

# YOUTH MINISTRY



I came that you might  
have life, better life  
than you believe  
possible.

*JOHN 10:10*

WHEN THE TWO DISCIPLES HEARD HIM SAY THIS, THEY FOLLOWED JESUS. TURNING AROUND, JESUS SAW THEM FOLLOWING AND ASKED, "WHAT DO YOU WANT?" THEY SAID, RABBI" (WHICH MEANS TEACHER), "WHERE ARE YOU STAYING?" "Come," HE REPLIED, "and you will see."  
FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN, CHAPTER ONE, VERSES, 37-39



### *The Invitation :*

I was on the Isle of Iona in June with the other pilgrims when I found myself unable to read, unable to write, unable to walk even because all I wanted to do was look. Look at every-thing. Look over and over and over again. I couldn't stop looking. I couldn't take it all in. As crazy as it sounds, it was as if I could see now what I couldn't see before. As if every-thing had been fuzzy and blurry and now I could see clearly again. And so sitting on this hill on this remote island, I heard Jesus begin to call to me and to invite me: to come and see. See what exactly? See colors. See beauty. See love. See the fruit of a life lived with God. See friends, See family. See adventure. See rabbits and deer and beavers. See trees and flowers. See storms and healings. See meals to be shared. See moments of worship and prayer. See work that needs to be done. See outside of the box, I live in. See life as it should be. See life as it is. See clearly. See deeply. See the face of God so that I can stand with the apostles and say: "yep, I, too, am an eyewitness to His majesty."  
So not a lot of words this year. Not a lot of explanation. The invitation is simple: Come and See for yourself. Come and See. Come and you will See.  
Not only God but life in all it's fullness.  
So this year, Come. Come and See. The Adventures await.

*Welcome to St. Paul's Youth Ministries. Our youth (7-12th graders) are an active, integrated part of the life of St. Paul's. Youth Ministry is one way the church answers the call to pass on our faith to our children. And I am struck year after year as to what an honor it is to be a part of such important work in the church; and what an honor it is to walk with these young people as they grow into the fullness of who God made them to be. The blessings to be received from our young people are simultaneously humbling and magnificent.*

*The Youth Community includes all 7th - 12th graders and friends (some graduates; some parents; some other adults) Together we are a community of faith striving to pay attention to the presence of God in our lives; to carry out our faith beyond the pew on Sunday mornings; to live a life with God in this world in the Way of Jesus.*

*Thank you for taking an interest in Youth Ministry here at St. Paul's. If you have any questions, comments, suggestions - please don't hesitate to contact us.*

*Grace and Peace,*

*Sally*

**Sally Chambers**  
*Minster for Youth*

## OUR PURPOSE OF MINISTRY

Our purpose is to tend to the Christian Formation of teenagers, assisting them in their transition to becoming full participants in the church and witnesses of Christ in the world.

*In other words, our purpose is to provide an oasis where together we can stop, breathe and return to God (who made us, who loves us, who knows us) so that we can go back out into our crazy worlds following Jesus more closely and bringing the Kingdom of God nearer.*

## OUR PRACTICE OF MINISTRY

**We are a community of young and older, of friends and companions, of seekers and finders, of followers and leaders and of pilgrims and disciples. We are a community of St. Paul's, Franklin.**

**We are a community of young people and adults who are trying to shape our lives around following Jesus. We are trying to figure out how to live our life with God in this world. Together we aim not just simply to go to church but to actually be the church: participating in the hope that God brings to this world. And together we try to create a sanctuary in which to take refuge from the craziness of life allowing God to form us as followers of Jesus..**

**So side by side, laughing, crying, playing and praying, we journey together, never sure exactly what adventure will befall us, never sure exactly what front will move through. And just like the knights, the pilgrims and disciples, we trek this Way in search of God's presence in this world discovering along the Way not only who God made us to be, but who God is calling us to become.**

Ultimately youth ministry is about creating space that allows youth and adults to know not only the Christian language and tradition but to experience the living presence of God, FACE 2 FACE. We see youth ministry as a means to practice living a life with God in this world not only for today, but for tomorrow and even ten years from now. Because when we live in God's way, when we chose to walk with God daily, then we begin to discover life in all it's fullness—a better life that we could possibly imagine. The life that Jesus came to bring us. And life that begins today.

