-8PM in the Cave. Both JH & SH welcome.

Open Cave is a great time to hang out with friends for both junior and senior high youth. Students can enjoy dinner together, do homework, play guitar hero, attend choir and bell choir rehearsal, watch TV and participate in a One Life Bible study and discussion. Parents take turns providing dinner,

which is served at 5PM. From 5:30-7:00PM Tom Rodgers, the church's Director of Music, offers rehearsals for youth choir and handbell choir. At 7PM we convene our One Life meeting where students reflect on bible passages and plan ways to keep our mission in Zambia moving forward.

- **DINNER:** Dinner is served on Tuesday nights at 5PM. Parent volunteers can sign up to cook dinner on the calendar posted on the Cave refrigerator or by contacting Val Yacik ... [valyacik@optonline.net](mailto:valyacik@optonline.net). Volunteers are expected to bring dinner and dessert for 15-20 people. Drinks, plates, napkins, silverware and condiments will be provided and found in the Cave kitchen.
- **YOUTH CHOIR AND HANDBELL CHOIR:** Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to participate in the church's Youth Choir and Youth Handbell Choir. Both groups rehearse on Tuesday evenings and sing periodically in worship on Sunday mornings. Youth Choir rehearsals are divided by gender. If you would like more information about our music program or would like to sign-up, please contact Tom Rodgers at [tom@bbpc.org](mailto:tom@bbpc.org).
  - Girls' choir rehearses Tuesdays from 5:30-6:00PM
  - Handbell Choir rehearses Tuesdays from 6-6:30PM
  - Boys' choir rehearses Tuesday from 6:30-7:00PM
- **ONE LIFE MEETING:** On Tuesday evenings from 7:00-8:00PM JH & SH youth gather in the Cave for Bible study and discussion related to our mission work in Zambia and elsewhere. This is where events like Walk Their Walk, Peace on Earth Market (youth participation), and Breakfast with the Easter Bunny are planned.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH ...** Sundays from 9:15-10:15AM (September through mid-June)

JH & SH students meet in the Cave on Sunday mornings following the *Children's Time* in worship. This allows youth to participate in the first 15 minutes of worship. JH & SH will begin the Sunday School hour together working through the **BL4Y** (Bible Lessons for Youth) curriculum which takes youth through the entire Bible in six years. Lessons will begin together with JH & SH combined and will break off by grade for age appropriate discussion. Lessons are taught in four to five week units. At the end of each unit class with shift gears and host a **Storytellers** morning where members of the congregation will be invited to share their stories of life and faith with the youth.

There will be no Sunday School classes on Intergenerational Worship Sundays (first Sunday of October and January and the first Sunday after Easter) and One Service Sunday's. Our hope is that on these Sunday's youth will come to worship and become familiar with our common corporate worship. There will also be no Sunday School on the Sunday of our youth retreat.

- For more information about Sunday School for JH & SH please contact Judy DePierro at [djmattsam@aol.com](mailto:djmattsam@aol.com).

**CONFIRMATION ...** Offered annually.

Confirmation class is offered to high school students beginning in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. The confirmation program leads youth through a process of spiritual discovery and church orientation. At the end of 8-10 weeks, youth are offered the opportunity to become adult members of the church. Students are expected to write a statement of faith that is read before session and their families. This is a powerful time in the life of students, their families, and the adults that work with them. Confirmation is normally offered in the late winter – early spring and culminates on Pentecost Sunday with the receiving of the confirmands into membership in the church.

- For more information contact Bill Dettelback at [william.dettelback@oracle.com](mailto:william.dettelback@oracle.com) or Rev. Linda Owens at [Linda@bbpc.org](mailto:Linda@bbpc.org)

#### **A.W.O.L (A WORK OF LOVE) ... A Summer Service Camp for Junior High Youth.**

Each summer we offer a weeklong summer service camp onsite at the church. Monday through Friday, from 9AM-3PM, youth entering the 6<sup>th</sup> grade are invite to join the Junior High Group for local service projects, learning opportunities and LOTS of fun! There is a small fee for this program.

#### **ASP ... APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT ... an 8-day mission trip for senior high youth.**

Senior High Youth travel each summer to the central Appalachian Mountains to repair homes for impoverished families. ASP is a mission of the Methodist denomination and has been working in Appalachia for over 40 years. We apply for the trip in September and are assigned a county in West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky or Tennessee by ASP. In February we begin the process of planning the trip and recruiting youth and adult volunteers. In March, April, May and June we gather once a month for orientation meetings and participate in a variety of fundraising activities. This trip requires that we raise approximately \$500 per participant. This money pays for transportation, room and board on site, an ASP t-shirt and the materials needed to repair homes! Each participant is expected to pay a \$150 registration fee and to raise the rest through a number of fundraising activities. This is big commitment that doesn't end when the trip is over. In September, following the trip, participants are expected to participate in a celebration event to share their stories and to thank the congregation for their support.

- Students who have completed the 8<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to participate in ASP, but must bring a parent or be assign at parental surrogate.
- To learn more about ASP check out [www.asphome.org](http://www.asphome.org).

