

# Shepherd's Dispatch



Cedar Lakes, Ripley WV

Lost and Found

November 19-21, 2004

## "I Once Was Lost, But Now Am Found."

~ Jimmy Smith, CCYM Communication Chair

"Are you a lost sheep?" was the topic addressed as the West Virginia Annual Conference Youth gathered November 19-21, for Fall Workshop. "Lost and Found" formally started with worship. Tai Brown, worship coordinator, and Rev. Rich Hogg, Dean of Fall Workshop, welcomed youth to the worship celebration. Mary Hatfield, Vice-Chair of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM), gave a powerful message energizing the youth for a meaningful weekend. Also during the service, Adam Swiger, worship and music leader for the weekend, led the assembled congregation in some new songs and old favorites. In cabin groups youth had discussions with themes of: time to party, where in the world, and going home! Afterwards, youth would talk to friends, old and new, into the early hours of the new day.

Saturday morning worship opened with Brooke Patterson sharing how she was finally found. "The worship is more intense," said Keith Allison, junior. After worship, each youth attended morning workshop or Bible study. Some of the great biblical scholars of our annual conference lead the "Lost and Found" bible studies; Jim McCune, Susanne Ellis, Bob Anderson, Marcy Taylor, and Joe Kenaston were the Bible study leaders. Workshops had titles like: What's It Means to be United Methodist?, Banner Making, or Keep the Faith; they too were lead by some of the best group leaders in West Virginia including Jamal Doudai, Bob Wil-

kins, Jay Parkins, Brad Bennett, Keith Forkey, Janine Bartram, Bob Bartram, Angela Gay Kinkead, Jay Plyburn, Dennis Craig, Maggie Edmonson, and Justin Mays. Lunch time provided time to talk about what has happened so far this weekend, school, and other things with friends.

Saturday afternoon brought more workshops, and youth's favorite time: free time. Candle making, crafts, line dancing, board games, outdoor games, karaoke, and a talent coffee house were structured free time activities. Many spent free time fellowshiping with other youth of the annual conference. After dinner youth enjoyed another powerful worship service with Tai Brown delivering an inspirational message. The traditional Fall Workshop dance and more cabin group time followed worship to bring Saturday to a close.

Fall Workshop came to a close after a final intense worship service, with Rich Hogg preaching.

As the agency sponsoring Fall Workshop, the CCYM would like to thank all youth and adults for making it as success. Specifically the CCYM would like to thank Rich Hogg, Dean of the Event; Debbie Dague, Dean of Women; Michael Waide, Dean of Men; Program Coordinators; and the Fall Workshop Design Team for a successful Fall Workshop. The CCYM hopes all youth who participated will attend Summer Youth Celebration June 19-24, 2005 and Fall Workshop November 18-20, 2005.

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Time for singing

## Where Is All The Money Going??

~ Katie Ramsey

YSF! YSF! Have you heard these three letters drilled into your head this weekend? Many of you are very reluctant to give to YSF, and a few not sure where all the money is going. What many do not realize is that the grants YSF gives out every year, might be working in your own hometown.

So far in 2004, 6 grants have been awarded to various groups totaling over 11,000 dollars. The Jeremiah Project, Tearing Down the Walls workshop at SYC, Project Chacocente, JOURNeY mission trip to Russia, Harvest of Hope, and the Mission of Peace trip to India are just a few organizations that have benefited. Everyone must do their part to keep the funds up and running.

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Fall Workshop Worship

## Goose News. Your Inside Look

~Katie Ramsey And Beth Hamrick (B&K)

Fall Workshop!! What is the first think that comes to your mind when you hear those words?...Geese. Our opinions are set when it comes to them, but how do the geese feel about our presence on this November weekend? We went undercover to get the inside "poop" on how the geese react to us being here. Many were reluctant to give us information and chased us away, so we had to go to the higher power, the head honcho goose. (HHG) Our time limit was short, but we gathered some interesting facts, that you should be dying to know.

**B&K:** "What is your favorite group that comes to Cedar Lakes?"

**HHG:** "Well, if we had it our way, we would be the only ones here year around. If we had to choose, it would be you guys."