## ABOUT OUR MINISTER FOR YOUTH

*Sally Chambers has been the full-time Youth Minister at St. Paul's for almost twelve years. She was born in England, but moved to Ohio at the age of 10. Sally received her BS in Human Development and Social Policy from Northwestern University and earned her Masters in Clinical Social Work from Ohio State University. All of her education concentrated on youth and their families. For the past 16 years, Sally has been involved with youth ministry in one way or another, serving for the last 16 years at St. Paul's.*

*Sally loves to take long walks with 'Bugs' (her four legged companion— where she goes, he goes); watch the sunset; share a "cuppa;" take photos; play with her niece; pray the daily office and hang out in England with her Grandma. Sally is a great believer in pilgrimages of all sorts—to holy places near and far. Even to those places, like Narnia, that we can only reach through the power of imagination. She has dreams of writing books and has been published through the Upper Room. Currently Sally serves on the board of Mountain T.O.P. as chaplain.*

*Above all though Sally adores her calling to walk along side others helping them seek and find the God who calls them to life: life in its fullest. She loves creating space for young and old to come face to face with God and thus begin to learn who He created them to be and to walk with Him daily through all the ups and downs of this crazy world.*

## ABOUT OUR ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR YOUTH

*As of August of 2008, we are in the process of hiring someone for this position.*

## SUNDAY MORNINGS, 10 AM.

- (1) film school (Barnabas) This Sunday Morning offering is for 7th-12th graders. The purpose is to discover what popular films have to say to us about God, about life and about our faith. Each week we will watch 20 minutes of the film and then engage in conversation revolving around the scriptures and questions the film rises. *Film School teaches our young people how to discern God's voice in this world.*
- (2) catechumenate class: (Barnabas). For all 11th and 12th graders. A one year journey that creatively moves through the Catechism of the Episcopal Church emphasizing what you believe and why? As well as what we do and why? At the conclusion of the class, catechumens can choose to be confirmed. A Pilgrimage to England is offered in the summer as an extension of the class.

## SUNDAY AFTERNOONS 5PM.

### Se\*lah a "holy pause" in the grand orchestra of life

It is here that we go deeper and further in our relationships with each other and most importantly with our God. It is here we as a community gather in a context of worship to translate into the details of our everyday lives what it means to follow Jesus in this world. We start at 5pm with Supper. Then we have a time of *Searching* where we read the scriptures together, focus in on a particular image for that day and then creatively try to connect to God through games, art or a myriad of other venues. Then we break into *conversation* groups that focus on our lives. Finally we all gather back together at 7pmish for a *closing benediction*. So **Se\*lah** becomes a place to catch our breath and take a break; a place to pause before we turn to our crazy weeks. **Se\*lah** is loosely arranged around An order for evening worship from the BCP.

## SUMMER SABBATH:

Summer is a time of rest. School's out. It's time to play. It's the time when things shift gears. Everything feels lighter. So summers are the time when we relearn how to rest, how to play; and how to just hang out. Leaving aside all the business and stresses of the school year and practicing the often forgotten commandment of Sabbath. So in the summer we set out to "sanctify" (to make holy) all the playing, swimming, riding, hammering, resting, relaxing, reading, watching and listening that makes up our summers. We take journeys together and we have "summer selah."

## OUR LIFE TOGETHER: *BREAKS IN THE RHYTHM*

### FAMILY GAME NIGHTS

Sometimes we discern that we need as a community is an evening to play. And so our worship at Se\*lah becomes just that—playing. We set up the Wii and PS2 to the projectors; we pull out the board games; we order pizza and we invite everyone who needs a night to play.

