

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Now 97% Fact-Free!

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Help! I Need Somebody(ies)

As we continue to emerge into the (hopefully) post-pandemic world, things are really starting to take off! There are lots of new opportunities presenting themselves, as well as a

desire for some of the pre-pandemic, regularly-held events to return. (HelloOO, Spaghetti Dinner and Chili Cookoff — is this the year when you'll be back?) In case you need a list, here are the things that have been happening or are definitely on tap in the St. Paul's/St. Matthew's youth ministry world:

- Monthly events for the middle school youth
- Twice-a-month OASIS gatherings for the high school youth
- The Peer Ministry Leadership program for the high school youth
- Summer service opportunities
- The high school summer mission trip to West Virginia through Appalachia Service Project
- Fall retreats at the end of September for both groups
- Delivering and helping distribute St. Paul's Thanksgiving Food Boxes and Easter Food Baskets to the Care Center Foundation in West Chester
- The 30-Hour Famine at the end of February for the high school
- The Annual Easter Egg Hunt at St. Matthew's
- Participating in SEPA Synod's annual Tuscarora Retreat in March
- A middle school mission trip in summer 2023

And here are some things on the "wish list" to resume or introduce:

- Regular (monthly?) events for the younger families in our congregations
- Community fundraising events like the Spaghetti Dinner, Chili Cookoff, and car washes
- A youth "brunch club"
- Partnering with Martin Luther/Silver Springs School to have our youth work with their kids
- Summertime social events

Upcoming Events

see calendar pages for more details and any signup links

☞ **SUNDAY 9.18** High School Youth "OASIS" @ St. Matthew's

☞ **FRI. 9.23 through SUN. 9.25** Middle School and High School Youth Retreats at Bear Creek Camp

As you can see, there is a *LOT* going on in this ministry, with the exciting potential for a *LOT* more to happen!

HOWEVER...

As a whole, these ministries require (or will require) significant amounts of time and energy and a variety of talents, much more than what a single Youth Director, or even a small-but-committed group of adult

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Help! I Need Somebody(ies)

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volunteers, can manage. In order to broaden the ways that our teens can explore, expand, and live out their faith relationship with God and with each other, we need more people who will answer God's call to serve in this area. It might be a small, one-time measure of support, a more significant contribution of time and energy for a multi-day event, or an ongoing commitment to help with a regularly-occurring program. To help folks figure out how they might step forward, I have put together a list of areas where help is most needed right now. A CAVEAT: Some of these require folks to be approved as youth workers under the Youth Protection Policies of both St. Matthew's and St. Paul's, which involves submitting background checks and clearances and going through an hourlong training session. If this is a concern for you for any reason, talk to me or one of the pastors, or seek a way to help that doesn't require going through that process. (It's really not that difficult to complete, though.) In the list of needs below, those that are marked by an asterisk (*) DO require approval as a youth worker.

Here's the list:

- ◆ * Drivers for single-day offsite events
- ◆ * "Second Adults" for onsite and offsite activities
- ◆ * Adults willing to take on occasional, or even regular, activity leadership roles within programs
- ◆ Planning team members for special events, such as the High School Graduate celebration, Spaghetti Dinner, etc.
- ◆ * Adult leaders for week-long mission trips

And these two represent some more pressing, time-sensitive needs:

- ◆ * Drivers & adult leaders for the September 23rd-25th youth retreats to Bear Creek Camp in the Poconos
- ◆ Youth Support Team members (youth worker approval not required, but strongly recommended)

For *any* of these roles, you do **not** need to be a parent of a middle school or high school student; in fact, you don't have to be a parent, period. Age doesn't matter a whole lot, either; some of the best youth workers I've seen have been folks in their 40's, 50's, and 60's. You simply have to have a heart for youth and, if you plan to work with them directly, a willingness to be an open, authentic, caring adult in their lives. If you want more information about any of these roles and what they entail, *please* talk to me about it. I'm not going to try to 'sell' you on helping or pressure you into it, because it's just as important to me (and the kids) that whatever you are contemplating doing is a good fit for you, and truly how God is calling you to use your talents. You can reach me by phone or text at 484-320-0785, or by e-mail at craigyouthmin@gmail.com.

So ask yourself — What's the best way for me to be a 'somebody' to the young adults in our congregation? When you feel that tug from God on your heart, give me a call!



SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH

***Will return in the
next Newsletter!***

**St. Matthew's/St. Paul's
Middle School AND High School Youth
Full-Weekend Retreats
to Bear Creek Camp
in the Pocono Mountains!**



*Friday evening, September 23rd through
Sunday afternoon, September 25th, 2022*

**Two separate retreats,
but on the same weekend
in the same facility**

- *Fun Activities* ● *Food* ● *Thought-Provoking Conversations*
- *Food* ● *Teambuilding* ● *More Food*
- *Games* ● *Campfire* ● *Did We Mention Food?*

☞ \$40 for the first participant from each family

☞ \$20 for each additional participant from the same family

☞ Registrations for BOTH retreats are factored into the cost!



Sign up at these links to participate:

[Middle School Youth Retreat Signup](#)

[High School Youth Retreat Signup](#)



**Adult drivers and
leaders are also
needed; sign up
here to help out**

[Youth Retreat Adult Help](#)

**Registration deadline is
Sunday, September 11th,
so sign up NOW!!!**



Bringing it Back, and Looking Ahead

It's been just a month since our ASP group returned from Logan County, West Virginia. Believe it or not, one of our toughest jobs still lies ahead of us — doing our best to convey to the congregations of St. Paul's and St. Matthew's what an incredible experience it was, and the impact that it made on each of us. ASP is one of those things where, if you haven't experienced it personally, it's difficult to truly appreciate what it means and what it does. We're going to try anyway; at the very least, we hope that people will recognize what an amazing opportunity it is for our youth, and why we need to keep doing it!

