



“Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord”
Ephesians 2:20-21

November 16-18
Cedar Lakes, Ripley, WV

THE WEEKEND BLOG

www.wvumyouth.org

1 (800) CALL GOD

God@wvumyouth.org

ANOTHER WEEKEND GONE

by MaKenzie Hatfield

Counselors and CCYM, who had to arrive early for registration, staggered in around five on Friday night. Two hours later, after meetings and hasty organization of name tags, shirts, and armbands, the rest of us started our FW'07 experience by standing in the freezing cold waiting for our turn to be let in to the warm building. CCYM members yelled “announcements” outside on how to go through registration “quickly and efficiently.” Youth Service Fund (YSF) committee members passed around hot chocolate for fifty cents. CCYM helped us with our nametags, shirts, and lunch bands.

After the oh-so-glorious registration process, we all sauntered down to the Big Tent for rockin’ music by Followers of Faith (FOF). The first of many YSF auctions took place. The sermon was Rat’s Story which involved the interconnection of us all. Finally to end the night, we went to our cabins and bonded with our roommates.

Saturday came bright and early with soggy pancakes and fruit that tasted like dirt. With cabin groups dealing with our special places, we connected with God and each other. We celebrated in worship with the amazing music of FOF and heard about the Palestinian Christians. With our first workshops (including “At the Movies to Jesus,” “Spiritual Writing,” and “Faith Disasters” to name a few) out of the way, we headed to lunch. With a delicious meal of spaghetti in our stomachs, we either

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Faith Comments	Dustin McCune, Michael Peaytt, Tim Smith
Music	Followers of Faith
Food	Cedar Lakes Cooks
Books	The Bible
Heroes	Deans and Staff

TOP FRIENDS:

YOU
ME
JESUS

FAITH COMMENTS:

by Emma Moore



Dena Tuell

“I went on an MOP trip to Nicaragua in 2006. At a parade I met a little girl who was about 8 years of age. I knew hardly any Spanish. I said ‘hello’ to her and all of a sudden we started talking. I didn’t even realize I was speaking in Spanish until after our conversation. I believe God wanted me to know everything about this young girl because he allowed me to talk to her knowing very little Spanish.”



JF Lacaria

“Just last week I went to Hollister in the mall in Charleston to see what it’s like. Wow, so exciting! I left the store wondering what it would be like if the church worked as hard as Hollister does to attract and keep youth.”

FROM CONNOR'S SPACE TO OUR SPACE

by Connor Kenaston

What is CCYM? This is a question that seems to be asked rather often at district or conference events. CCYM stands for the Conference Council on Youth Ministries. The mission of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries is to:

Call youth into a relationship with God through the United Methodist Church

Strengthen the faith of youth

Provide fellowship, support, and opportunities for youth to serve and lead

Strengthen youth ministry in the local churches and districts of the annual conference.

CCYM sponsors Fall Workshop (FW) in November and Summer Youth Celebration (SYC) in June. The last two years CCYM has also led the newly created "Adults Who Work with Youth" workshop. A crucial point of CCYM is the Youth Service Fund (YSF), a fund for youth, by youth. CCYM also participates in the Northeastern Jurisdiction Council on Youth Ministries (NEJ). WV Annual Conference Youth's website is wvumyouth.org which is also helped run by CCYM, so check it out! It is a rapidly updated site that has pictures, devotionals, CCYM and FW updates, contact information, as well as FW/SYC brochures!

Thirty youth and at least eleven adults form the CCYM. Youth representatives include eighteen (18) district

representatives who are chosen by the districts prior to SYC, and ten (10) members-at-large who are elected at Summer Youth Celebration. Also, two (2) balancing members are chosen by the CCYM in order to provide balance in gender, age, ethnicity, and/or disability. So, if you would like to be on CCYM, try talking to your district youth coordinator about it! Another option is to fill out the form mailed to you with your SYC information! We try to make it as painless a process as possible!

