



Monday, January 25, 2021, Volume V, Edition 5

## HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP SHIFTS ONE-HALF HOUR! MEDIA GOES BERSERK!

Yes, that is absolutely 100% true! (Well, except for that part about “the media,” unless you count me as Publisher, Editor-in-Chief and Senior Correspondent for the World-Renowned Holy Hotmail, that is.) **High School Youth Group now takes place on Thursdays at 7:30 pm instead of 7.** This is to allow some of you a better chance to join, what with your busy schedules.

If you can't make this time and date, let me know! I have NO problem adding in another session if it is more convenient for some of you. Tell me what could work for you. Some of you I haven't seen in a while - I miss you guys!

## NEXT BIT OF SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY?

This started with a post in the “I Live in Cape St. Claire” Facebook page. Some of you may have seen this already. Regardless, go ahead and read. I'll wait.

*A friend posted that the USS Nimitz was due to return from a deployment but has now been extended. One of the young men on the ship grew up in the Cape. So, I came up with an idea.*

*But I need help from the community.*

*I would like to ask from the community for messages of thanks, appreciation, and support.*

*My goal is to mail to the ship over 5000 notes, one for each member onboard.*

*The members due to CV-19 have not been able to leave the ship in addition to being away from their families.*

*Here is where I need your help. Who can do messages to support the Nimitz 5000 project???*

I ask for these messages to be written on 3x5 index cards. (it will make for packing and shipping to be easy, all the same size)

~~You can get a pack of 100 index from the dollar tree or Walgreens for cheap. In white or colored.~~

(I have a bazillion index cards. If you need some let me know and I'll deliver them to your door!)

This would be a fun project for the kids. You could even put a return address on a few and start a pen pal with a sailor.

The messages can all be the same or different.

Just a short note.

Who is in to help with this challenge??

Will need back by Feb 5<sup>th</sup>



(Examples of cards shown at left)

THIS is exactly the sort of thing one does as part of a Community.

**I AM CHALLENGING US TO WRITE 100 CARDS BEFORE FEBRUARY 5<sup>TH</sup>.** IF

TEN OF US WRITE 10 A PIECE, WE'VE DONE IT! And, that really could just be our starting point. I've got lot of index cards and I'm happy – nay, *thrilled* – to hand deliver as many as you would like. And, I'll even pick them up when you are finished!

We will discuss this more tonight

in Youth Group For All!

## YOUTH-LED SERVICE!

We are continuing our preparation for this exciting project. You careful readers and astute students of the Church Calendar will know immediately that I'm talking about Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, a.k.a., The Second Sunday of Easter.

**TONIGHT, IN YOUTH GROUP FOR ALL, WE WILL PLAY A KAHOOT TO HELP US GET READY.** (That's way more fun than listening to me drone on and on!)

We've got vets of previous services in our august group, but. we've got newbies, too! So, how do we do this?

- Well, it will be a virtual service. We will record all of our portions of the service. This means there are plenty of roles for those of you who enjoy being in front of the camera, as well as those who prefer the more technical aspects.
- We will examine the appointed readings for the day as specified in the Book of Common Prayer. The readings are:
  - Acts 3:12a,13-15,17-26 ,13-15,17-26  
or Isaiah 26:2-9,19  
1 John 5:1-6
  - *or* Acts 3:12a,13-15,17-26 ,13-15,17-26  
John 20:19-31  
Psalm 111 or 118:19-24

You can find them by either looking them up in your Bible, or you could follow this link:

<https://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB/Easter/BEaster2.html>

When we look at these readings, I want us to ask ourselves, “Why these readings?” What are they saying to us? Do they suggest a theme or common idea? Do the readings convey a message that is easy for us to understand? By asking these questions we can begin to form the message we want the congregation to hear.

- MUSIC. The sooner we can discern our message, the sooner we can begin working on the music for the service. So many of you are so talented that I don’t want us to think only in terms of recorded music. We have our fantastic Music Director Jim Douglas as our resource, and I want to make sure we engage him soon to allow the maximum amount of time to advise and guide us.
- We are not going to do a sermon or homily, *per se*. In fact, we really don’t know yet what we will do. That tends to evolve organically as we work through the readings and the music. So, as ideas occur to you – *Speak Up!*

### A RECURRING PLEA

I am always updating email and phone numbers for people. You would be surprised how often these things seem to change! Please make sure I have the email address(es) you prefer me to use, your grade, as well as emergency contact information, cell phones, *etc.* **THANKS!**

# OUR SUMMER SERVICE TRIP/PILGRIMAGE – TAKE TWO!

We got robbed this summer of our service trip & pilgrimage. I am PRAYING that things are back to our (new?) normal for this coming summer. So, even though we are talking about an event in July (*tentatively 12-19 July*), I want you to start thinking and dreaming! Most of the planning is done. Now we have a whole year to really fine-tune things. So, for those of you who are new, or may have forgotten, here is the info as things stand right now.

