



What in the World...

Cedar Lakes, Ripley WV

What in the World...

November 22-24, 2002

...is Fall Workshop?

~Leslie Sears



Gatherings outside through two blistery cold days and nights, sleeping in a room with ten other people, meeting new people who share your faith in God, singing and worshipping in brand new ways are all ingredients which add to the recipe of a perfect Fall Workshop.

Through worship, which was led by various youth of Fall Workshop, campers enjoyed fellowship together and began new friendships while retaining the old Fall Workshop bonds. During worship the music was led by Bill Ward, who shared his gift of music, and his love of God with the youth

this weekend. Bill says "I have always loved it in West Virginia, it is my favorite place to lead worship."

Each youth took part in two workshops, one such as banners or sign language, and one workshop which concentrated on a specific piece of the bible such as Genesis 1: 28-30 or Romans 2: 2-16.

When first time camper, Jason Stowers, was asked what he thought about the cabin life he said "it's a new experience, I get to meet new people and make new friends." Another bonus of the cabin experience was the 'cabin groups' which allowed for a more in-depth discussion period for a counselor and other fellow youth.

Throughout the weekend Chas Hawkins, YSF Educator, worked with the project review committee to organize various fund raisers for the Youth Service Fund. The fund raisers consisted of candy bar sales, the coffee house, the annual auction, as well as tee shirt sales, and the silent auction for the dance.

The weekend was concluded with a wonderful communion service on Sunday morning, the service was led by Mark Skaggs. The service was followed with teary goodbyes.

Although the weather was cold, Fall Workshop 2002 was indeed a complete success in "lighting the fire" once again. Through the fellowship and love expressed by fellow campers of Fall Workshop, it is no doubt that these brothers and sisters in Christ will help one another grow in their lifelong journey of faith.

...is YSF?

~Jimmy Smith

"What in the world is YSF" is a question many asked or were asked this weekend. This question was answered in a variety of ways. Some of the incorrect answers were the Youth Student Foundation, the Youth School Foundation, and the Youth Summer Fellowship. The correct answer for what in the world is YSF is the Youth Service Fund. Also many were asked, "What does YSF do?" Many who new what YSF stands for, also knew what it functions as, but some did not. Some said it is just to get money, while others said it helps pay for Fall Workshop. Youth Service Fund is money raised with youth, administered by youth, and distributed to ministries and projects that serve youth. Where are these projects which we fund? Projects funded by Youth Service Fund money raised in our annual conference are located any where from here at home to half way around the world. At home, YSF funds support the Scotts Run Settlement House, located in Osage, West Virginia, which is a United Methodist mission that has an after school program, a food pantry, and a clothing closet. But YSF is truly a global fund. On the international level, YSF funds have been used to buy bibles and bible study materials for youth in South Africa.

Also this weekend, participants were asked to support YSF in some way. There were many options of ways to give or support YSF. Upon arrival, participants were given the opportunity to purchase hot drinks from Chaz Hawkins, Youth Service Fund Educator, while standing in the long and cold registration line. Once inside, participants could purchase a YSF t-shirt. At the first worship gathering on Friday night, Hawkins informed the group about the candy bars for sale, the dance auction, and offerings to support YSF. Each district is asked to raise a thousand dollars a year, so next time you go to youth group, ask your youth pastor has our church helped the district meet its goal for YSF?

Upcoming CCYM Events

April 12, 2003

Awakening 2003
Fairmont Area

June 23-27, 2003

SYC
Theme: Listen To God
Kadasha, Music
Eleanor Miller, Speaker

Youth 2003, Knoxville, TN

July 24-27, 2003 (contact Nancy Henderson)

...is on the Web

Check out the latest happening of the CCYM and youth around the conference on the CCYM website at <http://www.gbgm-umc.org/ccymwv/>. Registration forms for conference events are available.

If your district or local church would like to have information posted on the website send information to Mark Ravenscroft at raven@ga.k12.md.us. We will post faith stories, pictures, favorite scriptures, or praise reports.



...is worship attitude

~Jimmy Smith

The many Christian churches of the world worship in many different ways. This is also true of denominations present within the United States. Also, in some instances, the same church may worship in different ways with the same sanctuary.

Even though people may worship in different ways, they usually do so with the same belief of an appropriate attitude for worship. When asked about what they teach about worship attitude in seminary, the school of training for ministers, Rich Hogg responded with, "The most important thing they taught about worship was respect. Respect to God and those around you who are there for worship." He simplified it as to have a two way respect.