So for bringing it back, there will be two events where those who went can tell their stories, and those who didn't go can hear them and learn from them! Here are the details:

- ◆ **Sunday, September 11th at St. Matthew's during the 9:30am worship**, members of our group will talk to the congregation and share video clips and photos from our workweek
- ◆ **Sunday, October 2nd at St. Paul's, beginning at noon in the Fellowship Hall**, members of our group will repeat their September 11th presentation; this will also serve as a kickoff to registration for our 2023 workweek!

Looking ahead: The tentative dates for our 2023 ASP trip are Saturday, July 8th through Saturday, July 15th, so block that out now on your family calendar. This year's registration deadline for our group will be **Sunday, October 30th**, so there are two months for you to decide whether or not you want to be part of this life-changing, faith-building experience.



COMING THIS FALL TO A
CONGREGATION NEAR YOU...



Peer Ministry Leadership Training II: The Second Cohort *This time, it's PERSONAL.*

Actually, it was also personal the *first* time PML training was offered, and the seven Peer Ministry Leaders who completed the program have been busy putting their training into action at St. Paul's and St. Matthew's. **What is Peer Ministry Leadership?** It is a program that helps youth in their relationships with each other, and gives them the confidence that they need to support a classmate who may be struggling with serious life stuff. It also gives them the tools they need to guide friends toward adults who are in a better position to help them. Training is centered around three modules: *Listening Leadership*, *Helping Leadership*, and *Welcoming Leadership*. Each module requires a total of 7-8 hours to complete, so the overall time commitment is significant — but the youth who have already completed their training will tell you that it is worth it. **Students who will be in 9th through 12th grade in the coming school year are eligible to participate; a 'teaser' of sorts will be offered at the September Bear Creek retreat.** Keep watching for more information on when training sessions will be held, and how to get involved with Peer Ministry Leadership!

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH EVENTS SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER

- Fri. evening, Sept. 23rd through Sun. afternoon, Sept. 25th
Middle School Youth Retreat to Bear Creek Camp in the Poconos. *See more details on page 3 of this newsletter; sign up here by Sunday, Sept. 11th to participate: [Middle School Youth Retreat](#).*

OCTOBER

- Sunday, Oct. 23rd, time TBD
Youth Gaming Afternoon at Uplink Studios!
Come show off your e-skills as we take part in a gaming session at Uplink Studios in Glenmoore. Signup info and other details coming very soon; watch for it in the weekly congregation publications and e-mails!

NOVEMBER—DECEMBER

(Additional information coming within the next few weeks)

- Saturday, Nov. 12th, location and time TBD
Middle School Youth 'Friendsgiving' Event
- Sunday, Nov. 20th, location and time TBD
Deliver and Distribute Thanksgiving Food Baskets at Care Center Foundation in West Chester
- Saturday afternoon, Dec. 17th, location and time TBD
Middle School Youth Christmas Party

Tentative dates for the Summer 2023 Middle School Mission Trip are Sunday, June 18th through Friday, June 23rd; more info coming later in September!

You might decide not to be involved in the Middle School Youth...



...but why...



...would you want...



...to miss...



all this?



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH EVENTS SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER

- **Sunday, Sept. 11th**, during St. Matthew's 9:30am worship **Appalachia Service Project Presentation.** *If you weren't able to join our group that went to ASP this summer, here is a chance to hear about their experiences, and hopefully start you thinking about going in summer 2023!*
- **Sunday, Sept. 18th**, 6:30 to 7:45pm at St. Matthew's **OASIS.** *Come early at 6:00pm for Sunday evening worship! Our only agenda is to ease into the fall and continue (or restart) our practice of regularly taking a stress break from life's pressures. Anyone in 9th through 12th grade is welcome; no advance sign-up is necessary.*
- **Fri. evening, Sept. 23rd through Sun. afternoon, Sept. 25th** **High School Youth Retreat to Bear Creek Camp in the Poconos.** *See more details on page 3 of this newsletter. Sign up here by Sept. 11th to participate: [High School Youth Retreat](#).*

OCTOBER

- **Saturday, Oct. 1st**, 7:00 to 8:30pm at St. Paul's **OASIS**
- **Sunday, Oct. 2nd**, Noon to 1:30pm at St. Paul's **2023 Appalachia Service Project Kickoff Event!** *Learn more about what ASP is, what it does, and how you can be part of our July 2023 workweek!*
- **Sunday, Oct. 16th**, 6:30 to 7:45 at St. Matthew's **OASIS**
- **Saturday, Oct. 22nd**, 8:15am to 3:30pm **Good Works Workday.** *Meet at the Good Works Warehouse in Coatesville. Sign up here by Monday, October 10th: [Oct. 22nd Good Works Workday](#).*
- **Sunday, Oct. 23rd**, time TBD **Youth Gaming Afternoon at Uplink Studios!** *Come show off your e-skills as we take part in a gaming session at Uplink Studios in Glenmoore. Signup info and other details coming very soon; watch for it in the weekly congregation publications and e-mails!*

NOVEMBER—DECEMBER

(Additional information coming within the next few weeks)

- **Saturday, Nov. 5th**, 7:00 to 8:30pm at St. Paul's — **OASIS**
- **Sunday, Nov. 20th**, meet at St. Paul's at noon — **Distribute Thanksgiving Food Baskets at Care Center in West Chester**
- **Sunday, Nov. 20th**, 6:30 to 7:45pm at St. Matthew's — **OASIS**
- **Sunday, Dec. 4th**, 6:30 to 7:45pm at St. Matthew's — **OASIS**
- **Saturday afternoon, Dec. 17th**, location and time TBD **High School Youth Christmas Party**

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