CCYM meets four to five times a year in locations throughout the Annual Conference. At each meeting the council discusses topics relating to CCYM and youth ministries in the Annual Conference. The five leadership positions of CCYM are Chairperson, who is the head of the CCYM; the Vice-Chairperson, the spiritual leader of the conference's youth; the Secretary, who notes the actions of the CCYM; the Youth Service Fund Coordinator, who leads YSF fundraising and education; and the Communications Director who communicates issues concerning youth and youth ministries. This year's leaders are Connor Kenaston (Chair), Jamiela Isaiah (Vice-Chair), Emma Moore (Secretary), Laura File (YSF Coordinator), and Makenzie Hatfield (Communications Director). You can find their email addresses on the website if you have any questions or comments.



Fall Workshop 2007 Newspaper Staff takes a break from work to pose for a picture during the morning work time.

THE WEEKEND BLOG

West Virginia United Methodist Church
Conference Council of Youth Ministries

Fall Workshop 2007
Cedar Lakes, Ripley, WV
November 16-18, 2007

Staff:

Emily Barksdale
MaKenzie Hatfield
Emma Moore
Jessica Samuels
Robin Samuels
Dena Tuell

<http://www.wvumyouth.org>
communications@wvumyouth.org

FROM THE "DESK" OF THE CCYM COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

by MaKenzie Hatfield, CCYM CD

Hi Everybody! My name is MaKenzie Hatfield and I serve as the Communications Director (CD) on the Conference Council of Youth Ministries (CCYM) for the 2007-2008 term.

First things first, contact information for everyone who attended FW '07 will be at www.wvumyouth.org/fw07/youth.htm. Please give us a couple days to get the page up. It may take us longer to receive the information.

As part of my duties, I write an article each month for the West Virginia Annual Conference newspaper and I help Mark Ravenscroft with the CCYM/Youth website. Both the

newspaper and the website are dedicated to getting the news out on what is happening with the youth in our conference.

I cannot possibly find everything on my own. So, here's the deal. I would be delighted if you could drop me a line on what is happening in your district, church, and community.

Here is my contact information:

communications@wvumyouth.org

Thank you for all your help!

In other news, CCYM has (tentatively) chosen the theme for

Summer Youth Celebration

'08. The design team has chosen

KFC: Keep Finding Christ. In addition, they have decided to make the theme of the dance **Black and White.**

The dates for SYC are June 16 through June 21. We hope to see you there!

Other Conference-wide events include:

- JesusQuest (March 29 and 30) at Johnson Memorial UMC
- Nor'Easter (in July)

Keep checking the website for dates and other events.

Three of our youth will be going to Cuba in December through Mission of Peace (MOP). Please keep them in your prayers. For more information on MOP, please read the article in THE WEEKEND BLOG.

EVENING FUN AND GAMES

by Emma Moore

Providing an evening of dancing, snacking, socializing, and laughing, the FW '07 Saturday evening options allowed youth to enjoy their last night of the weekend in the presence of Christ, surrounded by close Christian friends.

Whether it was by doing the "Electrically Sliding", "Jump on It", or "Soulja Boy", good times were experienced by all. Musical entertainment was provided by the DJ.

Other options included Twister, card games, snacks, or a movie. The competitions grew heavy as youth competed for the title of FW '07 Twister Champion', as did the rivalry between teams of card players participating in games of Go Fish, Spoons, War, and Crazy 8's. A variety of movies were shown and enjoyed by the viewers; it was a chance to relax and get away from the loud and crowded chaos of the Assembly Hall. Saturday evening entertainment options were a success at Fall Workshop 2007. The evening provided a memorable end to the exciting weekend.

Following the final song and game, youth reluctantly returned to their cabins to savor their final evening of FW07. Once settled into their cabins, campers began to prepare themselves spiritually for the following morning's Chapel service. The night ended as youth began to tidy up and pack their belongings, avoiding thoughts of an emotional departure.

