

# Youth Newsletter

August 2006

## Youth Group Closes Out Season with Picnic, Prepares to Begin New Year

On Sunday, June 4, approximately 50 youth, parents, and leaders gathered at Bennett's Creek Park for the group's annual Youth Group Cook-Out, which signals the end of the youth group season, and the beginning of summer.

There was great food, fun, and fellowship enjoyed by all. The children especially enjoyed the playground, playing tennis, exploring the park, and playing softball.

The group also enjoyed a dinner, complete with hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, baked beans, cole slaw, potato salad, and much more.

Special thanks to Becke West, Janis Greene, Lisa and Steve Tarkington, Whit Oliver, and everyone else who contributed to making this even fun and enjoyable.

However, even as summer reaches its peak, plans are already being made and finalized for the fall and winter months.

The 2006-2007 youth group season begins on Sunday, August 27, with our annual Youth Group Pool Party. Final plans are now being made, so watch your bulletin or the youth group web site for more information.

## YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULES

### ALL CLUBS

<b>August 27</b>	Youth Group Pool Party, time & details TBA
<b>September 10</b>	Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm
<b>September 17</b>	Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm
<b>September 24</b>	Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm
<b>October 1</b>	Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm

For more information about your club's schedule, including any special events planned for your individual club, please contact your club's leaders.

The youth group calendar is in the process of being finalized, and will be published once it is presented and approved at the next Youth Advisory Committee meeting on Monday, July 31.

The first weekly Regular Meeting of the new season will be on Sunday, September 7. Highlights of the upcoming calendar will include our annual Community Harvest Festival, a family trip/outing, the Alphas/Omegas Ski Retreat, the annual World Vision 30 Hour Famine, and much more. Several new ideas are also being discussed.

We look forward to seeing you and your family at the Youth Group Pool Party, and invite you to bring all of your friends for a great time!

## Youth Group Cook-Out Pictures





## Youth Director's Corner

by David Salerno

As I write this, I simply can't believe that summer is almost over already. There's just one month left until Labor Day, the start of school, and the end of summer vacation. It seems that summer keeps getting shorter and shorter each year.

But, as one season ends, another always begins. And we are hard at work preparing for the next one—the start of the 2006-2007 youth group season.

Currently, we are finalizing both the youth group calendar and the slate of leaders and volunteers. We are also actively discussing many new ideas and suggestions for the upcoming season.

Many of last year's successful events will be repeated again this year. In late October, we will hold our 4th annual Community Harvest Festival. The Alphas and Omegas will once again participate in the 30 Hour Famine, and enjoy fun and fellowship during their annual Ski Retreat.

But there are some changes, as well as some great new ideas, for the upcoming year.

The Pioneer Clubs has completely re-designed its materials for the Pathfinders group, to be more colorful and more exciting, and we will be using the new materials for the first time this year.

We also hope to sponsor a family trip or outing, such as a Family Ski Trip, that youth and their parents can enjoy together.

Later in the fall, we plan to sponsor a Bible Challenge. Each youth will be personally challenged to read the entire Bible in a year. The Reading Plan will be posted on the Youth Group Web Site, where youth can print it out, and even do their daily reading right there on the internet. Printed copies of the Reading Plan would be made available to those youth who prefer a "hard copy", or who do not have internet access. Any youth

that completes this challenge would receive special recognition and a special award. It would be so great to have youth, or even adults, who could say that they've read the entire Bible.

We will also be looking for ways to improve the opening exercise, between dinner and club time, possibly to include special music, or even a special youth praise and worship time.

If you have any suggestions or ideas, please don't hesitate to let me or any member of the Youth Advisory Committee know.

On a different note, there was some discussion about the state and the future of our church during the last Church Conference. The fact of the matter is that we are a multi-generational church, and while that comes with its own unique challenges, it also offers its own unique benefits.

We need all generations in order to succeed as a church family. We need the younger adults and their families in the church, because families are the "key" to church growth, and our children are truly the "leaders of tomorrow". But we also desperately need those who have "paved the way" and worked hard to make our church what it is today, and all the experience and wisdom they bring with them.

I am proud of the fact that we have many generations working in our youth group program. We have had mothers, fathers, daughters, sons, sisters, brothers—even entire families—working together for the sake of our youth. Each and every person is essential to making our youth fellowship the best it can possibly be. Each leader and volunteer brings their own unique personality, talents, and life experiences to their role, which is a benefit for everyone involved. When we are all working together serving God, and seeking His will, our diversity is a strength, not a weakness.

Until next month, God bless,