

Youth Ministry Annual Report:

The purpose of St. Paul's Youth Ministry is to tend to the Christian Formation of our young people assisting them in their transition to becoming full communicants in the church and witnesses of Christ in the world.

Youth Ministry here at St. Paul's is about being a community of young people and adults who are trying to shape their lives around following Jesus. 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 chaos of life allowing God to form us as *Followers of the Way*.

2007 Highlights

On Sundays:

Film School: for 7th- 10th grades at 10am. Watching 20 minutes a week of contemporary films and other media, we learn to sort through what we watch and what we hear, listening for what God has to say to us. *2007 saw Film School screening Night at the Museum; Click; Raiders of the Lost Ark; Cars and episodes of the Simpsons, the Office, Scrubs and Seinfeld taught by David Johnson, Jay Fahey, Mark Paris, Keith Hege and Sean Impeartrice.*

Catechumenate: for 11th – 12th grades at 10am. This class is a two 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? An actual Pilgrimage to England is offered in the summer as an integral part of the class. The Rite of Confirmation is offered each year. *2007 had 18 participants in the class taught by Sally Chambers.*

Se*lah: for 7th – 12th grades at 5pm. At Se*lah, a "holy pause" in the grand orchestra of life, we gather as a community of youth and adults in a context of worship to further our relationships with God and with each other as we translate into the details of our everyday lives what it means to be a *Follower of the Way*. Our weekly liturgy is based loosely on an Order for Evening Worship in the Book of Common Prayer. Together we break bread (i.e. supper), we read the scriptures, we creatively try to connect to God and we have conversations with each other in smaller groups. *2007 saw an average attendance of 30 – 40 youth and adults each week and as high as 50 on some weeks. Approximately 55 – 60 young people rotate through the doors. Sally Chambers, David Johnson, Kristi Herring, Erin Hepper, Stephanie Stanley, Joey Bryan comprise the regular team of adults who lead at Se*lah.*

Beyond Sundays:

Mardi Gras: a parish-wide family fun event including pancakes, toppings, fruit salad mask-making, face-painting: The traditional pancake supper taken up a notch. *In 2007 we raised \$1530 towards our summer pilgrimage in mission.*

30 Hour Famine: young people and adults fast for 30 hours to raise money to help fight world-poverty. *2007 was our 10th year to participate in the 30 Hour Famine. Forty young people and adults raised \$12,511. Over 50 young people and adults participated in the fast itself. This brings St. Paul's total to almost \$75,000 raise for World Vision through the 30 Hour famine.*

Parent's Luncheon: our young people host a thematic luncheon in honor and thanksgiving of their parents. *In 2007 Otey Hall was transformed into a drive-in movie lot and a picnic lunch was prepared and served to the families.*

Main St Festival Car Park Fundraiser: during the Main St Festival, the parking lot behind Barnabas is blocked off and its spaces are sold. *In 2007, \$810 was raised at the Main St. Festival for our summer pilgrimage in mission.*

Youth Sunday: Our young people lead their congregation in worship through music and theatrics; through being ushers, oblationers and readers. Seniors are invited to preach.

The Pilgrimage to the North of England: a 10 -12 day spiritual journey offered to 11th and 12th grade catechumens and other adults from the parish. *In 2007, 12 pilgrims ventured across the ocean on this sacred journey.*

Vacation Bible School: *In 2007, our young people were once again an active and visible presence in the parish's VBS.*

A Pilgrimage in Mission: to Mountain TOP: Once called a mission trip, this pilgrimage of service and Christian formation takes our young people and adults to the Cumberland Mountains of Tennessee. And through the organization of Mountain TOP, our community joins with others from around the country to work along side the people of the counties for minor-home repair and service work. *In 2007, we took 31 young people and adults to Camp Cumberland Pines in Grundy County. Five of the group participated in Day Camp instead of Service Project with the children of Grundy County.*

Back to School Retreat: The last weekend in August, we gather back together again after a summer of travel. Together we build community and look towards the path that God is calling us down for this school year. *In 2007, we took 45 young people and adults back to Camp Cumberland Pines in Grundy County for this retreat that concluded with White Water Rafting on the Ocoee River.*

Family Game Nights: *2007 saw the installation of what we're sure will become a lasting tradition.* Understanding that sometimes our best worship for God is to play and to enjoy the life He has given us, we brought in several Wii's, an Xbox and a PS2 and rigged them up to play on the large projectors. These along side pizza, foosball, air hockey and other board games created a night to be repeated for entire families. *Our first Family Game Night hosted 70 people of all ages and our second was equally as large with the addition of The Nativity Story playing.*

Pumpkin Festival Car Park Fundraiser: during the Pumpkin Festival, the parking lot behind Barnabas is blocked off and its spaces are sold. *In 2007 we raised \$500 towards our pilgrimage in mission in 2008. We also began tithing on our fundraising income; giving \$50 towards one of the church's sponsored children from World Vision.*

Dickens Christmas Car Park Fundraiser: during Dickens Christmas, the parking lot behind Barnabas is blocked off and its spaces are sold. *In 2007 we raised \$397 towards our pilgrimage in mission in 2008, tithing \$40 to the homeless.*

Advent Feast: *In 2007 in lieu of swapping inexpensive presents with each other, we collected \$5 gifts cards and donated them (55 in total) to the Boys and Girls Club of Franklin for their Christmas Party.*

Youth Minister Continuing Education in 2007:

- Princeton Theological Seminary Youth Ministry Forums;
- Began study through Sursum Corda in Spiritual Direction (studies will be completed in summer of 2008);
- Second year serving as the chaplain and a member of the Board of Directors for Mountain T.O.P.

Staff:

Sally Chambers, Youth Minister

David Johnson, Assistant Youth Minister