

St. Stephen
United Methodist Church

YOUTH NEWS

September 2009

One° Degree

BRANDON DIRKS, MINISTER WITH YOUTH

For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. — Mark 8:35

Have you ever thought about what difference one degree makes? One degree change in the global temperature would start the ice-cap to melt, or start a new ice age. The snow would begin to melt on top of mountains at a rate that would cause a

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Important Dates

Sunday, September 6

UMYF-AM Covered-Dish Breakfast

September 11-13

Senior Class Beach Trip

Sunday, September 13

Kick-Off Extreme Covered Dish!

Wednesday, September 16

WRAP-Up Begins!

Sunday, September 20

Confirmation Mentor Introductions
Discipleship Groups Kick-Off!

September 25-27

Confirmation's FIRST RETREAT!

Sunday, September 27

S.A.C. Sunday (See inside for details!)

Saturday, October 3

Jessica Barrow/Blair Stegall Wedding

Sunday, October 4

CROP Walk



- * Meet the new Seniors!
- * Get the date for Garden City '10!
- * Annual parent meeting
- * Kick off the new year of YOUTH GROUP!

UMYF 2009 KICK-OFF EXTREME COVERED DISH!!

for Families and Youth

Sunday, Sept. 13

5:00-7:30pm in the Gym

Each family should bring a main dish PLUS Senior High families should ALSO bring a side dish, Middle School and Confirmation families should ALSO bring a dessert. Bring your dishes by 5pm to room 8½ near the gym. We will provide drinks! After dinner we will have a special presentation, and then start our year of programming!

Sunday Night UMYF

Our weekly UMYF gatherings are designed to bring us closer to one another and to God through fun, fellowship, and a focus on Jesus Christ. Come at 5pm to hang out with other youth in all grades, as well as the counselors.

Here's our schedule

5:00 Snack Supper (bring \$5) –Youth Cafe

5:30 Youth Worship and Large Group (Youth Ministry Center)

6:30 Senior High, Middle School, Confirmation (meeting rooms)

7:30 Closing

Parents are asked to volunteer to help serve at least one meal during the year. Our Kitchen Staff will buy the food, all you need to do is be here to help cook it, serve it, and clean up! Sign-up dates will be at Kick-off.

Sunday Morning Discipleship Covered Dish Breakfast September 6

Youth, Counselors, and College students are invited to bring a breakfast dish to the youth café on Sunday morning Sept 6 for a Labor Day fellowship breakfast! Hosted by the Youth Education Team, this will be a fun time and a sharing together with our College students home for the weekend. But remember ... if you don't bring food ... we won't have any!

Get Ready for the Crop Walk!

On Sunday, September 13, we end our UMYF-AM gatherings with a focus on helping our community. We will have a lively program put on by our Crop Walk leaders to show us how easy and fun it can be for us to help feed the hungry. If you are wanting to get out there and help people, come find out how!

Welcome New Volunteer Youth Ministers & Leaders!

As we begin a new year of ministry, we welcome our new UMYF counselor teams. I encourage you to pray for these dedicated adults each week! They are working hard at making the “one-degree” difference!

Confirmation

Mark Casper, Coordinator
Susan Johnson
Linda Wilson
Pam Smith
Dave Weaver

Middle School

Mary Owen, Coordinator
Elizabeth Barger
Jennifer Ray
Les Grattan
Tom Henderson
Lars Lippard
Amanda Pierce
Dane Rabb
Cristy Schnitzlein
Amy Shafer-MacDonald

Senior High

Kelly Keesling, Coordinator
Ginny Hough
Susi Robinson
Jessica Barrow
Clonnie Lambert
Blake Morris
Lora Morris
Patrick Reece
Martha Robinson
Don Sutton
Daniel Friel
Mitch MacLaughlin

One° Degree, from front

global reduction in the water supply. One degree is the latitude difference between Greensboro and New Bern, or the longitude difference between Charlotte and Greensboro. Did you know that if you put a frog in a pot of room temperature water on a stove, and slowly increased the temperature by one degree every few minutes, the frog would never jump out, even if he begins to be boiled alive? One degree can make a huge difference.

In math if we pulled out our protractor and drew a one-degree angle, it doesn't look like much at first. But if you were to extend the lines to the end of your paper, you begin to see the gap widen ... and then if you were to extend the lines to the end of the room, house, neighborhood, the gap becomes tremendous! One degree can make a huge difference, especially over time.

