

HEARING FALL WORKSHOP

by Zachary Allen

About 376 youth from around the conference invaded Cedar Lakes for Fall Workshop this year. CCYM members were frantically getting ready for registration. The over 300 youth standing outside in below thirty degree weather meant successful sales of hot-chocolate with profits going to Youth Service Fund.

With registration completed the youth headed to their cabins' to unpack and have the first cabin group session. Cabin groups met each day and were a dynamic part of the weekend. Whoever designed the cabin group material definitely has their head on right because it was very effective.

Later that first evening, the first worship service of the weekend was held. Even though it was cold outside, the tent quickly warmed with the large number of people ready to worship God. We had two services on Saturday and one on Sunday. Lead by Tai Brown, Brooke Pat-

erson, Rachel Kenaston, and the Rev. Rich Hogg and carried by the West Virginia University CRU Band, worship was an incredible experience.

Workshops and Bible Studies were also an unforgettable part of the weekend. With workshops such as *Imagining Worship*, *Banner Making*, *Rhythms of Faith*, *At the Movies with Jesus*, *Faith Disasters*; youth were able to keep warm and indoors while having fun. Those youth

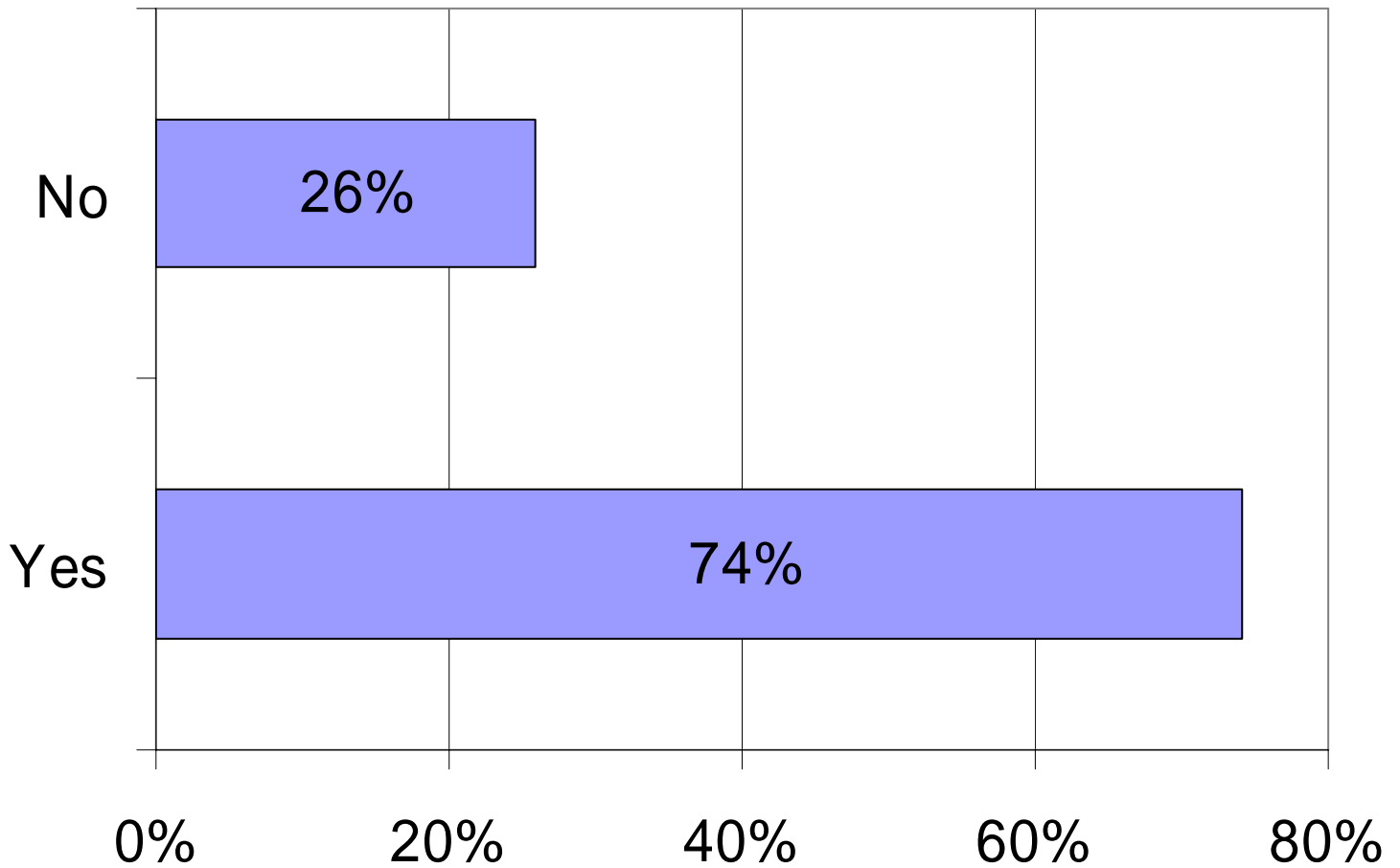
who attended workshops in the morning attended Bibles Studies in the afternoon. Rev. Bill Dawson lead a study dressed as a jailor and told of miracles in Biblical times as well as the miracle at Keyser High School.