**B&K:** "What are you really saying while honking over our heads?"

**HHG:** "Watch out below!- we have to drop small presents every 7 minutes."

**B&K:** "What precautions do you take before we arrive on Friday night?"

**HHG:** "We try to "fertilize" the ground as efficiently as possible, and hide all of our valuables."

**B&K:** "What would be so valuable to a goose?"

**HHG:** "Well, you didn't hear this from me, but we hide our golden eggs all over the grounds."

**B&K:** "Thanks for your time. looks like our 7 minutes are up."

**HHG:** "Hope you had a great honk and hollering weekend. Come back soon."

There you have it folks, now you know the inside "poop". Remember to cover you heads and look for YOUR golden egg this weekend.

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Fall Workshop Newsletter Staff

## Group Bible Study

Alyssa Ball and Kaity Marler

Group Bible Study can be quite fulfilling and intriguing - if you're well prepared that is. With short notice, and little preparation time, Bob Anderson was informed that he was leading Bible Study Group A. Lucky for him, he had no trouble finding a topic of discussion: the book of Joshua. Using this, he gave a basic and brief overview of the book and found out what the youth already knew.

Bob mostly covered the first half of the book and highlighted certain points. He focused on one main point in chapter 1:6, where "God is with the underdog." In chapter 24:14, "You choose who you follow," Bob continued.

Youth were asked to tell what inspired them from Joshua and a few things were mentioned: how Joshua both loved God and feared him, plus the benefits he reaped from that. Bob related things from Joshua to modern day as well; the holy wars, or jihads, that are still going on today that Joshua himself wasn't able to terminate.

All in all, the Bible Study Group was fulfilling for the kids; lots of the campers tried to pay attention and participation was moderate.

### Shepherd's Dispatch

West Virginia United Methodist Church  
Conference Council of Youth Ministries

Fall Workshop 2004  
Cedar Lakes, Ripley WV  
November 19-21, 2004

Staff:

Alyssa Ball  
Beth Hamrick  
Kaity Marler  
Katie Ramsey  
Jimmy Smith  
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Andy Tschop

## Youth Service Fund

~ Rachel Kenaston

The Youth Service Fund is a great mission outlet for the youth of the United Methodist Church. Already in 2004 the project review committee, made up of 13 youth from CCYM, has given out \$11,500 to projects that benefit youth. A few are: Appalachia Service Project, JOURNeY, Harvest of Hope, Project Chacocente in Nicaragua, and Mission of Peace.

The entire fund is devoted to youth, and that's what's so awesome about this ministry! Youth raises the money *and* decides where it goes.

At Fall Workshop this year, YSF volunteers could be found outside the dining hall selling pepperoni rolls, cookies, chips, and candy as well as auctioning off random things before services. Also this year we had a coffee house with karaoke, hot chocolate, candy and "Tofu" the elephant.

This had been a great year; thanks to everyone who donated money or volunteered for YSF. The money we've made this weekend will go to help youth-related projects at our conference. If you'd like an application for a grant, go to our website at <http://www.wvumyouth.org> for more information. After your youth groups raise money for the Youth Service Fund, send the check to our Conference Treasurer.

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Adam Swiger leading worship.

### The New-found Face at Fall Workshop

~ Andrew Ischop

"Who's the camper on the stage playing guitar?" Some of you probably thought this question, but actually he's our worship music leader. Adam Swiger is this year's worship and music leader at Fall Workshop. Adam is a junior at West Virginia University, where he is a member of the club, Campus Crusade for Life, which is a Christian organization on campus that deals with evangelism, and spreading the word. Adam, from Cranberry Township, PA, has been playing guitar since the tenth grade. He now participates in a band called "Leaving Scarlet," which has released a demo.

Before arrival, Adam told me that he was expecting only about 200 people. When he realized, however, that there was doubled that amount he was astonished and later remarked, "I almost peed my pants." Adam, though, is used to performing in front of big crowds. Adam told me that he got to be on stage with Audio Adrenaline, and that he sang in front of the 90,000 in attendance. "It was the greatest moment of my life," said Adam.

