



Monday, November 8, 2021, 2021, Volume VI, Edition 3

YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM – IMPORTANT!

THIS COMING SATURDAY, 13 NOVEMBER, FROM 9 AM UNTIL APPROXIMATELY 3 PM, YOU HAVE THE INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY TO (VIRTUALLY) ATTEND A ONE-DAY YOUTH LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP!

For the past nine years, our Diocesan Youth Missioner Kate Riley has led this excellent workshop, and I've been privileged to help for the last four or so. Normally, this program involves four (4) five-hour sessions, plus attending the MLK Jr. Lock-In.

During this program, students explore concepts of leadership, assessing their own skills, using the Bible as our leadership laboratory. We ask questions such as:

- *Exactly how good were some of the famous figures in Biblical history when it came to leadership?*
- *How do we measure up?*
- *What would we do differently, and why?*
- *What leadership skills do I already possess, and how can I best apply them in the service of Christ?*
- *What skills can I improve on?*

Obviously, the Pandemic affected this wonderful program as it did everything else. In an effort to re-start it, Kate and I are making you a ***special, one-time offer!***

Show up – virtually – this Saturday (and I strongly encourage you to attend the MLK Lock-In as well) and you can complete a special abridged version of the Program!

PARENTS! This workshop comes with a certificate of completion that looks great on **job applications, college applications**, and framed on your child's wall!

Kate and I are hosting. You can be in your pajamas for all we care!



There is a \$10.00 cost, and I ask that you sign up [here](http://episcopalmariandyouth.weebly.com/events.html). Or you can put <http://episcopalmariandyouth.weebly.com/events.html> into your browser.

Scroll down until you see this picture (yes, there is a spelling error): and click on the “Register Here” button.

The program is generally geared toward High School students – but if you are truly interested, talk to me.

MODIFICATIONS TO OUR YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

This year we started with three meetings a week: Mondays for everyone, Wednesdays focused on Middle School, and Thursdays for the High School crowd. Now that our Monday meetings have resumed being in-person, we are making another change!

From now on, there will be two YG meetings per week. Mondays allow us to do those things best done in-person – especially games! I am combining the Wednesday and Thursday night meetings into just Wednesday, and this meeting will remain on Zoom. It is no longer specifically focused on Middle School but is the session where we will be tackling some of our more “academic” discussions.

On that note, a word about what those discussions look like. First, I don’t like to lecture. I don’t think many of us learn well just by being told what we need to know. We learn and retain more the more engaged we are. To that end, I prefer more of a seminar-type arrangement and so, if you show up, you WILL participate. Second, I don’t focus on Church Doctrine, per se. I want everyone to feel familiar and comfortable with finding things in the Bible. I want us to think critically about the things we read in it. I want us to learn to apply context to the material. In short, I’d love to have every student feel they can pick up a Bible and not be intimidated by it but intrigued. I want us all to know that we can figure out a Christian response to the challenges of this life. It is very important to me that all the students come to their own understanding of faith and where they are on their journey and embrace it fully. Parents especially, if you have questions about this, or anything we do in Youth Group, *please* see me!

Please see the **HOLY HOTMAIL CALENDAR** at the end of this edition for all the updated meeting dates and times. (BTW, we need a name for the Wednesday night meeting. “Virtual” is boring).

LAST WEEK'S LOCK-IN WAS A BLAST! AND, THERE IS MORE TO COME!

We finally had our Lock-In! Okay, a week late but after 18 months...This was for pure fun. We played games and enjoyed each other's company. Our next St. Margaret's Lock-In is scheduled for **March 18th**. *But*, keep an eye peeled in this space – there *will be* a Diocesan Lock-In over MLK Jr. weekend this coming January. It will be 16-17 January at Memorial Church in Baltimore (1407 Bolton Street). There is a \$25.00 cost for this event. This is a fantastic opportunity to interact with other youth from throughout the Diocese and perform important services for the community!

I would like to send a special shout-out to two awesome volunteers who helped make Friday night's fun possible. *THANK YOU, GAIL MORTON AND MALCOLM HUNTLEY, FOR STEPPING UP AND ASSISTING!* And another huge Thanks! to everyone who offered their help. The program cannot succeed without you!

Here are a couple of pics from the festivities (I forgot to take more action shots. I was too busy having fun!)



THE WARM TREE IS COMING!