Unfortunately, we've been told that big problems in the world require big solutions, and that taking big steps leads to big change ... and that is the best way for us to reach our goals. That's a lie. No wonder so many people start and fail at diets or exercise programs that promise huge changes ... or read books or go to seminars that promise 180 degree changes in our lives ... and

yet people wake up and discover that they have not moved one inch toward where they want to go.

We have an ambitious theme this year — *Wherever You Will Go: Becoming Fully Devoted Followers of Jesus*. When we realize that the small changes are what lead to the big changes — that's what really makes the difference. It's the first steps. It's the baby steps. It's the one-degrees. We are not expecting you to make a dramatic, life-changing step in your life this year, although it is indeed possible. But our goal is to help each youth make a one-degree difference in their faith lives, knowing that 10, 20, or 30 years down the road we will see the amazing difference it will make in the world. One degree can make a huge difference!

— Brandon

Parking

So that we don't have a traffic jam in the parking lot on Sunday nights, please park in an available space when dropping off or picking up. Counselors should park on the gym side of the youth wing. The doors at the front of the church will be locked, so **DO NOT DROP OFF** or **PARK** in the front parking lot.

Youth Ministry Staff

Brandon Dirks Utes Minister
Julia Hubbard Muzik Minister
Kelly Keesling Info Minister
Nancy Baum Administer



Contact Information

Brandon Dirks brandondirks@ststephenmc.net
Address 6800 Sardis Road, Charlotte, NC 28270
Phone 704-364-1824
E-mail nancybaum@ststephenmc.net
Website www.ststephenmc.net

You can get this newsletter, registration forms, health forms, picture galleries, updated information about our youth and recreation programs by going to the website and clicking either "YOUTH" or "RECREATION."

If you would like to help us keep this website exciting and current, talk with Brandon Dirks or e-mail Kelly Keesling at kellykeesling@ststephenmc.net.

Confirmation

Mark Casper - Coordinator

The Confirmation team is READY TO RUMBLE! We have been planning a fast paced, spiritually charged experience for our rising 6th graders. We will explore our Jewish and Christian heritages, and what it means to “Claim the Name” of being a Christian in the United Methodist Church. There will also be great outings to help the group bond as a team – a team that will be together through high school graduation.

The Confirmation team is made up of veterans Pam Smith, Susan Johnson, Linda Wilson and Mark Casper and we welcome the newest member of the team – David Weaver. Please feel free to contact any of us with your questions.

Confirmation started up fast out of the gate with orientation on August 23 and the first lesson on August 30. We will have our first outing (dinner and a movie) on September 11 and the first retreat at Camp Carolwood the weekend of September 25. Keep these dates open along with the UMYF Kickoff on September 13.

Confirmation promises to be a memorable and fun year — a great introduction to the Church, your faith and the UMYF Youth Group!

Middle School

Mary Owen - Coordinator

Middle School UMYF is getting off to a fast and fun start! The Extreme Covered Dish kick-off on September 13 is only the beginning. On Saturday September 26, we will be going on our first outing — a day of fun and fellowship at Lake Tillery.

Sunday October 4, we will be a part of the church wide CROP Walk. Sign up to walk or sponsor another youth who is walking.

Our first retreat of the year is planned for the weekend of **October 9-11**. We will be going to Elk Shoals. This is a trip you do not want to miss! The registration form is included in this mailing.

We are going to practice being Devoted Followers of Jesus this year, through games, spiritual activities and service projects on Sunday nights. I know you will want to be there every week. Together we will find the Joy in Jesus!

Senior High

Kelly Keesling - Coordinator

I am so excited about this year! Our planning teams have met and we have so many great ideas and fun plans — you are not going to want to miss a Sunday night!

Our Seniors will be going on their annual beach retreat **September 11-13** to Holden Beach — a weekend filled with hanging out and re-connecting as a class. We'll also be kicking off the Youth MAGI program, which helps you discover the gifts that God has given you and how to apply it to your service in the church and the world. You won't want to miss it!

On **September 13**, we kick off the UMYF year with the Extreme Covered Dish dinner. We'll meet as a Senior High class for an introduction plus a little fun to kick off the year!

September 20 will be a program about the Appalachia Service Project. We'll learn about the program, find out about our plans for next summer's mission trip, and see a slide show of last year's trip! Come share your experiences with our Freshmen and youth that couldn't go last year.

Our Juniors and Seniors will have a Habitat work day on **Saturday, September 26** (Freshmen & Sophmores — we'll plan something just for you later in the year!). More information on that will be available at kick-off.