After leaving Fall Workshop, Adam plans to get back to his worship leading job at New Beginnings Church in Morgantown. He also is excited about getting home and eating Thanksgiving dinner, and watching football.

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Preparing for YSF fundraising.

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# Interview With Boss Hogg

~ Alyssa Ball

This year, the dean of Fall Workshop is Rich Hogg. When asked what something very few people knew about him was, he responded, "I have been involved in youth ministry for 21 years." In fact, he is the Northeastern Jurisdiction Council on Youth Ministry Co-Coordinator. Locally, he serves as the pastor at Washington UMC, where he is also the co-youth leader, and he is the Little Kanawha District Coordinator.

First off, Rich explained why we have Fall Workshop. The goal is to offer the youth of the conference an opportunity for spiritual development, friendship, and fun in a church setting. There is a lot of hard work that goes into the planning of Fall Workshop, and most of the workload falls on the dean's shoulders. Rich said that most of the planning involves a lot of prayer and vision. A very important part is discerning the needs and wants of the youth.

Rich's favorite parts of FW are the worship experiences and being able to spend time with the young people. Overall, he feels that the weekend has been a success. "The spirituality and dedication of the youth to FW has been phenomenal, along with all the support of the counselors and adults." A big thanks to Rich for a job well done as dean, and best of luck to him for the next two years!

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One, two, three... SMILE!

## Whose Laugh is It Anyways?

~ Stephanie Stacy

"FREEZE!! My Turn!" I yelled as I took a part in the comedy workshop. This year at Fall Workshop, we decided to bring back the comedy workshop from SYC. This workshop was very educational to young actors and actress' to learn staging and free form action.

The Jay Plyburn and Justin Mays lead the class as we played the game freeze, if you haven't played freeze it's where two campers start a scene and act randomly and if there is a certain position or something that was said a camper sitting in the audience would shout "FREEZE!" and he or she would take the actors place and start a new scene in the positions they were in. This game is a good way to sharpen your acting skills. Overall this workshop was very exciting and extremely funny. I would recommend this workshop any camper who is looking into the acting arts to sign up for this workshop next year.

## How Long Does It Take You to Get to Cedar Lakes?

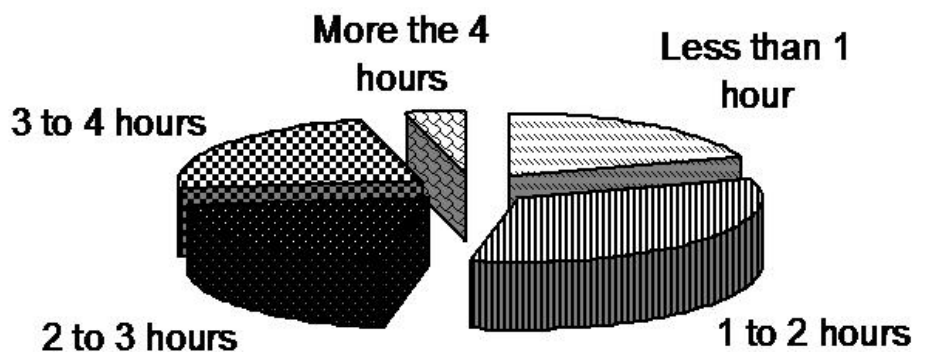


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# Stepping Stones...

## My Faith Story



Sometimes I think the best thing to compare my faith with is a kiddie roller coaster, It's entertaining, but not nearly as entertaining as a "real" roller coaster. The kiddie coaster climbs, but not nearly to the greatest heights. The kiddie coaster drops low, but not so low that the cars get pushed completely off the track. Basically I feel my faith, by that I mean my personal trust and devotion in my relationship with Jesus Christ, is more or less constant, but not growing. It's frustrating to come to events such as this where you are forced to focus all your attention on Christ and find how fulfilling that is. It's frustrating because when you leave these kinds of events, no one is setting your spiritual "schedule" for you. That is your job, and your job alone. I promise myself time and time again that this time Christ is going to stay at the top of my list, but time and time again I fail to follow through.