### BACK TO SCHOOL RETREAT

For 7-12th graders. Each year it changes to fit our theme and our needs. But usually it includes outdoor adventure and group building of some sort. There is no better way to start the school year than here. Jesus always kept saying to his friends, “come away with me.” And so they did. These retreats give us the opportunity to come Face 2 Face with God and to learn better how to walk with him back in our day to day lives.

### DIOCESAN FALL RETREAT

This is a Diocesan sponsored weekend for all youth, 7-12th grades in which youth come from all over the diocese. What makes this retreat special is our youth learn that the Episcopal church is bigger than our four walls on Main St.

### THE 30-HR FAMINE

In early March, we join with other area churches around the world to participate in *the 30-Hour Famine*, raising awareness and much needed funding for world hunger relief through World Vision. In 11 years, the youth group has collectively raised over \$80,000 to help fight world hunger. This is HUGE!

### PARENT’S LUNCHEON/FAMILY DAY

Yearly we honor our parents for all that they are and all that do for us through a thematic luncheon or other creative endeavors.

### SENIOR SUNDAY/END OF YEAR BBQ.

At the end of the school year, we take time to honor our graduating seniors through the morning services as some of them offer their gifts in church that morning, including the homily. *This morning is followed by Our end of the year celebration and cook-out.*

## OUR LIFE TOGETHER: *BREAKS IN THE RHYTHM.*

### **MARDI GRAS:**

A huge fundraiser and a church-wide gathering for the entire family. A gourmet spread, face painting and crafts, balloon animals contribute to this spirited night. *This feast is made possible through the contributions and donations of youth ministry families and the Men's Club.*

## PILGRIMAGE

*We are a pilgrim people. We are a people who are always moving, always wanting more, never satisfied, never full, never finished. We are a pilgrim people because our hearts will never be at rest, never be satisfied, never be complete until we return to the God who is at the core of all we desire and seek through this life. Since we got kicked out of the Garden of Eden, we have been pilgrims trying to find our way back home to the one who made us, who loves us, who redeems us and who still calls to us. Because of our understanding of life as a journey, we routinely take "physical" journeys to help us understand our spiritual journey.*

### **MOUNTAIN TOP: A PILGRIMAGE IN MISSION**

Our week long summer adventure for 7th–12th graders to the mountains of Tennessee that give youth and adults the opportunity to really put our faith into action and spend a whole week Face 2 Face with themselves, with each other and with God. Engaging in worship, minor-home repair, running day camps, recreation and conversation within a multi-denominational Christian community creates this space through which God changes lives year after year.

### **THE PILGRIMAGE TO GREAT BRITAIN.**

For our catechumens and other adults in the parish, this 10-12 day journey through part of Great Britain builds a foundation for a way of life that practices the presence of God. This physical journey made for spiritual purposes becomes a 'rite of passage' for our catechumens as they seek their God in not just "holy places" but through daily prayer and the everyday details of their life.

## OUR LIFE TOGETHER IN THE CHURCH

The youth at St. Paul's participate in many aspects of church life. We join the parish in the making of advent wreaths, processing on Palm Sunday and making cookies for the children's Christmas pageant. We hold a pancake supper (**Mardi Gras Feast**) on Shrove Tuesday for the entire church. We work with the **Men's club at the annual BBQ**. We help teach **Vacation Bible School** each summer. We help lead the **Easter Egg Hunts** and games at the **Carnival**. We ARE a part of St. Paul's multi-generational community.

### CORPORATE WORSHIP:

Corporate worship, specifically The Holy Eucharist, is at the heart of the Episcopal Church and the Anglican tradition. More specifically though worship is our response to the presence of God by offering our hearts, minds, bodies and souls .

