

CUCC Youth 2009 Year in Review

Church School:

5th-12th grade church school meets every Sunday from 11AM-12PM except for the 1st Sunday of each month, when 5th-12th graders are encouraged to remain in worship with their families.

2008-2009 School Year

- Leaders (10-12 grade): Led by Santi Matthews. Exploring other faith traditions, and solidifying our own.
- Confirmation (7-9 grade): Led by Sue Cottle and Jason Horrel. (On non-confirmation class weeks, these students meet with Santi Matthews).
- Journey (5-6 grade): Led by Jane Smith. This curriculum was created by Jane Smith and provides experiential learning and an opportunity to read the entire Book of Mark.

2009-2010 School Year

- Leaders (10-12 grade): Led by Maggie Leidheiser-Stoddard. Youth pose questions and propose topics for this discussion style course.
- Confirmation (7-9 grade): Led by Sue Cottle and Mike Evans.
- Journey (5-6 grade): Led by Santi Matthews. This curriculum is called “Beloved Community” and is based on the Book of Acts. While we build our own “Journey” Christian faith community, we learn about the experiences of the early Christian church as they built community and shared their faith.

Youth Group:

The CUCC Youth Group (7th-12th graders) meets every 2nd and 3rd Sunday from 12-2PM. And on 5th Sundays, the youth group invites 5th and 6th graders to join in and share lunch and activities together.

Besides Church School and Youth Group, the youth are involved in many service projects, group building experiences, events with the larger church, fundraising events, etc. Please find below, the 2009 year in review by month.

January:

- Helped w/ a fellowship hour by providing delicious snacks, setting up and cleaning up.
- Enjoyed a winter night out for dinner (at La Shish) and a movie (a teen documentary video which we watched at the Roach-Howell home. We shared snow stories and Anna shared her experiences of her trip to DC to witness the presidential inauguration.
- Cleaned and painted in the youth room.
- Participated in a service project at Equality NC that supported efforts to pass an anti-school violence act that will protect students from bullying based on (among other things), their sexual orientation and gender identity.

- Enjoyed learning from Moni Sawhney who shared a marvelous church school lesson on Hinduism with the Leaders class.

February:

- Prepared for a youth led worship on Sunday, March 29.
- Enjoyed Forum which included a guest visit from Ian at Equality NC.

March:

- Prepared for our youth led service on March 29. Music was carefully selected and rehearsed, drama was created, batik flags were dyed, dance was choreographed, a meditation was written, art work was created for the bulletin cover.

April:

- Shared a meaningful labyrinth walk at Pullen followed by a Loco Pop treat on Good Friday.
- Played ping pong games and had lunch at Santi's house.
- Prepared and mailed packages to those who graduated from high school last year.
- Attended interactive theater production called "Digging for Dignity" by a southeast Raleigh youth group from Poplar Springs Church.
- Provided childcare for the church auction.

May:

- Held parent meeting on May 4 at 5:30 in the Pilgrim House (chef salad dinner provided)
- Went to see "Earth" the movie, after church on Mother's Day, May 10.
- Hosted a reception for graduating seniors;
- Made cookies and cards to celebrate and appreciate our volunteer church school teachers.
- Enjoyed an All Youth (grades 5-12) 5th Sunday: church school, lunch and games after church on 5/31.

June:

- Prepared for summer retreat, lock-in, church wide events, and fall plans.

July:

- Technology Lock-In for 8th and 9th graders
Featuring youth facebook page creation, a game of "sardines", bowling, movie: "iRobot", a little sleep, and breakfast.
- Prepared a delicious meal for a full house of women at the Wright Center. This is an annual service project for the youth and is always fun and meaningful. The meal was a hit again this year. We prepared soft tacos, with a side dish of bean and corn salad and tortilla chips, iced tea, and rice crispy treats for dessert. The women came back for seconds and thirds and asked for "to go" wraps. One woman even called the meal "divine".

- July also brought us the return of Anna from her journey to Japan with Youth for Understanding. Abby and Jackson (along with parents Gary, Jane, and Paul) attended Appalachia Service Project. And Carson attended a film making camp.

August:

- Enjoyed a Creativity Retreat for rising high school seniors Abby and Anna, at Cedar Cross Retreat Center, led by artist, Margaret Hilpert, and Santi Matthews.
- Church School Kick Off August 23.
- Enjoyed 5th Sunday Pool Party. Heather Burkhardt organized a pool party at her pool for all CUCC children, youth, and their families. We had a simple finger food potluck, and swam together.

September

- Enjoyed a welcome back potluck.
- Offered Children's Time on mental health and the Walk for Hope.
- Raised funds for Walk for Hope

October

- Participated in Walk for Hope.
- Attended Church wide picnic.
- Prepared for November Youth Led Variety Show.

November

- Provided and installed youth art for the CUCC art wall.
- Santi was Forum guest: topic "The Importance of Church Community for Families with Teens."
- Provided Youth Led Variety Show as entertainment for fundraiser Turkey Dinner.
- Worked with CUCC children to make Christmas tree decorations.
- Shopped for Christmas tree and ate lunch together as 5th Sunday event.

December

- Attended Advent Party for youth and children.
- Decorated church Christmas tree together.
- Some participated in Christmas Pageant.
- Provided childcare to families as a youth fundraiser: raised \$90.

Many Thanks,
Santi Matthews
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