FOLLOWERS OF FAITH'S SPACE

by Jessica and Robin Samuels

Followers of Faith (FOF), makes their debut at Fall Workshop 2007 as the music leaders during worship service. The band is made up of 5 men: Mike Donato, Dustin McCune, Eric Brand, Tim Smith, and Alex Hoskinson.

The band started when Duff Street UMC in Clarksburg wanted to have a contemporary music band for their contemporary service. Even though they sound like a band that has been together forever, there is only one original member from Duff Street and that is the lead vocalist, McCune. Hoskinson and Donato have only been in band since July. Hoskinson is a bass player and Donato is the drummer. The other two members, Brand and Smith, have been in the band for about a year. Brand is the keyboard player and Smith is the guitar player.

What do these musicians do in their spare time? Well, they are in college or working and McCune is the youth pastor at Salem UMC. Also, he plays piano. Other band members also play other instruments. Donato plays bongos, which are pretty cool drums, Eric Brand plays trumpet, and Hoskinson plays both trombone and piano.

Their favorite songs to play are *Everyday*, *Every Move I Make*, and any Chris Tomlin song; also they have one original song that they played Saturday night that is called *You Are*.

Followers of Faith have said that *Never Let GO* is the theme song for this weekend. Yea they're new, but we think that they are an amazing addition to our growing Fall Workshop.



Raising money for YSF, Laura File and Jamiela Isaiah auction off a donated item.



(Continued from page 1) Another Weekend Gone

headed to SYC Design team or chilled with our friends. After workshop #2, we had two hours to relax, play some games, talk to friends, and participate in a *Nothing But Nets* basketball competition. Dinner came and went. We went to worship, sang with friends, listened to the speaker, and laughed at the enthusiasm of the auction bidders. Finally, it was time to get groovy. We livened up the night with a dance in the Assembly Hall, a challenging game of Twister, and other types of havoc and mayhem. To end the day, we went back to our cabins and went crazy with our fellow bunkmates.

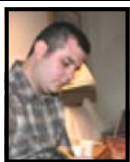
The final day of Fall Workshop 2007 arrived. On Sunday Morning, we solemnly (well... not really, but we knew it was our last one until next year) ate breakfast and headed back to the cabins. We had our last cabin group and then headed to the Chapel for the last worship of the weekend. While at worship, we celebrated the death and resurrection of Christ by receiving communion. Through song and word, we connected to God together. As we went on our way, we took the love of God out into the world.

From all of us on CCYM and the newspaper staff, we wish you a safe journey home and hope to see you again next year. To all of our seniors, we wish you luck in your endeavors. Remember to go with God and be strong in faith. We pray we will see you as counselors in time.

May God bless you all!

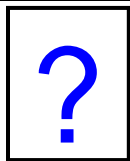
FAITH COMMENTS:

by Emma Moore



Dustin McCune

“Five, four, three, two, one... Welcome to Fall Workshop 2007. Standing before each of you leading worship, I have truly blest seeing each of you praise God in your own ways. My name is Dustin McCune, I am the lead singer for Followers of Faith. As we gathered for the first service, I truly felt unworthy of standing there leading worship. A million things were running through my mind. It’s funny how Satan can remind you of your past so easily and who you’ve been. As we sang our first song, ‘Meet With Me’, I quickly remembered that I have a God much bigger than I could ever imagine. I remembered all the times I’ve failed he has been there with me, waiting for me to run to his open arms. I remembered that I am forgiven and have been given a new life through Jesus Christ. It’s kind of like having a pencil with no eraser that reminds me that my sins have been erased and Jesus has set me free. I pray that each of you take God seriously. He’s not some God that sits with a staff and a rod and is waiting on you to make a mistake. We serve a God who is loving, compassionate, and cries with us along our journey. I have truly been blessed with all God has given to me. Hearing all of you singing to our Creator, was one of the most amazing things I have ever heard. I am thankful to be here this weekend, and pray you have been too.”