**IS YOUR SUMMER CALENDAR STARTING TO FILL UP? TELL ME  
AS DATES GET BLOCKED OUT**

Get Excited.



## **THE BASICS**

**PURPOSE:** Service, environmental stewardship, learning to see beyond the façade a new place may present, forging deeper connections with God and each other.

**WHEN:** We will have to watch the calendar and the public health situation closely, but most likely early July. I will be coordinating with the Diocese to not conflict as much as possible with camps, EYE, etc.

**COST:** TBD, but I expect and am planning to keep the individual cost below \$400.00. **NOTE:** Due to several factors, both logistical and related to infrastructure, we are limited to **15** pilgrims total!

**WHERE: Southport, ME, and environs**



Back in 2014 we did a similar trip, and it was quite a success. Here is the pitch. It's a bit long. I'll wait while you get a cup of tea and settle in.

Ready? Okay.

We will travel from St. Margaret's on (12 July - TBD). We will travel Monday to Monday to allow us the opportunity to worship on Sunday with the residents of the town. We will depart quite early Monday morning and it will be a full travel day, so dress comfortably! I expect us to be home by 8 PM on the following Monday.

Tuesday will focus on settling into our surroundings, learning what it takes to live in a delicate environment in a way respectful of God's creation, and some exploration. Two days will be taken up with service. There are several interesting and important projects. One day will be an off-Island day for seeing some of the surrounding areas, and we will use the remaining time for exploration of our island home, fun, reflection and worship.



So, what are our surroundings? We are going to be "roughing" it a bit on a private, 24-acre island off the coast of Maine (the name is Boston Island, and it does show up on Google Maps). Here is what roughing it means. We have access to a house with a kitchen for all cooking, dining, meetings, games during some down time, *etc.* However, due to space limitations, we will be sleeping outside on the lawn in tents – unless we have some bad weather, and then we'll all cram in together!

The Island has no electricity or running water, and yet people have been spending very comfortable summers out there for over 140 years without any complaint! What this really means for us is that we will do things a little more slowly and a little more mindfully.

- **Cooking.** There is a gas grill, as well as a stove and oven. Additionally, there is a refrigerator – powered by propane! There really isn't anything you can make at home that we cannot make there. Once our group is set, we will work on menu planning, and how we divide out the chores during our week together.
- **Bathrooms.** There are options! At the property on which we are staying there is both an outhouse (a two-holer no less!) and a composting toilet. Given that there is no running water, this means no septic system. With just a few people in residence, the outhouse and the composting toilet can keep pace with requirements. When we add in another 15 people,

you quickly learn that the infrastructure is too delicate. We will be setting up a few portable stations for our use to lessen our impact.

- Showering. There is a lovely shower facility, but there is only room for one at a time, so, as with toilets, we will augment. And this leads nicely into a discussion of...
- WATER. No running water means every drop we use is either carefully captured and saved rainwater (all washing and cooking) or transported out from the mainland (all drinking water). When you consider that each gallon weighs 8 pounds, and that it does not rain every day, you quickly learn to conserve! We will have several hands-on lessons on water conservation in addition to many discussions about our “fragile island home.”
- Telephones. We can charge them, but there will be plenty of times when we will not need them. And *this* leads nicely into a discussion of...



**EXPECTATIONS.** You will be bathed in natural beauty. I am not kidding when I say that sunrises and sunsets will take your breath away, and the surroundings will fill you with the wonder of God’s creation. (In case you are wondering, Southport is where Rachael Carson did much of her work). But it also means you will not be sleeping in bed with an adjoining bath or have immediate access to electronics. We will be doing some work to assist members of a community

that is outwardly very wealthy, but perfectly illustrates the growing divide between the wealthy and those struggling to make their lives work. My expectations for you are that you will willingly and cheerfully follow the rules the leaders establish, be participatory in group activities, be willing to get dirty and tired a couple of days, and that you keep your eyes, ears and hearts open to the Holy Spirit, and BE PRESENT.

***IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE LET ME  
KNOW ASAP!***



And now.....

# THE THE HOLY HOTMAIL CALENDAR

(a.k.a. *The thing that makes this newsletter so ridiculously long!*)

- This calendar is keyed to the Anne Arundel County Public School calendar for the school year **2020-2021** (<https://www.aacps.org/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=6890&dataid=30871&FileName=BOE%20Approved%20202021%20CalendarRev.%2081020.pdf>). If there is no school on a particular day, there is no regularly scheduled Youth Group meetings.
- All meetings, unless otherwise noted, will be via Zoom. Links to the meetings are always sent out a few minutes before the actual meeting, so watch your email!