Youth enjoyed free time Saturday afternoon where they could play lacrosse or visit a coffee house, among other things. A new addition to free time this year was the option of DDR. Saturday evening youth enjoyed a two-and-half hour dance, watched movies, or played games.

Sunday morning was a little somber as the general populace of the youth was struck with the realization that the weekend was coming to a close. When breakfast had ended, youth headed back to the cabins for the last cabin group session. With the Sunday morning worship service Fall Workshop came to a close. As youth left Cedar Lakes they were mindful that they would be reunited next year at Summer Youth Celebration.



Do You Like Worship in the Tent?



THROUGH THE NOISE!

West Virginia United Methodist Church
Conference Council of Youth Ministries

Fall Workshop 2005
Cedar Lakes, Ripley, WV
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THROUGH THE MUSIC

by Stephanie Stacy and Chris Burdick

If you've been to worship this weekend, then you've probably heard the CRU Band from West Virginia University. A band made up of best friends. If you attended Fall Workshop last year then you at least recognized one familiar face because Adam, the lead singer did a solo project last year at Fall Workshop.

Adam Swiger, 21 of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is the lead singer of the band. He is a psychology major and the leader of worship at New Beginnings Community Church. Adam found his musical abilities in the 10th grade when he first started singing. We asked Adam, how he got his band together and he said "I've been in a band since I was a freshman in College and then Tyler joined in and started playing with us. We had people come and go from our band, but actually I didn't even know Casey could play bass until like five days ago and it just came together." He said that CRU had a huge influence on getting the band together.

If you don't know what CRU is, CRU is Campus Crusade for Christ at West Virginia University. CRU has two objects, giving lost students a chance to grow in Christ and to give college students the chance to hang out with others who walk in the light of Jesus. "Turning lost students into Christ centered worshipers who labor" is the CRU motto. CRU helps the students at WVU stay in their faith while being away from their home church.

Helping Adam with vocals is Karen Spurlock of Huntington, WV. She is 20 and is in the middle of changing her major to Voice. Karen started sharing her talents when she was leading worship for youth group with the praise band at her church.



Tyler Parnell is the bands acoustic guitar player. Tyler is 22 and is going to WVU majoring in Russian. Tyler started playing guitar when he was 15. He was inspired one day at a True Love Waits rally when he saw a man on stage playing guitar extremely well. "All the girls we're all over this guy and from there on I told myself, 'I want to do that!'" After playing guitar for a year Tyler gave himself to Jesus. We found out that Tyler has a knack for knitting. When we walked into the room Tyler was knitting a blue scarf.

Playing the bass this weekend is Casey DeMarco who might look like he is one of the oldest in the group but Casey is actually only 18. He is a freshman at WVU majoring in broadcast journalism. Casey is definitely one of the funniest in the band. When I asked Casey what his name was Adam quickly jumped to say, "His name is Ho-Bo!" Casey stays in the dorm rooms at Arnold Hall while the rest of the band lives in houses or apartments. Adam says Casey is a Ho-Bo because he hasn't slept in his dorm in 3 weeks because he's been sleeping on Adam's couch and eating all his food. Casey is from Shepherdstown

in Jefferson County, WV. Casey has been playing bass for four years and guitar for three.

Keeping the beat for worship is Patrick Snyder. Patrick is 20 years old and is a public relations major at WVU. He has been playing the drums since the 5th grade. In During high school Patrick played the tenors in marching band. He is from New Martinsville, WV. Patrick and Adam have the same birth dates.

Playing the lead guitar and rocking our worship is Brant Whited, a 20 year old biochemistry major from Parkersburg, WV. Brant has been rocking the guitar for 6 years. He and Tyler have brought a unique blend of music for this weekend.

This band really brought a message to us this weekend. Just because you go to college and you are surrounded by people who do or don't walk in the light, you still can find God somewhere in college. For them it's CRU and they show us that they haven't lost their faith while being at college. The CRU band gives the campers something to look up to, not only in music, but in their faith in God.

HANDS-ON HEARING

by Beth Hamrick and Natalya Krimmel

Despite the cold weather, the Bible studies and workshops at Fall Workshop not only kept us warm, but provided us with a great learning experience.

As we walked into a Bible study, led by Ken Krimmel, he was teaching about ways to hear God's voice "Through the Noise." Youth were involved by discussing the ways to hear God by mentioning prayer, reading the Bible, listening to music, and talking to friends. They also discussed the importance of silence and taking the time to focus special attention to hear God. Rev. Krimmel elaborated by using Moses as an example. He told the story of how Moses heard God through the burning bush. "My Bible study helped me to learn about Moses and ways we can hear God," said Eric Steele, who was a participant of the Bible study group.

