

Christian Education

Our education program has changed with the Olathe School district and classes reorganized for the 2010-2011 school year. We came together with a dinner in August and kicked off the education program to recognize our small but dedicated teachers/leaders and implement some changes identified last year. We continue to struggle with proper adult staffing of 2 adults for each interaction with children as recommended by the Safeguarding God's Children Program. This also causes our adult leaders to miss out on their own education. This fall we implemented a seminar on the 3rd Sunday of each month that combines all classes and allows the Youth leaders time to attend Adult forum. We identified a need with Children's church to have new curriculum and we adopted the Storykeepers series. The Senior Youth (grades 9-12) changed to use the weekly gospel message and use the Serendipity Bible for a different translation. Our youth attendance to Diocesan events is down somewhat due to graduation and many of our youth are not yet of age to attend some of the events.

When Mike Walker stepped down from the Sr. Youth program around 5 years ago, I was not thinking at all of working in the youth ministry. My desire was more to the Green team or Maintenance Team. Yes I cared about Youth ministry and had an interest with my 4 daughters attending Sunday School, but to form other Youths' Christian values sounded pretty scary. But we needed someone and Karen Hutchinson, Jane Bush and I decided to face any fear and trepidation and do our best. The youth have taught me so much more than I have them. I just try to present **Christ's Love** and guard over them. It is so important and so rewarding. **And here's the thing, there is not one time "leading" them where I have not laughed at something they say or do. They will put a smile on your face even if sometimes you have to hide it.** So how can this be feared? So please, please pray for our Youth Ministry and pray in your heart to discern if this is the year **YOU** face any fear and volunteer for this ministry. We need you. If it is your call, then let Don Hutchinson or Mother Juli know.

Kindergarten -Sixth(Junior Youth)

The K-6 grades are in a single class. Cathy Nolan, Doreen Rice, Denise Jayaram and Karon Wintrode teach Junior Youth. This model has resulted in consistently having youth present rather than having no class to teach. The youth use the Episcopal Children's Curriculum(ECC) and Episcopal Curriculum for Youth(ECY) offered free from the Virginia Theological Seminary. This curriculum includes handouts with daily devotions, newspapers with bible stories and puzzles. The curriculum matches the Lectionary 3 year cycle. Each year focuses on a "Call". The first year is God's Call(Shell), the second year is Jesus' Call(Cross) and the third year is Church's Call(Chalice). Each lesson has a gathering time, discussion and lots of ideas the leader can tailor to the class. We have 7 enrolled and we average 3-5 in attendance.

High School(Senior Youth)

Thirteen Senior Youth in grades 7-12 meet in the former storage room for study and discussions with Karen Hutchinson and Jane Bush. The team is using the Lectionary and Serendipity Bible for this school

year. Sometimes classes follow the curriculum, sometimes the group discusses teen issues and may meander from topic to topic. Our youth are very active with soccer, football, scouts so attendance averages 3-5.

Children's Church

The Children's Church is growing in numbers. We decided to change the curriculum as we came across a program called "The Storykeepers". This is a cartoon drama of the early Christians under Nero's Rome. During the drama, they tell 47 of Jesus' parables. There are activities to reinforce the story. But it is noticed that the children are engaged in the story of the early Christians and the conversion happening to some of the Roman Centurions as the story plays out. It is hoped this fosters the "community" that we are in and how we can make a difference in our community. Our teachers are: Cathy Nolan, Karon Wintrode and Don Hutchinson with help from Meghan Hronek and Maggie Hutchinson from time to time. Attendance averages 3 and many times we have the Nursery children attend.

"SASSY" - St. Aidan's Summer Sunday School for Youth

Don Hutchinson led the program for the fourth year. The program uses the Upward approach that focuses on a game or activity and then takes 10 minutes to teach a bible verse. Many of the classes are out under the canopy, weather permitting. Youth of all ages are encouraged to attend and invite friends. The goal: To show Christian values in Sports and Games, to see God's miracles in nature and to give talents to the Church. Activities occur each week such as Frisbee Golf, Nature Walks, Hangman and topics such as Sportsmanship, Who is Man, Who is Jesus, and Making a Difference.