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Event:</u>
1/25	Youth Group-All Together Now! 7-8 pm
1/27	Middle School Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
1/28	High School Youth Group/Sunday School Meeting, 7:30-8:30 pm
2/1	Youth Group-All Together Now! 7-8 pm
2/3	Middle School Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
2/4	High School Youth Group/Sunday School Meeting, 7:30-8:30 pm
2/5	<b>ALL CARDS FOR USS NIMITZ SAILORS ARE DUE!</b>
2/8	Youth Group-All Together Now! 7-8 pm
2/10	Middle School Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
2/11	High School Youth Group/Sunday School Meeting, 7:30-8:30 pm
2/15	<b>NO</b> Youth Group-All Together Now! President's Day – no school
2/17	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY - BEGINNING OF LENT</b>
2/17	Middle School Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
2/18	High School Youth Group/Sunday School Meeting, 7:30-8:30 pm
2/22	Youth Group-All Together Now! 7-8 pm
2/24	Middle School Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
2/25	High School Youth Group/Sunday School Meeting, 7:30-8:30 pm
3/1	Youth Group-All Together Now! 7-8 pm
3/3	Middle School Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
3/4	High School Youth Group/Sunday School Meeting, 7:30-8:30 pm
3/8	Youth Group-All Together Now! 7-8 pm

**3/10** **NO Middle School Youth Group Meeting**, Parent Teacher Conferences, no school  
**3/11** **High School Youth Group/Sunday School Meeting**, 7:30-8:30 pm  
**3/15** **Youth Group-All Together Now!** 7-8 pm  
**3/17** **Middle School Youth Group Meeting**, 7-8 pm  
**3/18** **High School Youth Group/Sunday School Meeting**, 7:30-8:30 pm  
**3/22** **Youth Group-All Together Now!**  
**3/24** **Middle School Youth Group Meeting**, 7-8 pm  
**3/25** **High School Youth Group/Sunday School Meeting**, 7:30-8:30 pm  
**3/29** **Youth Group-All Together Now!** 7-8 pm  
**3/31** **Middle School Youth Group Meeting**, 7-8 pm  
**4/1** **High School Youth Group/Sunday School Meeting**, 7:30-8:30 pm  
**4/4** **EASTER SUNDAY!**  
**4/5** **NO Youth Group-All Together Now!** Easter Monday, no school  
**4/7** **Middle School Youth Group Meeting**, 7-8 pm  
**4/8** **High School Youth Group/Sunday School Meeting**, 7:30-8:30 pm  
**4/11** **YOUTH-LED SERVICE BROADCAST DATE!**  
**4/12** **Youth Group-All Together Now!**  
**4/14** **Middle School Youth Group Meeting**, 7-8 pm  
**4/15** **High School Youth Group/Sunday School Meeting**, 7:30-8:30 pm  
**4/19** **Youth Group-All Together Now!** 7-8 pm  
**4/21** **Middle School Youth Group Meeting**, 7-8 pm  
**4/22** **High School Youth Group/Sunday School Meeting**, 7:30-8:30 pm  
**4/26** **Youth Group-All Together Now!** 7-8 pm  
**4/28** **Middle School Youth Group Meeting**, 7-8 pm  
**4/29** **High School Youth Group/Sunday School Meeting**, 7:30-8:30 pm  
**5/3** **Youth Group-All Together Now!** 7-8 pm  
**5/5** **Middle School Youth Group Meeting**, 7-8 pm  
**5/6** **High School Youth Group/Sunday School Meeting**, 7:30-8:30 pm  
**5/10** **Youth Group-All Together Now!** 7-8 pm  
**5/12** **Middle School Youth Group Meeting**, 7-8 pm  
**5/13** **High School Youth Group/Sunday School Meeting**, 7:30-8:30 pm



- 5/17 Youth Group-All Together Now! 7-8 pm
- 5/19 Middle School Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
- 5/20 High School Youth Group/Sunday School Meeting, 7:30-8:30 pm
- 5/24 Youth Group-All Together Now! 7-8 pm
- 5/26 Middle School Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
- 5/27 High School Youth Group/Sunday School Meeting, 7:30-8:30 pm
- 5/31 **NO** Youth Group-All Together Now! Memorial Day, no school
- 6/2 Middle School Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
- 6/3 High School Youth Group/Sunday School Meeting, 7:30-8:30 pm
- 6/7 Youth Group-All Together Now! 7-8 pm
- 6/9 Middle School Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
- 6/10 High School Youth Group/Sunday School Meeting, 7:30-8:30 pm
- 6/14 Youth Group-All Together Now! **END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR PARTY**, 7-8 pm

7/12-19 **SERVICE TRIP TENTATIVE DATES** – Let me know *ASAP* if this works. I have some time to move things around at this point!

*And now, as always, because you made it this far...*



Thanks to Paul Gladney 00-14-1999

**JOSEPH, COME QUICK ... JESUS IS TAKING HIS FIRST STEPS**

*Oh yeah, one more thing.*  
 Somewhere in this newsletter there might be a spelling and/or grammar error. I proof these pretty carefully, but things do slip by on occasion. If you find one, text me at 410-507-9370 (and now you have *my* cell number). If you are the first to correctly identify an error, you will win a **prize!**