#### **ONE LIFE ... MISSION TO ZAMBIA**

Since 2003 youth at BBPC have been involved in bettering the lives of children and families affected by HIV/AIDS in Zambia. In 2004 the Junior High Youth Group raised funds to build a home for a family affect by HIV/AIDS. In 2005 & 2006 the Junior High Youth were able to inspire the congregation to sponsor over 100 children and raised over \$13,000 to build a well in an area of Zambia known as Twachiyanda\*. A year later, 13 youth and adults traveled to Zambia to meet some of our sponsored children and to celebrate the well that was built. In 2008 the Junior and Senior High Youth who meet weekly on Tuesdays for the One Life meeting, planned our first Walk Their Walk Event. Walk Their Walk is a 5K run/walk that raised money to build a second well in Twachiyanda. Our work in Zambia is accomplished in partnership with World Vision.

- **Meet Pamela:** Pamela Chiwida is a fourteen year-old girl who lives with her parents in Twachiyanda, Zambia. The youth group has sponsored her since February 2006. Both JH & SH students are encouraged to contribute towards her sponsorship by dropping money in the donation box located in the Cave by the bar counter. The annual cost of sponsorship is \$420. We also try to raise an additional \$100 to allow her family to purchase other much needed items, like clothing, seeds, etc... Occasionally the youth will write to Pamela. About 2-3 a year we hear from her. In 2007 during our trip to Zambia, several of us met Pamela and her family.

\*Twachiyanda is not a proper geographic location. It is the name of an area of Zambia targeted by World Vision for development work. You will not find the name "Twachiyanda" on a map, but you can locate it

just south and east of the town of Choma. It is a collection of villages all under the same tribal chief. The total population of the area is approximately 35,000.

## **YOUTH ADVISORS AND VOUNTEERS**

The youth ministry programs at BBPC require lots of volunteer help to insure their success. Volunteers not only participate in planning and implementing youth activities, they also build strong, caring, appropriate relationships with youth. Youth look to adult leaders as role models and supportive guides as they navigate their own road to adulthood. Our youth programs require the support and participation of a number of youth advisors, who volunteer their time on a regular basis. We are also dependent on parent volunteers to help in a variety of ways. Options for volunteering include the following:

- **Culinary Captain** (Cook) for Tuesday evening Open Cave: Provide dinner and dessert at 5 PM for 15-20 youth. Contact Val Yacik ... [valyacik@optonline.net](mailto:valyacik@optonline.net)
- **Open Cave Chaperone**: Open Cave requires a minimum of 2 adults to be present throughout the evening.
- **Cave Parent**: Each month (October through May) parent volunteers are sought to stock the Cave with snacks and drinks for Sunday evening activities. All items purchased for the Cave are reimbursable by the church.
- **Sunday night volunteers**: periodically we need parents to assist in Sunday night activities and other youth events including our annual retreat.
- **A.W.O.L. Volunteers**: The program too requires 2-3 parent volunteers each day for programmatic and transportation help.
- **ASP**: The ASP trip requires many adult volunteers, both skilled and unskilled!

\*Any adult who volunteers for an overnight assignment with youth must complete a background check as per session's requirement.

## **OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH**

There are many other opportunities for youth to serve and participate in the life of the church including the following:

- **Reader in Worship**: Youth of all ages are welcome to volunteer to read scripture at any of our weekend services. To volunteer contact Marion Oliver at [mdoliver@optonline.net](mailto:mdoliver@optonline.net).
- **Commission Member**: Youth who have completed the confirmation process are welcome to join a church commission and participate in the planning and leading of various church activities. Commissions include; Christian Education, Mission, Communication and Fellowship & Membership.
- **Sunday School Leader**: High School youth can volunteer with the Sunday School program for pre-school and elementary aged students. For more information contact Judy DePierro at [djmattsam@aol.com](mailto:djmattsam@aol.com).
- **Vacation Bible School Volunteer**: Youth of all ages are welcome to volunteer to lead various components of our VBS program for pre-school and elementary aged children.

## **A WORD ABOUT MONEY!**

The Bound Brook Presbyterian Church has been historically very generous in its support of youth ministry programming. Annually, the church budgets out of its projected pledges over \$10,000 towards youth ministry. This is in addition to the money given from the budget to support youth mission such as ASP & Zambia. Money directed toward Youth Ministry is used to purchase youth ministry resources and supplies, train volunteers and offset the expense of many of our programs and activities. For example our annual retreat actually costs approximately \$160 per person, but because of our budget we are able to cut the cost of students in half and allow volunteers to participate for free.

We know that many of our youth participants come from families that are members of BBPC and pledge annually. We are so greatly for your generosity. However, we also welcome and encourage youth to join us from outside the church membership. If perhaps you are not a pledging member of BBPC, please consider making a donation to the church for use in Youth Ministry. Checks can be made out to BBPC with Youth Ministry written in the memo.

## **HAVE MORE QUESTIONS OR A GREAT IDEA FOR YOUTH?**

If you have more questions about the youth program or you have great idea for a new program please contact Rev. Linda Owens or reach out to the Christian Education Commission, which has oversight of all youth ministry programming. The Christian Education Commission meets monthly on the first Tuesday night of each month (except July & August).

Contact Information:

- **Rev. Linda Owens**, Director of Christian Education, [Linda@bbpc.org](mailto:Linda@bbpc.org)
- **Tom Rodgers**, Director of Music, [Tom@bbpc.org](mailto:Tom@bbpc.org)
- **Judy DePierro**, Elder & Chairperson of Christian Education Commission, [djmattsam@aol.com](mailto:djmattsam@aol.com)
- **Church Phone Number:** (732) 356-3575
- **Church Website:** [www.bbpc.org](http://www.bbpc.org)