



Wednesday, August 9, 2023, Volume VIII, Edition 1

EXTRA EXTRA!

A NEW YEAR, A NEW

SCHEDULE: SURVEY RESULTS

It's here! A new school year, and a new Youth Group year, and new friends to make! And a new format! It's all new! It's loaded with exclamation points! Read on and learn more.

At the end of school last year, I conducted a survey on how we should structure Youth Group going forward. The big questions were: 1. Do we keep YG on Monday nights or move to a Sunday afternoon?, and 2. Can you adults volunteer to help?

Only 7% of respondents said YG on a Sunday was no good for them. The same number said they could not volunteer on a Sunday afternoon. So, with 93% saying either Sunday is good – or could be – that clinches it. We move to a Sunday afternoon format. The preferred time was relatively evenly distributed, with a slight edge to 4-6pm. Let's give it a try!

YOUTH GROUP WILL MEET THIS YEAR FROM 4-6

PM ON SUNDAYS!

Check out the HOLY HOTMAIL calendar below for specific dates and other events. This is a big move for the program, and one we have contemplated for some time. I can't wait to see you all at **our first meeting on 17 September at 4pm!**

**PARENTS: I AM HOLDING AN INFORMATION SESSION ON SUNDAY,
10 SEPTEMBER IN THE YG ROOM, CLASSROOM D**

**AND THE RIPPLE EFFECTS OF CHANGE...
GREAT NEWS FOR VOLUNTEERS!**

The change to a Sunday afternoon format means GREAT THINGS for you awesome volunteers and soon-to-be volunteers! Sunday afternoons mean:

- No rushing from after-school activities to make YG on time!
- You aren't rushing home from work and feeling too tired and stressed to help out!
- It gets you out of raking leaves on a Sunday afternoon and you could be playing fun games instead!
- Now you can be part of the choir or attend Monday evening programs (*and the same for our students!*).
- You are already in a God frame-of-mind from church anyway....
- You are home in time for Sunday dinner, and whatever your Sunday evening routine may be.

And now for my standard pitch. I can build and organize the Youth Group program, but I cannot – **MAY not** – do it alone. This is primarily a safety measure. That aspect aside, however, it is a fun time each week! Our children are bright, funny, surprisingly wise – well, you *know* all that. But to be part of the Group with them is truly a special thing. You will be surprised and excited by the things you will learn from them. And it requires so little!

What I am aiming for is at least eight (8) volunteers. This minimum number would mean that each volunteer would *only be needed at every 8th meeting*. Two hours on a Sunday afternoon essentially every other month. I don't think that's too much to ask to help out a program vital to our parish's future. Of course, with more, I can do more. But 8 would be terrific (*you thought I was going to rhyme and say 'great' didn't you?* 😊).

Please contact me at jeff@st-margarets.org or at 410-507-9370. I can't wait to hear from you!

**THERE IS SO MUCH MORE, BUT THIS IS
ENOUGH TO GET YOU STARTED. YAY! HERE
WE GO!**

THE HOLY **HOTMAIL** CALENDAR

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

- This is a “rolling” calendar. It will have changes with each edition of the HOLY **HOTMAIL**!
- This calendar is keyed to the [Anne Arundel County Public School calendar](#) for the School Year 2023-2024
- Diocesan-sponsored events are in **PURPLE**. To register of any Diocesan event, please visit the Diocesan [Youth Missioner’s Events webpage](#) and click on the Register button for your desired event.

DATE:

EVENT:

09/10

Youth Group Information Session for Parents, 10:15-11:15, Classroom D, Formation Building

09/17

Youth Group, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Classroom D, Formation Building.

09/24

Youth Group, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Classroom D, Formation Building.

09/30

Safe Dating Workshop, 10:00 am -2:00 pm, Classroom D, Formation Building.

6th Grade – 12th Grade and Parents/Guardians

Cost: \$5

Join Kate Riley and Laura McGuire for a workshop where you can ask questions about dating, relationships, boundaries, sex, and what God has to do with it all. Bring your questions and your concerns. For all youth in grades 6, and up and the people who love them. There will be a lite lunch provided.

[Send Registration Email](#)

10/01

Youth Group, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Classroom D, Formation Building.

