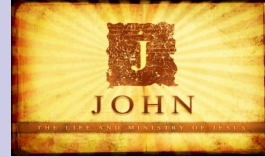


Parent's Connection

Lake Norman Baptist Youth



Why Sunday nights?



You get up and rush out of the house on Sunday mornings for church. You are a blessed family if you are able to pull into the parking lot on time and are not about to kill one another! You make it through service, get inspired, and then go blow your diet on a huge Sunday lunch! Once your lunch settles, you sit down and take that coveted nap on Sunday afternoons while you keep one eye open on the game! Then 4 o'clock hits and the decision begins on whether or not to go back to church. What do you do?

For you parents, I want to motivate you to talk with your student about being a part of our Sunday night youth time. This is the most fruitful time of our ministry.

This is the place where students get to spend time together, have fun, play games, hear a relevant Biblical message and worship together. If there is one easy way to get your student plugged in to youth, this would be the place to come!

What are we doing this year on Sunday nights? At 5 o'clock we will begin with a meal provided by one of you amazing parents! At about 5:30 the famous Kevin Hurd will liven the group up with some humor and game time. This will be followed by great worship from our student led praise team. I will end the night with a message to them that I pray will expose the power of God's Word and the relevance it has today.

This year we will be studying the books of Hebrews and John to give them a proper view of Christ and also to help them see the beauty of the Gospel! Each week there will be quiet times posted on the church website for them to print off and do during the week that are related to the Sunday night message and Scripture. The hope is that they will attend their small group session where they will talk about what they have been learning. Please prayerfully consider getting your student involved this coming year! For those who are, please encourage others to come be a part of this journey. I am SO excited about what God is going to do with this ministry in the years to come!!

Issue 3
September 2011

Upcoming events:

- Sep. 23rd— Hough Concessions
- Oct. 1st— Concert and Carowinds
- Oct. 14th— Hough Concessions
- Oct. 21st— N. Meck Pregame meal
- Oct. 27th-30th Snowbird

A look back on summer

It is hard to believe that our summer has already come and gone!! As our students head back to school and begin a new year, we can look back and see all the fun we had over the summer. We kicked the summer off with a great summer camp at Wake Forest University. We had several students accept Christ, rededicate their lives to Him, or feel a call to ministry or missions.

We also enjoyed a great week of VBS with a lot of students participating. We had the joy of seeing 3 visiting students accept Christ! What a testament to inviting friends to youth!! Right after VBS, 30 of us went to NYC and did mission / service work .

In between these week long events, we had several social events to help build relationships. We played

paintball, had a movie night at the church, and played putt-putt! All in all it was a great summer ,and I look forward to the next one!



Inside this issue:

Culture Shock	2
A Pastor's Heart	3
Look who's in the spotlight	3
Monthly Calendar	4

Culture Shock: Family Matters

Many parents can testify that once their child reaches around the age of 13, something changes. While before they were content and even happy to spend time with their parents, suddenly they seem as if their parents are the last people they want to hang out with. Teens are constantly texting, skyping, Facebooking or wanting to be with their friends. Many parents may be clueless about what to do with this strange new version of their child. Some persist in trying to make connections with their child, others begrudgingly accept that this is typical teen behavior, while others throw their hands up in frustration and just give up. The sad reality is that during the teen years, many parents take a gigantic step back from their teens and as a result, many times their relationships with them suffers greatly.

Yes, the teen years are a time where students begin learning how to think for themselves and begin asserting their independence. And yes, it is important to begin letting them learn some valuable lessons about standing on their own two feet, but it also just might be the time in their lives where they MOST need their parents involvement in their lives (despite what they might think). The truth is, while most teens act like they don't want their parents to be a part of their lives, the ma-

majority of them are desperate for their parents approval and attention. They truly want their parents to know who their friends are, what their interests are, what their struggles are. To put it simply: they want to know that their parents care.

Over the past few decades, our country has seen a breakdown in family values. The traditional family structure has been threatened by things such as divorce, teen-pregnancy and even the issue of same sex marriage. Many in our culture today believe that it no longer matters what type of "family" one grows up in. But this is simply not true. Along with these changes, we have also seen an erosion of moral values. Our teens today are bombarded with images of materialism, sex outside of marriage, and self-centered behavior. If we are to counter the lies being perpetrated by our culture, as parents we must be the voice that consistently and intentionally speaks truth into the lives of our children. However, if we want them to listen, then we must have a solid relationship with them through their teenage years. Pulling away and giving them total control and independence will open wide the door for other voices to influence what they believe: about life, about themselves and most dangerously about their faith in God.