Michael Peaytt

“I feel closest to God when working with CCYM and going to Fall Workshop/Summer Youth Celebration. Being around people that want to worship God helps me to Further My Faith. I don’t know where I’d be without this place.”



Tim Smith

“I praise God for his faithfulness. I thank God that if you will faithfully follow and live for him, that he will faithfully give you the desires of your heart. I am in a transitional phase in my life , with a lot of uncertainties ahead, but if I trust God in this time I believe He will reveal His plan for me... and it WILL be good!”

JESUSQUEST

08: BREATH OF GOD

by Kim Matthews

The youth from Johnson Memorial and Faith United Methodist Churches in Huntington, West Virginia invite you to join them on their third annual quest for Jesus: JesusQuest 08 on March 29 and March 30, 2008. If you've been to JesusQuest in the past, you've enjoyed worshiping and praising to the music of Portal, and you've been amazed at the feats of strength of Big Steve McGranahan. This year the program will be even bigger. In addition to Portal, Bob Stromberg, who was featured at the international United Methodist Youth event SPLAT in Greensboro, NC this past summer, will share his ministry with us during JesusQuest.

Bob's remarkable gift is his ability to interact with an audience and

facilitate surprising laughter with an arsenal of gifts including physical comedy, a non threatening touch of audience participation and yes... even hand shadows, which the London Metro described as "stunning". Add to this hilarious and tender stories from his own experience and audiences leave amazed, refreshed and different than when they came. You can read more about Bob at his web site, www.bobstromberg.com.

Bob will appear at JesusQuest 08 at Johnson Memorial United Methodist Church, 513 Tenth Street, Huntington, West Virginia on March 29, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. and March 30, 2008 at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. JesusQuest 08 will also feature Portal, a contemporary Praise & Worship band who believe that worship is a

lifestyle not just something you do in a church service. Portal is a multi-denominational band, and they love to worship with all of the body of Christ! Portal has been with JesusQuest since the beginning. Check them out at <http://www.portalpraise.com/> The public is invited to these free concerts and worship services. For more information and free tickets, contact Jeff Taylor at 1-800-788-3476 ext. 45 or jefftaylor@umfww.org. There's no charge for this two-day event, but we do need to know you're coming, as seating is limited. For those groups who need overnight accommodations, there are several nearby hotels. For groups on a tighter budget, we are working with several area churches that will be willing to accommodate groups, and the Western District's camp, Asbury Woods, is only 11 miles away. You won't want to miss this event!

WORKSHOPS TO FIND GOD'S SPACE

Emily Barksdale

Fall Workshop provides campers 11 different workshops on various topics to give youth ways to learn many skills need for their space and Gods space.

Many of them were traditional, such as Banner-Making, Choir, Reaching Out, At the Movies with Jesus and Faith Disasters. Because these workshops have been popular in the past, they have become mainstays at Fall Workshop.

However, new workshops, such as Coming Alive to God, Who's Your Disciple, Spiritual Writing, Worship Now, and Help Us Listen Lord, were instated to give more variety to workshops for the youth looking for ways to grow spiritually.

Spiritual Writing started a Fall Workshop blog upon which members can post entries and visitors can submit comments and suggestions. Check it out at <http://fallworkshop.blogspot.com/>

Two junior girls from Parkersburg enjoyed the workshop, Help Us Listen Lord. The workshop explained how meditation can be away to become more connected with God. Bethany Maze liked saying, "We had our covenant group leader as the workshop leader."

Her friend, Caitlin Pickrell, said, "You don't have to be doing yoga to meditate."

When campers didn't have a scheduled workshop, they were to attend No Doubts about Thomas, the

Bible study that was also conducted during each timeslot. Bob Bartram explained that he and Rich Hogg had talked about the Thomas passage. Bob said, "So many times, people have referred to it as 'Doubting Thomas,' and I think that's not correct. I think Thomas is an example of faith, so we decided to call it 'No Doubts about Thomas'. We try to use campus pastors to do Bible studies," he adds, "although various clergy and lay-people may fill in."

