

Council Report for Youth Ministry
Peter Fox
December 2020

Greetings in the name of the Lord. Peter here with all the news regarding our youth as we move through Fall/Winter 2020. YG and Faith Formation have been going strong for a several months now, even with all of the societal changes. It seems everyone knows someone wrestling with Covid at this time. That said, things are certainly smaller now, as parents and youth try to navigate through this busy world of the pandemic. Even though this is our new reality, things have still been going pretty good, all things considered. With life in flux and things constantly changing, kids have been adapting surprisingly well (certainly better than us adults). With YG and Faith Formation events, we trying to keep things as 'normal' and 'regular' as possible, to make everyone feel comfortable and welcome. So the calendar is filled like usual, we are just being more open to any needed changes as they surface. Here is a taste of what we did in November.

We started off the month with YG on November 8. Around 25 YG and Advisors met inside for this night of mask-on and socially distanced faith, fun, and fellowship. This night went great. We dug deeper into our HOPE theme for the year, and focused in on what it means to have "TRUE" FAITH. True Faith calls for more than just faith alone. It calls for us to center God in our lives, no matter what. How many of us can actual we say that we do that on the regular? Seriously do that? That my friends is the difference between just having faith (human and shaky) and having "true" faith (from God and steady). We hinged our night on Colossians 2: 16 - 19, which is all about rooting ourselves in God. We grow from his roots. Once rooted we are made stronger, and our faith is strengthened beyond measure. Once again, this is the goal, but it starts with us. This night was filled with solid discussion and awesome activities. On November 22, we had YG BOWLING at Trindle Bowl. Around 25 YG and Advisors met at the bowling alley for this night of mask-on and socially distanced fun and fellowship. This event has really become a YG tradition through the years, so it was nice to have it continue. We bowled two games, ate snacks, and engaged in light conversation. The night was a blast!

Faith formation has been going strong. All classes/sessions for these fall and winter months will be on Zoom, on Sunday mornings at 9:00am. We'll see after that; only time will tell. Middle School Connect is for grades 6 - 8, and Sr. High F.O.J. is for grades 9 - 12. I have great teachers spearheading each group, so I am expecting good things to happen. The sessions for both classes are going quite well. We are seeing a good core, with a new face or two from time to time. Hopefully these classes will continue to grow as we move forward. The curriculum that we are using is from the Orange group, and it's very relational. I like it a lot. It will hopefully elicit lots of quality faith based conversation.

As we move forward, we will continue to strive to keep people connected whether remotely or in person. That said, I have to go, more planning needs to take place, and I feel more stretched than ever. I said this last month, but it still very much applies; please continue to keep our youth and parents in your prayers as they adjust to school, church and life.

Yours in Christ,
Peter Fox
Director of Youth & Student Ministry