10/07

National Acolyte Festival, *Washington National Cathedral, Cost: \$10 per acolyte (youth and adult)*

A gathering of acolytes from across the country to celebrate this vital ministry of service and faith. The festival is a time-honored tradition for many congregations, and the Cathedral is eager for its return this fall and welcoming those making their first pilgrimage to the Cathedral. Please note: There is no registration fee for processing clergy or vergers, or family and friends attending

the service. The registration deadline to be included in printed program is September 8, 2023. Parking reservations are **required** if your group is coming by bus, and there is a \$50 fee for bus parking. Please contact groups@cathedral.org for parking procedure and payment information.

Let the diocese know you're attending! [Email Kate](#) for potential carpools, meet ups, and to have your photos shared.

[Register Here](#)

- 10/08** **Youth Group**, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Classroom D, Formation Building.
- 10/15** **Missions Fair**, 10:15-11:15, St. Margaret’s Parish Hall.
- 10/15** **Youth Group**, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Classroom D, Formation Building.
- 10/22** **Youth Group**, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Classroom D, Formation Building.
- 10/27-28** **Halloween Lock-In**, Friday, 6:00 pm until Saturday, 8:00 am, Classroom D, Formation Building.
- 10/29** **YOUTH LED SERVICE SUNDAY!** (More to follow).
- 10/29** **FALL FESTIVAL!**, 10:15 am – 1:00 pm, St. Margaret’s.
- 10/29** **Youth Group**, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Classroom D, Formation Building.
- 11/05** **Youth Group**, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Classroom D, Formation Building.
- 11/10-11** **Diocesan Convention**, 7th grade - 12th grade, \$15, The Claggett Center
Middle and high school students are welcome to serve as pages for the Friday and Saturday of Convention! Collect up to 12 service hours for credit while we hand out voting ballots, count votes, and serve at the need of the Bishops. We will also have a lock in to stretch, eat, and have some fun. Saturday morning includes breakfast with the bishops and the youth! A great opportunity to learn more about how the diocese operates and ask questions.

Youth aged 16-22 can also serve as delegate for their region. Sit at the table with your parish representatives, listen to discussions, vote, and have voice!

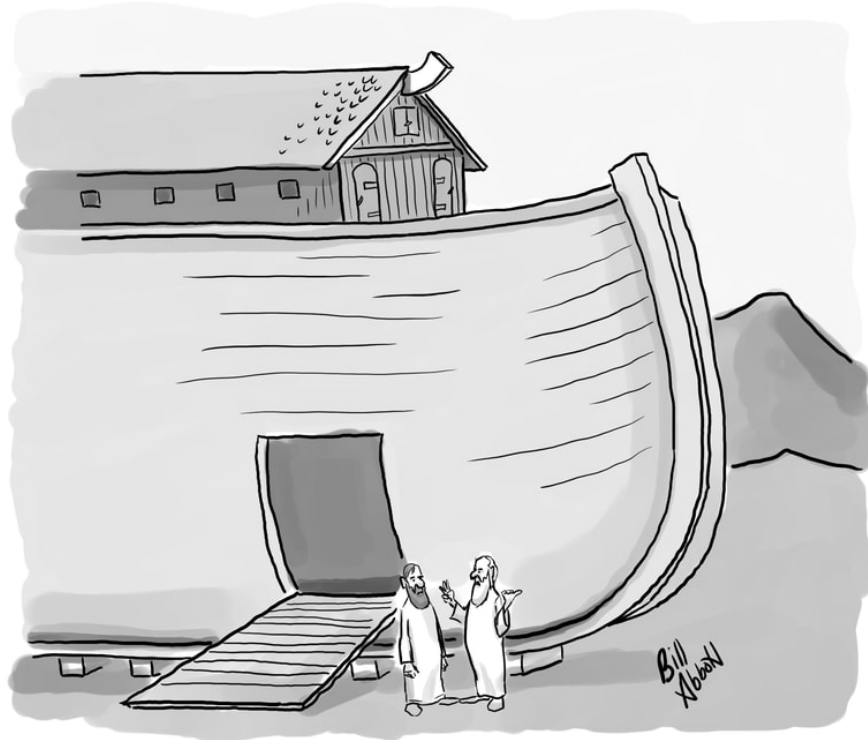
- 11/12** Youth Group, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Classroom D, Formation Building.
- 11/19** **NO Youth Group, THANKSGIVING WEEK**
- 11/26** Youth Group, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Classroom D, Formation Building.
- 12/03** **ADVENT BEGINS!**
- 12/03** Youth Group, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Classroom D, Formation Building.
- 12/10** Youth Group, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Classroom D, Formation Building.
- 12/17** Youth Group, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Classroom D, Formation Building.
- 12/24** **NO Youth Group, CHRISTMAS EVE**
- 12/31** **NO Youth Group, NEW YEAR'S EVE**
- 01/06-07** **Young Adult Retreat**, *High School Graduates - early 30s, The Claggett Center*
Cost: \$30
 A single night retreat to pause day to day to life. A space to create new ways to incorporate spirituality amongst a busy schedule. With a focus on self-care while creating community amongst other emerging adults. Created and lead by young adults who may share similar experiences.
- 01/07** Youth Group, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Classroom D, Formation Building.
- 01/14** **NO Youth Group, DIOCESAN MLK Jr. EVENT**
- 01/14-15** **DIOCESAN MLK Jr. EVENT (TBD)**
- 01/21** Youth Group, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Classroom D, Formation Building .
- 01/22-29** **WINTER RELIEF**
- 01/28** **NO Youth Group, WINTER RELIEF**
- 02/04** Youth Group, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Classroom D, Formation Building.
- 02/11** Youth Group, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Classroom D, Formation Building.
- 02/14** **ASH WEDNESDAY**
- 02/16-18** **Happening Retreat**, *9th-12th Grade, The Claggett Center, Cost: \$110*