Many studies conducted over the past few years have shown that a teen's relationship with their parents has a direct impact on their future. In a recent survey conducted by the Washington Family council, nearly half of all teens (47.6 percent) say they look to their parents as the "single, most significant influence on (their) thinking about what it will take to have a good marriage." The same study found that teens who don't have healthy family relationships, are not close to their parents and who come from single-parent homes are less likely to have healthy ideas about marriage and parenting and are less likely to make healthy behavioral choices.

Probably the most important reason to stay involved with your teenagers life is to help them navigate the many decisions they will make in their adolescent years. These decisions can greatly impact the rest of their lives. YOU, the parent, are THE most important person in your child's life. YOU have the greatest influence on what they believe and who they will become. And as Christian parents, God calls us to teach our children about Him and his commands. We are called to "train up our children in the way they should go" (Proverbs 22:6) So, despite the fact that they may seem like they don't care, they ARE listening and it DOES matter.



"Fix these words of Mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

Deut 11:18-19

A Pastor's heart...

Over 5 years ago I entered into a small group relationship with 3 other men that changed my life. We committed to meet on a regular basis, hold each other accountable, and learn God's Word together. There are now 6 of us who meet together and just simply do life together. If I were to pin-point any decision that I made that had a profound impact on my life spiritually, joining a small group would be on the top of that list. There is just something special about spending time with brothers and sisters in Christ who are striving for the same thing, and that is becoming more Christlike.

In the spring of this past year we implemented small groups on Sunday nights. The students really seemed to enjoy that time together. Unfortunately the schedule on Sunday evenings was hectic and did not give us a lot of time to do anything well. This is why we removed small group time from the Sunday night line-up and moved it to a midweek time. This allows for more fellowship time on Sunday nights along with a more relaxed schedule.

At student life camp they were again placed into different small groups that they really seemed to respond to. Many even came away from that week asking if their groups could continue meeting. One of the most important aspects of youth ministry is relationship building. Espe-

cially in a church that has students coming from over 10 different schools. It is very hard for anyone, let alone students, to share in a larger group setting. This is why breaking them into small groups is so powerful. They develop closer relationships with peers their age and become more comfortable to share.

Beginning this fall, we are going to an in-home small group system to try and support what has already proven to be a success. We are blessed to have many parents and leaders who have stepped up to open their homes for these groups. They are separated by age and gender. I believe there are appropriate times to bring them all together and also times when they need to be separated. My desire is to protect the innocence of my younger students while giving my older students an opportunity to share some of the struggles and temptations they face on a regular basis.

I know that schedules are busy, but I would ask that you prayerfully consider making an effort to get your students plugged in to a small group. I have personally seen the value of a group like this and know that our students would greatly benefit from a consistent group meeting like this to develop relationships, learn more from God's Word, and be able to gain insight from peers and leaders.



Lynn Clary and Maggie Barrett– 7th girls
Ashley Hearn and Joy Barrett– 8th girls
Jeff and Sarah Graham– 7th-8th boys
Jen Kayser and Nancy Anderson– 9th girls
Matt Hearn and Tim Carroll– 9th boys
Kevin and Michelle Hurd– 10th-12th
Ed and Denise Terzek– 10th-12th
Doug and Donna Brake– Mixed church group
Andi Barkley– Mixed church group

*“As iron sharpens iron,
so one man sharpens
another.”*

Proverbs 27:17

Look who's in the spotlight!

There are many students who could be put in the spotlight, but I wanted to take the opportunity to praise those who are stepping up to lead worship for our students on Sunday nights! Once Washed in White graduated we have had adults leading worship for our students. This summer Taylor Terzek came in and really developed our students to take this mighty task on themselves. They are doing an amazing job and need to be lifted up in

prayer! Please continue to pray for and encourage the following students:

Hannah Terzek
Sarah Jones
Garrett Smith
McKenzie Moss
Jennie Peterson
Lily Barrett
Skylar Noblezada
CJ Noblezada
Andrew Rikard



Sep. 2011

Standing events:
Sunday youth and small groups

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Maria G.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 Hough Con.	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Oct. 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 Toby Mac
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Hough Con.	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Snowbird	28 Snowbird	29 Snowbird

Nov. 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30 Snowbird	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving	25	26
27 No Youth	28	29	30			