Ephesians tell us that there is a time to talk, a time to dance, a time to laugh, and a time to listen. This attitude of respect can be applied to any worship service anywhere, without any looks of disgrace from those worshipping around you.

What in the World...

West Virginia United Methodist Church
Conference Council of Youth Ministries
Fall Workshop 2002
Cedar Lakes, Ripley WV
November 22-24, 2002

Staff:

Jessica Auxier
Darick Biondi
Adrienne Greene
Mary Henderson
Leslie Sears
Jimmy Smith
Chris Tallman

...is Faith?

My Testimony

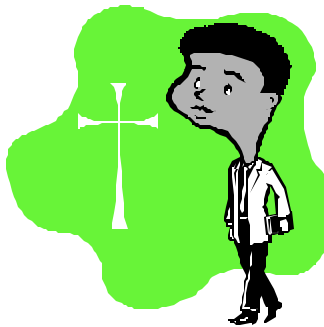
~Darick Biondi

Throughout the years I have attended Fall Workshop, each year has been amazing, but Fall Workshop 1998 completely changed my life. All my life I often thought if I played by the rules, prayed, and went to church, I would succeed in being a good Christian. Fall Workshop 1998 presented me with a new idea.

During the Communion service, five years ago today, I discovered a faith I never thought possible. I was sitting on the side, near the back, just whispering with friends and waiting for the rest of the communion service to come to a close. I glanced at the cross and just began crying. At first I had little idea what happened to me, I was just so happy I couldn't control my joy. I proceeded to sing and praise with all my heart. Fall Workshop 1998 changed my life completely, and I soon learned what it was to be a true Christian.

This seems to be a quick and easy way to God, but since that amazing day I've had quite a difficult journey. I initially was an amazing "Jesus Freak" praising God everywhere I went. I started a prayer club after a successful "Prayer at the Pole" turnout which continued after I left my junior high. I also did daily devotions

to further my faith. But shortly after the 1999 Fall Workshop my faith went into check.



I then entered a stage in life where I changed completely; my looks, my attitude, my habits, and because of all this I lost most, if not all, of my faith. I spent the next year and a half defying and denying God. It wasn't until SYC 2001 that I was reintroduced into Christ. From that point on I slowly relearned how to use the faith that I have lost.

Through prayer and bible study, I am regaining the faith I once had. I am far from the perfect Christian, nor do I proclaim to be, but I am trying to continue through daily growth and reflection. I still am not as avid a Christian as I once was; however, I am constantly learning and attempting to become a true Disciple for my Lord, Jesus Christ.

...is a Miracle?

~Chris Tallman

The music leader for Fall Workshop is Bill Ward. Bill was born in the late 1950's. Bill currently resides in Chataqua, NY with his wife Dena and their two daughters, ages nine and eleven.

Bill mainly learned to play the guitar with friends, and very few lessons, it came easy to him. At the age of fifteen, Bill began playing guitar in clubs. Bill owns several guitars including a Martin, a Guild and a Larrivee.

In May of 2001, Bill was diagnosed with prostate cancer. When diagnosed, Bill felt scared and disappointed in himself and in his faith. The news profoundly affected his family, but his two girls knew what was going on and were dealing with it fairly well.

As of today Bill has come a long way and would not hesitate to give his testimony on how God has had a very personal impact on his life. Many of the campers at Fall Workshop this year say they have benefited from Bill Ward's music. "This is my sixth year here at Fall Workshop, and Bill Ward has definitely been my favorite music leader," states senior Leslie Sears.

"He has great stage presence and can relate to the audience through his gift of music and his leadership ability," says Darick Biondi.

...is Worship?

~Jessica Auxier

Worship is one of the most vital parts of Fall Workshop, being the only time during the day all campers and counselors gather together in the same building at the same time.

Friday night's worship service was led by Annie Joseph, vice-chair of CCYM. Annie's message focused on the importance of love. Saturday morning the people of Fall Workshop were blessed with a song and dance performance by the youth of Huntington's First United Methodist Church. The teens' program was choreographed by their own Erin Bradley, who is also a Fall Workshop counselor.