Happening is a national program designed, staffed, and run by Episcopal youth! This weekend will deepen your relationship with Jesus and connections with those on similar spiritual journeys. Most of this weekend is kept a surprise for those attending so they can fully live into the moment and the community. General activities include large group talks, small group discussion, prayer through art, and games! This retreat is like New Beginnings for middle schoolers and Cursillo for adults. Happening is being held at Claggett Center in Adamstown, MD.

- 02/18** **NO Youth Group, PRESIDENT'S DAY WEEKEND**
- 02/25** **Youth Group, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Classroom D, Formation Building.**
- 03/03** **Youth Group, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Classroom D, Formation Building.**
- 03/10** **Youth Group, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Classroom D, Formation Building.**
- 03/15-16** **Game Night LOCK-IN!, 6:00 pm Friday until 8:00 am Saturday.**
- 03/17** **Youth Group, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Classroom D, Formation Building.**
- 03/24** **Youth Group, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Classroom D, Formation Building.**
- 03/29** **GOOD FRIDAY**
- 03/31** **EASTER! NO Youth Group, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Classroom D, Formation Building.**
- 04/07** **Youth Group, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Classroom D, Formation Building.**
- 04/14** **Youth Group, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Classroom D, Formation Building.**
- 04/19-21** **New Beginnings Retreat, 6th - 12th grade, Camp Wright, Stevensville, Cost: \$85**
The annual retreat for middle school youth is a fantastic weekend at Camp Wright in Stevensville, MD. Previous New Beginners that have reached high school serve as the design team and staff for the weekend. These peer ministers know what it is like to be a first-time camper or an eighth grader about to enter high school. This is a whole weekend dedicated to youth working through the transitions of middle school with peer minister talks, skits, and small group. We even have a talent show on Saturday night! New Beginnings is place where they can find community in Christ and mentors in high school students and adult leaders.
- 04/21** **Youth Group, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Classroom D, Formation Building.**

- 04/28** Youth Group, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Classroom D, Formation Building.
- 05/05** Youth Group, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Classroom D, Formation Building.
- 05/12** **NO Youth Group, MOTHER'S DAY**
- 05/19** Youth Group, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Classroom D, Formation Building.
- 05/26** Youth Group, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Classroom D, Formation Building.
- 06/02** **FINAL YOUTH GROUP MEETING OF THE YEAR**, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Classroom D, Formation Building.
- 06/07-08** **END-OF-YEAR LOCK-IN!**, 6:00 pm Friday until 8:00 am Saturday, Classroom D, Formation Building.

And now, as always, because you made it this far... ¹



"I know he said two of each, but I'm telling you bring back three of each and I'll fire up the grill."

Somewhere in this newsletter there *might be* a spelling and/or grammar error. I proof these 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!** If you find one, text me at 410-507-9370 (and now you have *my* cell number).

HAPPY LABOR DAY EVERYONE!