Fall Workshop also has a wide variety of workshops to offer, led by many excellent teachers. With twelve to choose from, there was something to fit everyone's interests. As we went to check some of them out, we walked into a room full of excitement. Many of the campers were playing a variety of games in the comedy workshop, "Through the Laughter." They related this to Ecclesiastes 3: 4, stating there is a time for everything through Christ, including laughter. Sam Denning, one of the workshop leaders, stated that the workshop "opens people up and really shows how creative everyone can be." The campers seemed to really enjoy it as well.

When asked what he loved about the comedy workshop, Jimmy Swinler replied, "It teaches people how to improvise, and is very funny and exciting."

The Faith Disasters workshop gave a Christian perspective on natural disasters. The youth discussed what they could do to help those in need. Don Clark, who led the workshop, also provided many interesting facts, informing us that there are more United Methodist Churches than post offices in our country. These facts ensure us that we have the power to help others.

When asked what he learned during the Faith Disasters workshop, camper Steven Brooks replied, "The three steps of disaster relief, which are rescue, relief, and recovery; and how we can help with disasters through our churches."



A "Rhythms of Faith" workshop was also offered at Fall Workshop. As its first year here, the workshop seemed to be a big hit.

"It was seriously the best workshop I have ever taken at Fall Workshop. It was so relaxing and a neat experience to be connected with everyone drumming in the circle together," said participant Rachel Kenaston.

Holly Casto also really enjoyed the workshop. She said, "It was a lot of fun. Everyone seemed to be having a great time."

Combined with the amazing music, socializing with old friends, and great worship services, the Bible studies and workshops proved to add to a fun-filled weekend at Fall Workshop 2005.

THROUGH THE NOISE, THE COLD, AND THE TENT?!

by Jessica Samuels

We're having worship where? As youth arrived at Fall Workshop Friday night, many were asking themselves this same question. For most youth this question was answered as they walked to their cabins and saw the humungous white tent next to the assembly hall.

The reason we have the tent is because God has blessed Fall Workshop with an abundance of youth. Therefore, we can't all fit in the assembly hall. And the cold weather? Don't worry! 'Boss' Hogg himself said, "the United Methodist Youth are the hottest!"

Despite the cold weather, most youth think that the tent is more efficient. It is an easier set-up for worship. The use of the tent ceiling in the evening service served as the screen for the projection of songs, prayers and scriptures used during the worship service. The acoustics in the tent were as crisp air. "The tent is a different and exciting atmosphere. It provides a different experience from past years," says Jimmy Smith.



HEARING THE MESSAGE

by Lauren Morris and Kaity Marler

Fall Workshop kicked off Friday night with an inspirational sermon by Tai Brown. Her focus was around God needing to be the center of everyone's lives. The message came from Proverbs 18:10 and Genesis 11:1-9. Tai referenced "Strong Tower" by the Christian rock group Kutless and the group watched the video. Tai explained that even though we have the stresses of life and feel overwhelmed with everything, God is there to help us.



Brooke Patterson delivered the message to the frozen, sleepy campers in the early hours of Saturday morning. She began with scripture from Numbers 22:21-35 with the story of the prophet Balaam and his donkey. Balaam's donkey tried to keep him from being killed by an Angel of the Lord, while Balaam was on his way to

curse God's people in Egypt for riches and land. The scripture went on to say that we often beat the ones closest to us when they're trying to protect us.

The Saturday evening worship message was given by CCYM chair, Rachel Kenaston. Her sermon, taken from Luke 19: 1-10, was about Zaccheus and how Jesus sought him out through the noise of the crowd. She explained that God seeks everyone out to be His servants; however, we need to be listening for God's call.

The Sunday morning worship tradition continued as everyone ventured to the Lake where the Rev. Rich Hogg delivered the message. He based his sermon off of Acts 2: 1-13. He explained that everyone at Fall Workshop comes from diverse areas and worships differently. Despite these differences, everyone worships the same God; we are all part of the same Church. God may not speak to each person in the same manner, but we will all learn and grow through His unique creation. The worship concluded with communion as everyone shared together in the body of Christ who called us to Cedar Lakes. All of these worship experiences reinforced the theme of the weekend, "Through the Noise."



HEARING THROUGH THE NOISE...

Being the rebellious teen I am I went to Huntington without permission to see my friends at Marshall. On my way back, I left plenty of time to get back for work, yet I didn't make it back. I, like the horrible driver I am, get lost and end up in Ohio. I panicked. Once I had wasted 15 minutes crying and freaking out from the sounds of cars around me I saw a billboard saying, "Talk to your parents, they'll listen." So, I did the obvious thing to do. I called my parents. There upset, but were glad I asked for help.

I saw God that day, though the noise...

Kaity Marler



UP COMING EVENTS

2 Sticks

April 1, 2005
Fairmont, WV

Summer Youth Celebration 2006

June 19-23, 2006
Buckhannon, WV