So as a Youth Ministry we continuously try to build the bridge (and keep it open) between our community and our larger parish family. And we are very intentional about this bridge on Sunday mornings during corporate worship. We are always trying to find ways to invite our young people further into the life of the church and her worship. Our church's corporate worship is not complete without our young people. And our young people's worship is not complete without being part of the larger body.

### WAYS TO PARTICIPATE IN WORSHIP:

*As a Family; As a team of friends; by yourself.*

*Call or Email Claire at the church if you'd like to: **Acolyte, Usher, Oblation, Read or help with the Altar.** Claire will put you on the schedule.*

*Call or Email Donna Stokes-Rogers at the church if you'd like to take part in the **The Handbell Choir** or **Girls Vocal Ensemble.***

We also have particular Sundays throughout the school year where we are the assigned ushers and oblationers for the two later morning services. We also periodically do other offerings of worship as well, like "tableaus" of the lessons and sometimes special music.

What happens when we live in God's Way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people.

-Galatians 5:22 (The Message)

## PARENTS, FAMILIES & FRIENDS

The Youth and Family Institute ([www.tyfi.com](http://www.tyfi.com)) in Indiana has found through its research that the primary place for Christian Formation is actually in the home. The church is secondary. This is why families are an integral part of youth ministry at St. Paul's. Part of our job is to help you take your faith home on a Sunday. To help you live a life with God so that you might help your family live a life with God. I mean let's not forget that the very first churches, the very first celebrations of Communion were in people's homes, around people's dinner table and were multi-generational.

Other research has shown that true community is not achieved unless you have three generations present. So that means we need our 7th graders, our 12 graders, our young adults and our older adults.

What this means in practice is that we don't ask for chaperones on Sundays or on journeys. We seek adults who love young people and who are willing to seek God along side them. We seek adults who are willing to enter the world of a teenager and hang out there—not as a pseudo teenager but as an adult who loves them. We believe that in all that we offer and teach, the call and the blessing is there for both adults and youth alike.

*So how can we help you create a home that becomes the primary place of Christian Formation for your family? What do you need spiritually so that you can live a life with God beyond Sundays and thus help your family and these young people to do likewise? Because ultimately Youth Ministry is as much about you as it is about these young people.*

## COMMUNICATION

Primarily we communicate through E-mail. Sending out things in the postal mail only when necessary. So please make sure we have your email and please check it regularly.

We are trying to use the website more as well, so check out the Youth Ministry pages of [www.stpaulsfranklin.com](http://www.stpaulsfranklin.com). On there are downloadable forms, calendars and the like. Information within this booklet is also posted. Links to our photos as well as our blogs and facebook pages can also be found there.

We also use Facebook, Myspace and other creative ways to communicate as well. We try and update our blog, [www.stepoutofthetraffic.com](http://www.stepoutofthetraffic.com) weekly during the school year and daily while we are away.

## OUR PRAYER IN MINISTRY

*I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts, living within you as you trust in Him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love; and may you be able to feel and understand... how long, how wide, how deep and how high His love really is; and to experience this for yourselves, and so at last you will be filled with God*

*From the letter of Paul to the church in Ephesus ch. 3 vs. 17-19*

We pray that they will come to understand life as journey that is part of a story that God has been telling since the beginning of time. We pray that they will know that in this story of good and evil, God has a role for them to play. God has a purpose for them in His church and in this world.

So we hope that our young people and the adults who love them will stand together and say with Enoch, Jacob, Simeon, Paul, the Mary's, Peter and all the saints: *We have been eyewitnesses to His majesty. We have seen God face to face. And we have walked with God.*

And through this testament, they will continue to live a life with God in this world in the way of Jesus. And do so beyond the walls of this church and on more than just Sundays. So that life might be all that it was created to be.

**Your life is a journey you must travel with a deep  
consciousness of God**

*-1Peter1:18 (From the Message).*

# ST. PAUL'S YOUTH MINISTRY

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