

Youth Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 17

Greetings everyone and welcome to this week's installment of the Anderson First UMC youth newsletter!

Sunday Night Happenings

It has been a couple of weeks since we met as a group, so I don't really have much to say about Sunday Night Happenings. Two Sundays ago a few of us went up to Epworth Forest for their Fall Youth Rally. There were two bands (Run Kid Run and This Beautiful Republic) and Jared Hall the Illusionist. It was really cool. Good memories. This past Sunday I was at a Great Banquet. It was really good. It really helped to get me realigned and refocused, so hopefully I can plan some more meaningful experiences for the youth and myself in the upcoming weeks.

On that note, I highly suggest that you attend youth group on October 11th. I don't want to divulge much about what's going to happen, but hopefully it will be something meaningful that will connect us as a group and to God.

Other Youth News

- **October 25th at 9:00 A.M.** is the big kick-off for the **Sunday Morning Youth Service**, which has been unofficially named "Something Different." We're looking to have a **special guest** come in and help us kick things off. Stay tuned for more details!
- We are scheduled to work the **Community Café dinner on October 4th**. Meet at the church at **2:30 P.M.!** I want to start things off a little differently, so please be there early!
- The **Youth Auction Fundraiser** details are kind of up in the air at the moment. We're trying to figure out the best time and the best way to do it. Keep your eyes and ears open!
- **Our next service project has changed.** We were originally going to have a rake and run, but now we're going to help paint the office area in the church. This is a good opportunity for us to step up and be the example! It will be on **October 17th**.
- It's been almost a year since we took part in **United Way's Operation: Weatherization** service project, and it's almost that time again! This year it will be on **Saturday, November 7th**. We'll have sign-ups and more specific details as the day gets closer.

- **We're hosting a 30 Hour Famine!** It's going to be on **February 26, 2010**. It seems like a long time from now, but we should start discussing the details now!

Technological Advancements

We need to stay with the times. I've been trying to do that so far. I've started up Facebook groups and fan pages for the church and for the youth. I've been texting, e-mailing, sending newsletters through e-mail, and I even started up a MySpace account for myself (a part of me died that day, though). The next adventure that I'd like to take us on is creating a website. I've been exploring the church website lately, and honestly it's not that great. To be even more honest, the "Youth" section is downright miserable. Therefore, I want to build a separate website for the youth ministry in the church and link it to our church's website. If anyone would like to help out with this please let me know. I want to get this going and finished as soon as possible. This is going to be awesome!

Sunday Morning Youth Service

In a world where images come flying at you around every corner, where it is widely accepted that people learn in different ways, and where people put a lot more value on our individual differences and how that makes us better people, it can be hard to offer a worship experience that reaches both youth and adults. That's why we have decided to offer a separate worship service for the youth in our church one Sunday a month. If you are a parent who puts a lot of value on worshipping as a family, it still allows the youth to worship with the family the majority of the time, but it also offers a meaningful worship experience that they can relate to, that will fulfill them, and will help get them excited about having a relationship with Jesus Christ, so we ask you to strongly consider allowing your child to worship with us. It is only one Sunday a month, and the rest of the month he or she will be with the family.

The first service will be on **October 25 at 9:00 A.M.** This service will feature different ways that someone can worship and will focus on different ways to learn about our faith at church, other than listening to a sermon. It's open to all youth in grades 7 and up and will take place upstairs in the youth area. Please consider urging your child to join us! If you're a youth, please consider coming up and worshipping! It will be truly life-changing!

Youth Band – Temporary Time Change

This coming Sunday we will still have youth band practice, but since we are also serving the Community Café dinner the time will be changed. We will meet from 6:00 – 7:30 P.M. We might start a little bit late or a little bit early depending on when we finish cleaning up, but we will end at 7:30 no matter what. We're going to be practicing upstairs in the youth area. The youth band is open to youth ages 12+ and to anyone who can play an instrument or who has a desire to learn one. Hope to see you there!

Youth Auction Fundraiser

There will be a sign up sheet for the youth auction on the Youth News bulletin board located in the hallway by the workroom and the conference room. If you are a youth and want to auction off your services to help us raise money, please sign up! We need as many participants as possible to make this a successful event!

Youth Band Training – Free Music Lessons!!!

Things with the youth band are going great! However, if we really want this to grow and to continue through the ages, we need to start investing in gaining future members! That's why Jake is offering FREE MUSIC LESSONS! If you are interested in being a part of the youth band, but can't play an instrument (or can't sing), then Jake is willing to teach you how to play something! Right now he is offering guitar, bass guitar, drums, and mandolin, but with a little team work and dedication, you could probably learn how to play anything! If you are interested in this FREE opportunity, then contact Jake at Jacob@andersonfirst.org or 643-6977. Also, if you are interested in helping to teach something, contact Jake as well.

Random Thoughts

The Rise of Fall

Over the past year of me being here, I have divulged parts of my personality to all of you here and there. Sometimes through this newsletter, sometimes through *The Voice*, and sometimes through *gasp* conversations. One thing that I may or may not have expressed is my love for fall. This time last year I was running around trying to find a place to live, trying to get adjusted to Anderson, and trying to figure out how the heck to do my job (I'm still working on that last one). With all of that on my plate, it was hard for me to truly get into the fall spirit, so I doubt I was able to share my excitement with any of you. This year, though, I'm uber (that's a slang term the kids use to put emphasis on something) excited about fall.

It always reminds me of cross country season, and that was one of my biggest highlights while in high school. I also just enjoy the cooler temperatures. During the summer it can get assertively hot and during the winter it can get bitterly cold. The spring gives rise to bees, wasps, yellow jackets, and allergies. During the fall, the leaves change color, which is awesome, and all of those bugs that like to sting people go away.

I feel like life tends to "come alive" more in the fall. I know that spring is the start of flowers blooming and all of that, but I feel like the new year should focus around fall. TV shows start up again. Kids go back to school. Programs at church get going again. It just seems like everything comes back to life. It's like a new beginning.

I'm also a big fan of pumpkins (carving them and roasting the seeds), bonfires, pumpkin spice lattes, apple cider, drinking hot tea on a chilly day, pumpkin pie, Halloween decorations, and anything else associated with fall. I like all of the seasonal beverages and foods, and it also leads the way into Christmas and all of the seasonal beverages and foods that go with that (and I can't forget pigging out on Thanksgiving!).

I could go on forever about how much I love fall, but I won't. God bless!

Jake

Shoutouts

The shoutout this week goes to God. Thank you for fall!

Calendar Dates

October 4 – Community Café

October 17 – Paint Church Offices

October 25 – First Sunday morning youth service

November 7 – Operation: Weatherization

November 22 – Youth Auction Fundraiser

[Upcoming Birthdays \(That I know of\)](#)

October 1 – Danielle Hunt

October 25 – Natalie Griner

October 30 – Whitney Hardison

Thanks for reading and see you next issue!

You are receiving this because you either expressed interest in receiving it or because you are a parent/guardian for one or more youth in the church. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter reply to this e-mail stating so.