

St. Stephen
United Methodist Church

YOUTH NEWS

May 2010

Can I Follow Christ Without Being Weird?

Bad Haircuts

BRANDON DIRKS, MINISTER WITH YOUTH
ADAPTED FROM KEVIN JOHNSON

Discipline always seems painful rather than pleasant at the time, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by discipline.

— Hebrews 12:11

These articles are devoted to answering *practical* questions on how to be

— *continued on next page*

Important Dates

Saturday, May 1

Churchwide TREASURE sale

Friday, May 7

Confirmation Point of Decision

Sunday, May 9

No UMYF - Mother's Day!

Sunday, May 16

Youth Parent Council Meeting

Saturday, May 22

Confirmation Rehearsal & Banquet

Sunday, May 23

Confirmation Sunday
Senior High Pool Party

Sunday, May 30

No UMYF - Memorial Day

Sunday, June 6

UMYF Closing Celebration

Sunday, June 13

DEADLINE for submitting all paperwork and fees for Garden City

May is about CONFIRMATION!

Mark Casper - Coordinator

On May 23rd, the Confirmation Class of 2010 concludes its confirmation experience ... but this is not an "end" ... in fact, it is just a new "beginning." Throughout our year together, we have explored what it means to claim the name Christian and the name United Methodist. There is a lot of meaning in a name, and our prayer is that as newly confirmed United Methodist Christians, our youth will embrace the traditions and significance behind these names. It has been our privilege to journey with these youth — a bright future awaits the St. Stephen Youth Group with the addition of these committed Christians. Thanks to everyone who has made the year so meaningful and fun! — Mark, Pam, Susan, Linda & Dave

Friday, May 7, 5:30pm — Point of Decision

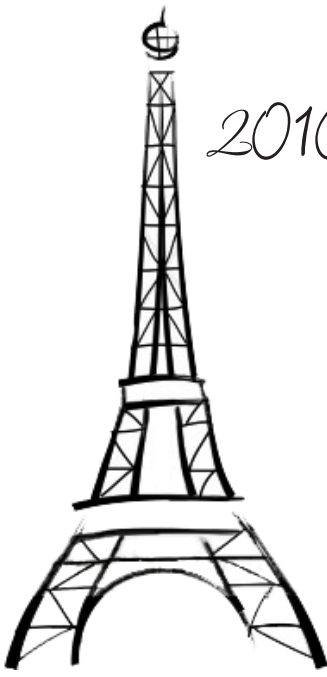
This is it ... the capstone event when youth will decide if they are ready to make their vows of Confirmation! Attendance is required of Confirmands and adult mentors. A snack supper will be provided from 5:30 – 6pm (please bring \$5) and our program will run from 6-8:30pm. Come prepared for fun, fellowship and experiencing God in a very personal way.

Saturday, May 22, 5:00pm — Rehearsal and Banquet

Confirmands, mentors and parents should meet at 5pm in the sanctuary for our ceremony rehearsal. Around 6:15pm we'll move to the YMC and be treated to the debut of our class video yearbook (special thanks to Chris Withrow)! Invitations will be mailed with further details — our evening concludes around 8pm. Extended family members are encouraged and welcome!

Sunday, May 23, 8:00am — Confirmation Sunday

The day has arrived! Confirmands, parents and mentors should meet in the Fireside Room at 8:00am for instructions. Confirmation will be held in the sanctuary as part of the 8:30am traditional service and in a combined 10:50am modern worship service. We also will enjoy a beautiful reception between services in the Youth Ministry Center! Congratulations!



2010 Closing Celebration

Sunday, June 6
in the Fellowship Hall

5:00pm
Doors open for fellowship and food

6:00pm
Program begins

Youth, counselors, and parents are needed to help decorate the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, June 5 beginning at 10am. We need LOTS of help!! Come join us!

Practical Questions, from front

a faithful follower of Christ. Now, "Why should I **submit** to Christ?"

I remember the worst haircut I ever got. I was 14, and my hair ended up sort of spiky on top, but not all the way. It stood up in the back in clumps. The front was parted in the middle and laid flat. And worst of all was the mullet in the back. In looking at this picture now, I can't believe I let the barber do that to me!

Then my mom reminded me of what really happened. That day, I did not want to get my hair cut. In fact, I was so stubborn about it, I threw a little hissy fit. I hid in the house, hoping my mom would forget about the haircut. But she didn't. She made me get one. While in the chair, I kept fidgeting and moving around. I kept talking and turning my head ... I was being as uncooperative as possible. As a result, the barber did the best he could, but because I didn't submit to him ... I got the haircut I deserved!

When we don't submit our lives to the authority of God through Jesus Christ, it is like running away from a haircut. God's authority over our lives means that we allow God to make our decisions with how we use our time, money, and relationships. We give up things that we want in favor of what God wants. When we submit to God's authority, it is like scissors and combs and razors that can help us be our very best. But if we constantly struggle and fight against it, the more we wiggle the worse our hair turns out and the more the process hurts.

So if you are struggling in life, if things aren't always going your way, and you are finding yourself frustrated and blaming others, ask yourself ... are you fighting against an authority that really has your best interests at heart or are you wanting to do things solely your way? It may be the difference between a bad haircut and a great one!

Wherever you will go. — Brandon

Middle School

Mary Owen - Coordinator

Wow!! Can you believe it is already May? This is our last month of Sunday night meetings for this school year. So plan to be here for all of them.

Sunday, May 2

This will be our last gym night with Lars in charge. You know you don't want to miss it!!!

Sunday, May 9 - Mother's Day

(NO UMYF). Be sure to tell your mom you love her at least once!

Sunday, May 16 - SAC Sunday

Come ready to share and care for the last time with your SAC group.

Sunday, May 23

Confirmation Sunday. Be sure to attend worship services to support the confirmands. Sunday night we will be saying good-bye to our wonderful 8th grade class with a special event!!!

Saturday, June 5

YouthWorks Training is from 9:00am-12:00 noon in the Youth Ministry Center. The Parent Meeting is from 11:30-noon that same day. Details to be e-mailed or call Mark Casper at 704-846-6088.

Senior High

Kelly Keesling - Coordinator

We really only have one more evening of programming in Senior High this year. Unbelievable. This year went by so fast! It's been amazing!

Sunday, May 2

Blake is going to lead us in a talk about MONEY! Come ask your questions and get some great advice.

Sunday, May 9 - Mother's Day

No UMYF

Sunday, May 16 - SAC Sunday


It's the last one of the year! Don't miss the last time you will be with your small groups.

Sunday, May 23

Confirmation Sunday in the morning — come celebrate our 6th graders in this very special day in their lives.

In the evening, we'll be having our End of Year Pool Party and Cookout! Join us for an evening of goodbyes and hellos! We will welcome the rising 9th graders and say goodbye to our seniors. More details to follow!

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Logan Huffstetler	May 4	Joshua Brown	May 16
Meagan Carpenter	May 6	Simon Porter	May 17
		Jazlyn Briggs	May 20
		Ann Marie Romaine	May 20
		Daniel Bisette	May 21
		Rachel Gaylord-Miles	May 25
		Meagan Barger	May 27
		Mackenzie Todd	May 31

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