CCYM chair Diane Kenaston directed a lakeside worship service on Saturday night. Her sermon emphasized being the light of the world. In an attempt to let everyone's light shine, Diane asked that anyone with a flashlight bring it to the worship service. These flashlights shone during the chilly night as beacons of light.

Mark Skaggs delivered the message for the closing worship service on Sunday morning. During worship all Fall Workshop participants were invited to partake in communion before journeying home.

...are workshops

~Mary Henderson

This year Fall Workshop had a different workshop format everyone had to choose a biblical workshop and a praise workshop here are a few examples:

Romans 8:28 and James 1:2-3: "Very good workshop it taught me that Jesus will always be there," Leslie Cummings. Bryan Baker says that if you get nothing out of this work shop remember never run from a hippopotamus," Valarie Jasper, L.G. Jackson, and John Thompson.

Philippians 4:4-9: "The workshop taught me to rejoice in God always," Ashton Canter.

Religion and School: "It taught me about how everything charms us to put earthly things first," anonymous.

Spiritual Gifts: "It helped me understand what I'm best at," Robyn Welch.

UMW For Young Women: "United Methodist Women is a group that in the past was run by older women, now they are trying to focus some on the younger women who will be running it further down the road," Erin Bradley.

...is cabin life

~Adrienne Greene

With the stars shining in the night sky, campers unload cars or church vans and begin to settle into the cabins. As the youth walk down the hallways they greet one another with hugs, smiles, and laughter. Once all the campers are situated in their rooms the Cabin Leaders introduce themselves. They also have each person say a few things. This gives everyone the chance to break the thin ice in some rooms and become closer with roommates. A camp rumor that a certain "Big D" is up for the counselor of the year award; but Joe Jividen says that, his "counselor Abraham is awesome."

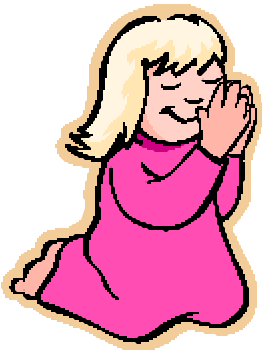
Gretchen Hurley says that, "Mountaineer is really nice, compared to other cabins." What makes Mountaineer Lodge so special? It has a commons area for youth to "hang out" and have fellowship. The cabin is also divided with the girls on one end and the boys on the opposite.

Inside the other cabins special bonds are forming. For example the boys in Mountaineer 12 have a lovely night sleep with Squeege's obnoxious nighttime snoring. While others are up after lights out chattering or playing games, leaving the thought of sleep out of the question. "Sleep before you get here, sleep before you leave," states Chris Ferguson.

When the benefits and flaws are weighed out about cabin life the benefits definitely outshine every flaw. The friendships will no doubt be everlasting, and the memories, whether good or bad, will always be remembered as a large part of Fall Workshop 2002.

...is Faith Sharing

~ Annie Joseph, CCYM Vice Chair



I didn't grow up going to church. God was a very rare word uttered in my home. The only times I remember

hearing it was at our Christmas and Thanksgiving meals, when saying "Grace."

When I was 10, my grandfather died. He was a carpenter, and especially liked working on churches. He had just finished a new sanctuary at Christ United Methodist Church in Wheeling. We held his ceremony there.

My parents decided then that we

were going to become a religious family. We began attending CUMC every Sunday, and became members.

When I was twelve, I began to have thoughts of suicide and death, because nothing in life seemed to be going right. When I was thirteen, I had my first experiences with cigarettes and alcohol. At fifteen, I tried my first drug. It was kind of strange, though, because I had begun to live for God a few months earlier. I'd go to Young Life Camp in the summer, and come home ready to do God's will, but then I'd fail and not go back, mainly because I was told that he would always be there for me.

The day I got back from YL Camp when I was sixteen, my cousin, Mike, lost his battle with cancer. I got so angry at God that my

faith began to slip. Then September 11th hit, and I couldn't go a day without crying. My faith slipped again. It was shattered on November 24th when my 17 year-old cousin died of a heart attack. I let anger rule my life, and cursed God for taking him away. Seven months later, I found God and me at Summer Youth Celebration. My anger began to fade.

Even now I have been broken again. On November 8, 2002, my Uncle Peny passed away in a car accident. Luckily, my faith is returning, a little quicker than before, but still slowly. Being here has reminded me of God's love for me. Well, today is the first anniversary of Matt's death. You know what?

I'm not as angry as I was last year.