We will have the tree up in the Narthex before the month is out. I am in contact with the awesome Allison Matthews of the Broadneck feeder system about specific needs, and I'm hoping she will come to one of our November meetings to tell you in person about the need some of your peers' experience.



CONTACT INFO DESPERATELY SOUGHT BY YG LEADER

"It's around here somewhere; I just know it!" Mr. Jeff heard to mutter....

Same old post I could make in every edition of this newsletter! (*And often do.*)

1. If you are new, please send me your preferred contact information, and PLEASE REGISTER IN REALM!
1. If any of your info has changed, please let me know, and UPDATE REALM!
1. If you have scheduled activities during our regular YG meeting times, let me know. Also, every meeting is open to every member!

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!**

THE ETERNAL PLEA: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Okay, you've read this far. That means I'm assuming you are truly interested in our youth and our program. We are entering Stewardship season. I'm not going to plea for money. Stewardship is about more than money. It is about recognizing that you can influence the future while growing and protecting the present. We find ourselves in stewardship positions many times in our life, and for many reasons.

I'm asking you to consider taking on one more stewardship role and volunteer to help the Youth Group. This is not a major commitment relative to some others. At the most basic level, as a youth-worker I must put in place certain safeguards, one of which is ensuring there are always enough adults to ensure a safe environment. But it really is about much more than that.

It is about getting to know some interesting and thoughtful young people you might not otherwise encounter.

It is about sharing your accumulated wisdom – yes, you have some.

It is about listening and understanding.

It is about belonging.

It is about joy.

I'm not asking for much. If you can give us two hours a month on a Monday night that would be amazing. And I'll make you a deal. If at the end of your first meeting you don't feel a mixture of

happiness, excitement, and maybe even a little wonder, I'll pay for your dinner and the gas you used getting here and home again.

Spoiler alert – I won't be paying, and you'll be back.

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 2021-2022 (<https://www.aacps.org/Page/2#calendar1/20210914/month>) If there is no school on a particular day, there is no regularly scheduled Youth Group meetings.
- All Zoom meeting links are always sent out a few minutes before the actual meeting, so watch your email!
- NOTE: All Diocese of MD events are listed in **PURPLE**

<u>DATE:</u>	<u>EVENT:</u>
11/08	Youth Group - All Together Now! 6:45-8:30, Classroom D, Formation Building
11/10	Virtual Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
11/13	Episcopal Youth Leadership Workshop. 9 am – 3 pm (approximately). There is a \$10.00 cost, and I ask that you sign up here . Or you can put http://episcopalmarylandyouth.weebly.com/events.html into your browser.
11/15	Youth Group - All Together Now! 6:45-8:30, Classroom D, Formation Building
11/17	Virtual Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
11/22	Youth Group - All Together Now! 6:45-8:30, Classroom D, Formation Building
11/24	NO Virtual Youth Group Meeting THANKSGIVING!
11/29	Youth Group - All Together Now! 6:45-8:30, Classroom D, Formation Building <i>This is the meeting where we will set up and decorate our Warm Tree!</i>
12/01	Virtual Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
12/06	Youth Group - All Together Now! 6:45-8:30, Classroom D, Formation Building
12/08	Virtual Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
12/13	Youth Group - All Together Now! 6:45-8:30, Classroom D, Formation Building
12/15	Virtual Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
12/20	Youth Group - All Together Now! 6:45-8:30, Classroom D, Formation Building

CHRISTMAS PARTY!

THERE ARE NO SCHEDULED YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS DURING AACPS WINTER BREAK. Our next meeting is....