Why I don't follow through with my plan is something that still perplexes me. So, I love to be close to Christ and yet by this Wednesday I

bet I will have maybe read one scripture and fallen asleep twice without praying. Why did this happen? Well, I do have three projects going on right now, college apps, two community service projects, test, and basketball season taking off. Clearly, these commitments are far more important than my spiritual well-being. The stupid thing is, I go on to wonder why I'm feeling so empty again! Why do I feel depressed and overwhelmed? I can't keep up with my AP English books, much less the Bible. I haven't called my best friends out of state and in college like I've promised over and over. I certainly do not have more than two minutes to spend with Jesus.

Look at how backwards I live my life. It's an easy trap to fall into that makes your life empty of meaning and more difficult. What I need to do is say forget the novel for now, I'm going to read the Bible first. Which will benefit me more? I'm not saying I should quit doing my homework to read the Bible, but I definitely need to reprioritize my life. Maybe I shouldn't

even get involved with so many things to begin with if I know that will hurt my spiritual life. Sometimes it's better to say no. Something to think about.

So I've established my faith is a kiddie roller coaster, but I'll tell you what I want it to be. I want it to be a roller coaster that goes infinitely to heaven and do you know who's going to be riding beside me? Jesus. He is going to hold my hand when I'm scared, rejoice with me when I'm having fun, and forgive me when I try to push him away from me on the ride. This will be easier said than done, but we always must be striving. The only way I'll get there is if I make personal time with Christ a priority in my life and hold myself accountable to that. I also ask that my community of faith - that's you! - hold me accountable. So when you see me at SYC (you better be there!), ask me how the roller coaster ride is coming along! Praise Christ we can all be found!

*Love and Blessings,*

*Mary Hatfield*

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Workshops for staff too!

Free-time with friends

Cabin life

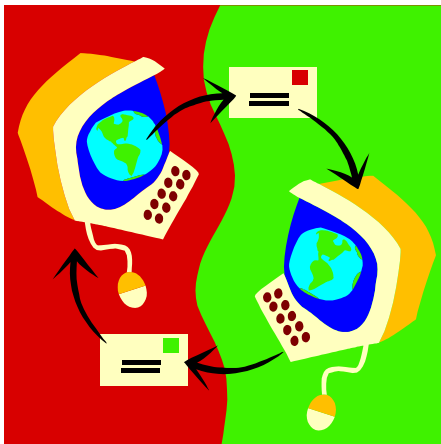


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## A Youth Website?

~ Jimmy Smith, Communication Chair

What, there is a conference youth website? For many years there has been a conference youth website, hosted by the General Board of Global Ministries. Recently the Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM) has purchased a new website, <http://www.wvumyouth.org>.

The site has five sections: Conference Council on Youth Ministries; Youth Service Fund; Events; News; Prayer Requests/Stepping Stones; Links; and Contacts. The Conference Council on Youth Ministries features information about the CCYM; it specifically explains what the CCYM is, what it does, and who (or whom?) are its members. This section includes a slideshow, in QuickTime format, about the CCYM.

Upon visiting the Youth Service Fund section, you can find out about where the CCYM has awarded West Virginia Annual Conference grants. Also you can view a list of highest contributors, ideas for YSF fundraisers (applicable for other projects too), and the YSF grant selection guidelines. Within the news section is information on meetings, events, and happenings important to the youth of the annual conference.

Through the Prayer Request portion of the website the youth of the annual conference can connect through sharing prayer requests on-line. This connection only continues with the Stepping Stones, or faith sharing, section. In both of these sections, persons can submit his or her prayer request or faith story anonymously.

Probably the largest section of the conference youth website is the events section. Most importantly, it contains information about the forthcoming conference youth event. It also it contains event newsletters from Summer Youth Celebration (SYC), 2001-Present, and Fall Workshop, 2002-Present. In addition, there are forty-eight pages of SYC 2004 photos, and there will be photos of Fall Workshop 2004. This section is a great way to remember conference youth events of years past, and see how it used to be.

Mary Hatfield speaks on Friday.