Seventh-grader Dustin Copley of Wayne enjoyed his Bible study stating, "I had no clue that we could learn so many ways to be devoted to God," he said.

Workshops were a great success.

CUBA BOUND

by Dena Tuell

In December of 2006, I had the privilege to travel with the Mission of Peace, MOP, to Nicaragua. Mission of Peace is a gathering of three youth per conference and five adults from the North Eastern Jurisdiction.

It's more than a mission trip. "This trip is one unlike any other you will ever experience," states Emily Barksdale. Emily went on the 2006 trip to Nicaragua.

You must be patient, flexible, and adapt to change easily while on your trip. Things change constantly and patience is a virtue. It changed my life and open my eyes to a bigger world. The trip was one of the best times of my life.

Praising God, finding yourself, and finding God are the main goals of the trip.

Last year there were four youth from the West Virginia Annual Conference participated in MOP. They were Emily Barksdale, Sara Holcomb Jamiela Isaiah, and Dena Tuell.

This year the conference will send three youth; Connor Kenaston, Makenzie Hatfield, and Ethan Rapking. Mission of Peace will be going to Cuba on December 27, 2007, and will return on January 12, 2008.

Kenaston said, "I wanted to go on this trip because both of my sisters went and my best friend went. I really want to go to better my spirituality and to become closer with God."

Strong friendships are made with roommates, other youth, and counselors on your journey. Getting to know everyone upon arrival is exciting, but the goodbyes we have to say come all too soon. Keep in touch with those who you come close with because when you become close to other people, it is then that you truly become closer with God. The destination in 2008 will be to Zimbabwe, South Africa. For more information contact Ted Anderson.

HAS THE FOOD BECOME BETTER THROUGH THE YEARS?

4 out of 20 said it's their first year

7 out of 20 said yes

9 out of 20 said it's been the same

AFTERNOON DELIGHT

by Emily Moore

Youth could be found running, playing, singing, chatting, eating and maybe even sleeping late Saturday afternoon during Afternoon Options.

Pick-up games of football, soccer and Ultimate Frisbee were rampant, and cell phones were out in full force as attendees scrambled to contact parents, friends and significant others. Many campers participated in a mass game of Red Rover. Some youth played board games or cards in the classroom building or skateboarded around Cedar Lakes, while others decorated the surroundings with colorful sidewalk chalk. Musicians gathered in various groups to sing and play together, and CCYM sold refreshments in the Coffee House in the assembly hall.

"I played some sports outside, but then I got cold, so I went into the Coffee House to warm up," said Matt Knowlton, a freshman from Mason.

On the basketball courts, a free-throw shootout was held to raise funds for Nothing but Nets, the campaign to stop malaria. Entrants paid \$2 to see who could make the most foul shots in a row. All funds raised were given by the West Virginia Annual Conference youth to purchase nets to be added to the one million plus that have already been donated. One \$10 bed net can save a person from malaria by covering their sleeping area and killing the noxious creatures with insecticide to prevent later infection.

By 5 p.m., nine people had participated, bringing the grand total of money raised to \$21. Ryan Anderson was the winner, making 23 shots in a row.

FOOD SPACE

by Robin Samuels

Food: a wonderful nutritious thing that we eat.

Is Fall Workshop food really healthy for us? How has it changed in the years? Is it better or worse?

The menu has been pretty much the same since forever and a day. For this weekend they included sticky noodles with meat or Alfredo sauce, salads, bacon or sausage, rolls, lovely water-downed, generic Kool-Aid, rubbery scrambled eggs, and last, but not least, their a-ma-zing desserts.

This may seem unhealthy, but actually it includes many of the awesome food groups we are supposed to eat. So give thanks to the cooks who have prepared the food before us. Plus, there have been no cases of death (maybe some sore stomachs) due to the food we are served at Fall Workshop. Just because it may not taste all that great, or with some people it may taste great, eat and be merry.