Youth Activities

The Youth at St. Aidan's energize the parish, work in food pantries, serve as acolytes, sing in the choirs, provide music and in general bring life to everyone. Plus they are active participants in diocesan activities.

St. Paul's Food Pantry

The young people are the key helpers on the 3rd Saturday of every month. And when all of the youth attend a Diocesan event held on the 3rd Saturday, Deacon Gail gets concerned about the Pantry. This year the youth has logged over 240 hours helping to feed the hungry.

Fun and Games

After the Food Pantry, the young people do fun activities. Sometimes it's a movie, a lock-in, Worlds of Fun or simply lunch or Harry Potter Movie Marathon and Cast Party. Friends and Adults are always welcome to participate in all of St. Aidan's youth activities.

Christmas Caroling

This Christmas the youth and adults caroled our members who reside at Sunrise, Evergreen and Cedar Lake Residences. We met at church for Pizza and some warm up and then went to all 3 retirement homes where we were warmly greeted by the residents. A retired director joined us and led us at one stop. In another, we were asked to accompany a worker as they made their rounds to be Human

“iPods”. Some of our caroling books were donated to residents. We finished with some hot drinks back at the Church.

Mission Palooza

Mission Palooza is a weeklong program in the Kansas City Metropolitan Area where, for five days young people are Christ’s hands and feet in the world. The participants from all over diocese come together for community, mission, fellowship and worship. The event is for students finishing grades 8-12 of the school year prior to the event. In 2010, we did not have any youth attend this East Kansas/West Missouri Diocesan event. We hope this year attendance is back.

Miqra

According to our young people, Miqra is about making new friends, seeing old friends, having fun, and learning about the Bible and team work. This diocesan event is held every January at the Cathedral in Topeka and this year a second location housed the Junior High Youth. This year it is open to Middle school(Grade 6) and up. The primary focus is on reading the entire Bible during the 72 hour weekend. As the youth take turns, other activities include worship, workshops, discussions, games, laughter and songs. Olivia, Tiffany, Lauren, Madeline, Sarah, Samantha, Laurie, Maggie and Geoff t highly recommend this event.

Happening

Happening is a weekend retreat put on "by teens for teens." The program is focused on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ and centered on youth sharing their experiences and faith with other youth. Happening participants hear talks from youth and adult leaders on topics such as identity, reality, prayer, faith, piety, and discipleship. Participants also spend time in small groups discussing the talks and engaged in activities. And of course there's lots of time for worship, singing, games, and fun.

New Beginnings

Student participants (grades 6-8) are engaged in a fun and deeply meaningful program including talks about faith, family, friendship, and peer pressure. There is also rich worship with excellent music. And don't forget games, skits, and small group discussion.

Camp Wood – Summer Camp

There were three diocese camps this past summer. High School Camp is for students finishing grades 9-12, Junior High Camp is for students finishing grades 6-8 and Intermediate Camp is for students finishing grades 3-5. Activities include horseback riding, challenge course, canoeing, kayaking, swimming, arts and crafts, soccer, basketball, tennis, and fishing. In addition to these YMCA activities, the Episcopal staff provides further opportunities for recreation and spiritual growth. These include games and competitions, concerts, talent shows, dances, small group discussions, prayer, meditation, and daily worship.

Fall Fun Fest

The Diocese held a fall reunion of sorts called the Fun Fest for youth. They gathered for fellowship and fun for the fall weekend and had many games that weekend. Ted, Laurie, Maggie and Samantha attended.

Pancake Supper

The youth again hosted the pancake supper. They waited on tables for tips with the proceeds going to the discretionary fund. They enjoyed cooking, handing out beads. They did not like the cleanup however.

Liturgical Dance

The Senior Youth Ladies performed a Liturgical dance on Good Friday and on Saturday for Easter. Tiffany, Jessica and Olivia performed a beautiful prayer with dance.

The Gospel according to Harry Potter

The youth enjoy the Harry Potter saga and our Youth ministry found some materials that look for “glimmers of the Gospel” in the Harry Potter stories. We used the opening of the latest movie and Halloween to have a movie marathon and costume party as the favorite character. Discussion followed with the question, “Do any parts remind you of a Gospel story or lesson?” It became clear that there were such messages in a “fiction”.