Our programming team (youth and adults) will meet after the Crop Walk on **October 4**. If you are interested in helping plan programs or if you have ideas to share, you are welcome to join us.

Other things to put on your calendar:

- **October 9-11** Fall Retreat to the mountains (registration forms will be available at kick-off)
- **Saturday, October 24** Corn Maze outing

Discipleship Groups

Kick-off September 20

Sign-up now for the Discipleship Group that you are willing to commit to. Discipleship Groups are NOT Sunday school classes — Discipleship Groups are small groups of committed young people dedicated to meeting regularly together to help each learn and grow more faithful as a follower of Christ. To sign up, fill out the DG card with your top three picks and return it to the church office or email Brandon with your top three choices by September 13.

This year we have some exciting groups to offer! So Take the Next Step in your faith—commit to meeting with a small group.

Community Barbecue

9 • 19 • 09

Saturday, Sept. 19, 4-7p

Mark your calendar and bring your friends to our community barbecue on Saturday, September 19. It'll be a fun afternoon for our church — with inflatables, music, crafts, and barbecue (free for your friends!). If you don't have a t-shirt yet, pick one up in the Narthex or outside the gym for \$8. We also have plenty of opportunities for you to help that day — set up, clean up, helping with crafts or games, and more! It'll be a fun day!

Missions

YouthWorks

Mark Casper – Coordinator

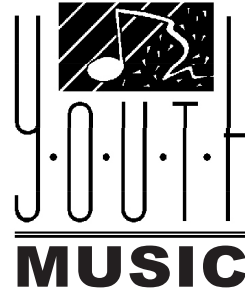
YouthWorks – the summer 2010 edition – has been set. Keep June 27 through July 2 clear on your calendar as we will be returning to Charleston, West Virginia for a fantastic week of relational mission. More details and a parent meeting to come later in the fall.

AGAPE BELLS 6-6:45pm, room 6

This beginning bell choir teaches the fundamentals of handbells, note reading skills and techniques. We play in worship many times during the school year.

YOUTH CHOIR 6:45-7:30pm, choir rm

All youth (6-12 grade) are invited to be a part of our growing program, as we lead worship and provide music for special youth events. Bring a friend!



ALLELUIA RINGERS 7:30-8:15pm, room 6

This advanced handbell choir plays often in worship and attends the annual youth handbell festival in Richmond,

Virginia. Music reading skills are required.

If you are interested in playing handbells, or if you have any other questions, please call Julia Hubbard at church (704-364-1824) or at home (704-321-5415.)

Recreation

Fall Basketball

Registration forms for youth basketball will be available on-line in September. The Recreation Ministry seeks to give youth opportunities in small groups to learn how to meet the intensity of competition with Christian sportsmanship. If you have any questions regarding basketball or the recreation ministry, contact David Walker (704-367-1074) or Brandon Dirks (704-364-1824). Registration forms will be available at the church office or on the recreation page of our website: www.ststephenmc.net/recreation.

Youth WRAP-Up

(Wednesday Rest & Play!)

5-7:30pm, starting Sept. 16

Join us on Wednesday evenings to "Wrap-Up" your busy schedule at school and come and hang-out with your friends at church. Come to the Youth Café and bring your homework if you want, grab a snack, check out the wireless internet, TV, video games, etc. Bring your families to the Wednesday Night Live suppers. WRAP-Up is open any Wednesday that the youth choirs rehearse.

Wednesday Schedule

- 5:00pm Café opens
- 6:00pm Agape Bells (Rm 6)
- 6:45pm Youth Choir (choir room)
- 7:30pm Alleluia Ringers (Rm 6)

WRAP-Up Adults Needed

Contact Brandon if you can volunteer on Wednesday evenings by 'hanging out' with youth: helping with homework, helping to fix snacks in the youth café, or just being a good role model.



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| Tanner Murphy | Sept. 1 |
| Amanda Sisk | Sept. 1 |
| Jeremy Furr | Sept. 2 |
| Michelle Brotherton | Sept. 3 |
| Miles Madden | Sept. 4 |
| Harrison Dunn | Sept. 6 |
| Connor Moore | Sept. 8 |
| Karley Devine | Sept. 9 |
| Ben Roach | Sept. 14 |
| Megan Harley | Sept. 15 |
| Melissa Rhoad | Sept. 16 |
| Charlie Tait | Sept. 19 |
| Ben Leach | Sept. 21 |
| Mackenzie Ray | Sept. 25 |
| Lauren Brown | Sept. 28 |
| Stephen Keesling | Sept. 28 |