- 01/03** Youth Group - All Together Now! 6:45-8:30, Classroom D, Formation Building
- 01/05** Virtual Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
- 01/10** Youth Group - All Together Now! 6:45-8:30, Classroom D, Formation Building
- 01/12** Virtual Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
- 01/16-17** **MLK Jr. Day Observance (Diocese of MD)** 7th-12th Grade, Memorial Church in Baltimore (1407 Bolton Street). Cost: \$25
An overnight at Memorial, Baltimore that includes discussions about history and reconciliation about racism in the church and the country. Our hope is that we can participate in the Baltimore City Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade where we can march proudly with signs proclaiming God's love!
- 01/17** **NO Youth Group - All Together Now!** MLK JR. Day
- 01/19** Virtual Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
- 01/24** Youth Group - All Together Now! 6:45-8:30, Classroom D, Formation Building
- 01/26** Virtual Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
- 01/31** Youth Group - All Together Now! 6:45-8:30, Classroom D, Formation Building
- 02/02** Virtual Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
- 02/07** Youth Group - All Together Now! 6:45-8:30, Classroom D, Formation Building
- 02/09** Virtual Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
- 02/11-13** **Happening Retreat (Diocese of MD)** 9th-12th Grade, The Claggett Center, Cost: \$95
All 9th -12th grade students are invited to participate in this student designed retreat! Our youth led staff will lead students through a weekend of small groups, large groups, worship, fun, and community building. This weekend is centered on deepening a student's relationship with Jesus and one another!
- 02/14** Youth Group - All Together Now! 6:45-8:30, Classroom D, Formation Building
- 02/16** Virtual Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
- 02/21** **NO Youth Group - All Together Now!** President's Day Observance
- 02/23** Virtual Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
- 02/28** Youth Group - All Together Now! 6:45-8:30, Classroom D, Formation Building
- 03/02** Virtual Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
- 03/07** Youth Group - All Together Now! 6:45-8:30, Classroom D, Formation Building

- 03/09 Virtual Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
- 03/14 Youth Group - All Together Now! 6:45-8:30, Classroom D, Formation Building
- 03/16 Virtual Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
- 03/18 **LOCK IN!** St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, 6 pm – 8 am
- 03/21 Youth Group - All Together Now! 6:45-8:30, Classroom D, Formation Building
- 03/23 Virtual Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
- 03/28 **NO Youth Group - All Together Now!** Winter Relief will be using our room.
- 03/30 Virtual Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
- 04/04 Youth Group - All Together Now! 6:45-8:30, Classroom D, Formation Building
- 04/06 Virtual Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
- 04/11 **NO Youth Group - All Together Now!** **Easter/Spring Break**
- 04/13 **NO Virtual Youth Group Meeting, Easter/Spring Break**
- 04/18 **NO Youth Group - All Together Now!** **Easter/Spring Break**
- 04/20 Virtual Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
- 04/22-24 **New Beginnings Retreat (Diocese of MD)** 6th - 12th grade, Camp Wright, Stevensville, Cost: \$75
All 6-8th graders are welcome to become campers for this weekend staffed and designed by our high schoolers! All 9-12th graders are welcomed to become staff members and participate in this great opportunity to be silly, pray out loud, and be a mentor to younger students.
- 04/25 Youth Group - All Together Now! 6:45-8:30, Classroom D, Formation Building
- 04/27 **NO Virtual Youth Group Meeting** (*it's my anniversary!*)
- 04/28 High School Youth Group/Sunday School Meeting, 7:30-8:30 pm
- 05/04 Virtual Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
- 05/09 Youth Group - All Together Now! 6:45-8:30, Classroom D, Formation Building
- 05/11 Virtual Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
- 05/15 **YOUTH LED SERVICE**, St. Margaret's Church, both the 9 am and 11:15 services
- 05/15 **Senior Sendoff (Diocese of MD)** All ages, The Claggett Center
Help us celebrate the class of 2022! Seniors are welcome to sign up to be honored at this worship service and luncheon. Then, have time to explore the beauty of the Claggett Center. All friends, family, and honored guests are welcomed to come to this outdoor event.
- 05/16 Youth Group - All Together Now! 6:45-8:30, Classroom D, Formation Building
- 05/18 Virtual Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
- 05/23 Youth Group - All Together Now! 6:45-8:30, Classroom D, Formation Building

- 05/25 Virtual Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
- 05/30 **NO Youth Group - All Together Now!** **MEMORIAL DAY**
- 06/01 Virtual Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
- 06/06 Youth Group - All Together Now! 6:45-8:30, Classroom D, Formation Building
- 06/08 Virtual Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
- 06/13 Youth Group - All Together Now! 6:45-8:30, Classroom D, Formation Building
- 06/15 Virtual Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
- 06/17 **END OF SCHOOL LOCK IN!** St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, 6 pm – 8 am
- 07/07-14 **General Convention: Volunteers for the Children's Program (Diocese of MD).**
July 7-14, Baltimore Convention Center, 16 y/o and up.
 It takes a lot to keep children safe, entertained, and connected to community during a ten-day long conference! Come volunteer to assist in the building of this special program for children of General Convention!
- 07/06-13 **TENTATIVE! SUMMER SERVICE TRIP** There is lots to discuss (to include exact dates), and we have some time. Stand by!

And now, as always, because you made it this far...(and it IS Fall)



WILL YOU PLEASE PICK UP ALL YOUR CLOTHES?