

Youth Ministries Report to Church Council 5/20/07

It is hard to believe that another school year has come and gone. I had to go back through my old programs to confirm this but today was my ninth senior recognition luncheon since being hired midway through the 1998-1999 school year. In fact as I flipped through those old luncheon programs I was reminded of the many wonderful youth that it has been my pleasure to know and work with. We are truly blessed with wonderful kids, wonderful families and wonderful adult volunteers. Today we said our congratulations to the class of 2007 but even as they are moving on we're proud to say that there is some great leadership coming up and we're very excited about where the youth ministry at White Plains is headed. A complete list of next years officers is printed in this week's newsletter but I wanted to especially recognize next years UMYF co-presidents who will serve in leadership at the church council level just as Chip and Amanda have been able to do over the past year. Alex Schnoor and Rebecca Mills will be our co-presidents next year with Andrew Rohm as vice-president. Casey-Jane Farnham has been selected as president of our mid-high group with Rebecca Prather as vice-president.

Since we met the last time it has been a busy time for the youth. We celebrated leadership on all three services on April 22 – youth Sunday, and we've also brought in another confirmation class and reached out to our community through the Oldie's Drive In. We also hosted hundreds of other youth workers at a training event known as the CORE. As summer approaches we look forward to an all youth trip to Emerald Pointe on June 3rd after the youth choir sings for the last time. We also will be participating in our Church wide Game On! Ministry for four Wednesday nights in June and July. Some other upcoming youth events for the summer include some ladies days out that Miss Emily has planned and special events like a trip to Williamsburg/Busch Gardens and Youth 2007 which is a global gathering of over 20,000 Methodist youth in Greensboro from July 11-15. Our own Emily Mills will be leading one of the breakout sessions for youth at that event. On a personal note, Cheryl and I would like to thank you as leaders of this church for the way you support us and the way you support the youth. There is always someone ready to pitch in when we need a hand and even if the youth make a mess or something goes awry as things sometime do – I hear words of understanding and patience instead of judgment. Thank you for loving the youth and thanks as always for giving them the room and the space to shine.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rob Phillips