



# The VOICE...

are you listening?



Summer Youth Celebration 2003

June 23-27, 2003

## SYC 2003:

# An Amazing Experience

by: Michael Minnich

Many people of various ages trickled onto the campus of West Virginia Wesleyan College for this year's edition of Summer Youth Celebration. They were looking forward to a week of fun, faith, and friendship. All were rewarded.

Orientation kicked off the week, as counselors and youth alike gathered in the gym of the college: first-year campers with nervous apprehension and returnees with eager anticipation of spending time with friends and with God.

Campers got their first feel of SYC at the opening ceremonies. The camp met the fabulous foursome of Kadasha, and sang songs both old and new in humble tribute to God. Opening ceremonies were then followed with the first covenant group session of the week. For most, this was an opportunity to make new friends; for others, it was a chance to catch up with old acquaintances from past years.

The highlight of the first day was the evening worship with Bishop Ives and the Cabinet followed by an ice cream social on the oval. This has become a yearly tradition at SYC. As always, the Bishop was full of encouraging and interesting words. He spoke about the trials of his youth and how he received his calling to the ministry one starlit night in Maine. The only night covenant group session of the week put the cap on a fast-paced and fun first day.

Tuesday brought an early worship service (perhaps too early, judging by the sleepy eyes of some of the campers). After praising God through music, SYC got its first look at Rev. Eleanor Miller, who spoke an inspiring message about listening to God's call in her life. Following covenant group and lunchtime, the first workshop of the week was held. Campers were able to choose from such various topics as tie-dye, terrorism, and girl talk. Workshops were followed by district gatherings. Those districts that had not elected their representatives to the Conference Council on Youth Ministries did so at that time, and then followed it by planning some activities for the upcoming months. Free time and dinner came next, and then a packed Wesley Chapel was treated to a concert by Kadasha followed by the yearly Youth Service Fund Carnival. This was one of the many fundraisers for YSF. New ways of bringing in the cash were tried this year, including pay hugs, massages, and renting Nemo the fish. The loan of Nemo turned tragic when the stuffed fish was



stolen and held for ransom.

Wednesday brought another morning worship, featuring a sermon about perception, chili, and spaghetti sauce from Rev. Miller more precious covenant group time, and the second workshop session of the week. Following workshops, SYC split into age groups and elected members-at-large for the CCYM. After free time and dinner, the talent show was held. This show is one of the best parts of the week, as the campers take over the entertainment. During this year's edition, many talented acts graced the stage, ranging from pianists to bands to Houdini-like escape artists. The talent show was immediately followed by the dance. A very tired group of youth and adults found their beds very welcome that evening.

Another perfect sunny day greeted the population of SYC Thursday morning. Worship, covenant group, lunch, and workshops all were very fun and interesting. That afternoon, the champion of the youth basketball tournament clashed with the counselors in a furious basketball event. After dinner, the Thursday communion service was held. This was an amazing service, with hundreds crowding the altar space in search of God's will for their future.

Friday was a bittersweet day, as campers and counselors alike reflected on an amazing week yet looked forward to bringing a piece of SYC home to their churches. All were changed and all were blessed.

# Faith Sharing 1

by: Michael Storage

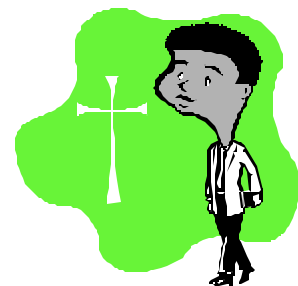
It seems like in today's world all you ever see or hear about is sex. Sex is advertised everywhere and people talk about it constantly. In turn, people act on this exposure in the media because it is the "cool" thing to do.

When asked to do this and write about my personal experience, I was a little hesitant at first, but it is the best if I tell about it so other teenagers, like myself, don't go down the same road that I have been on and if you have, for them to stop.

I was brought up with the traditional values and was always told to wait for that "special someone" when I grew up. Me, being the rushing person I am, decided I wanted to see what the hype was about and be with "the in crowd". After having the experience though, I wish that I could take it all back. No matter how hard I try, I can never take back that night. Sex is a gift that God gave us to experience when we were in love with someone; it seems today that it is more about being in lust. But I'm not going to try to kid anyone; I really did think that I was in love with her, but a person doesn't fall out of love so I regret talking the relationship to that level.

Afterwards, I felt like I was the man. I did it and I was proud of it. Now though, when asked if I have, I am so ashamed of myself to admit it. When I decided that I would like to have a relationship with another girl, she said that she was "scared of my level of experi-

ence"... you know who you are. I wish so badly that I would have waited because now that I really want this particular girl, I know that she would never respect me as much as before if I still had been a virgin. Everything changes with sex; relationships get harder. You take for granted things like hand-holding and just talking to that person without being "all over" them. My advice to anyone thinking about having sex before they're married is to please wait. You may not regret it now if you have sex, but sooner or later it catches up with you. Stay on the right path so you can give your whole heart, soul, as well as body to the person you will spend the rest of your life with. One you give yourself away, you can never get what you had back. Learn from my mistake and know that sooner or later you will regret it. Put your faith and trust in God and you will find that special someone that you can give your whole self to.



To order videos of SYC (2003, 2002, 2001) for \$15 or Fall Workshop (2001, 2003) for \$10.

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**The VOICE...**  
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## A Show of Talents

by: Aaron Leatherman  
and Nate Meadows

All was quiet until the pristine notes of the trumpet rang clear throughout the sanctuary. That's how this year's annual SYC talent show began, with a trumpet solo rendition of "Amazing Grace."

This year's talent show consisted of many vocal performances, but was not without its surprises. It's not every day a person can witness professional rope jumping or watch one of their peers escape from a straight jacket while wrapped in a sheet!

Many of the campers were enthralled by the high-energy performances of the ska band and the two rock bands, while many were moved by the piano and vocal performances.

Regardless of the type of talent displayed, all of the talents were wonderful. In any case, the performers should be very proud, for they all did an excellent job.

## SYC's Keen Dean

by: Suzanne Armstrong  
and Cara McMullen



After being a part of SYC for 13 years, Jeremiah Jasper is now Head Dean! But Jasper feels that he is more of a coordinator than a dean, "because you have to coordinate to make sure that everything gets done, that the speaker and the band get invited, and that there are enough counselors recruited. So most of the work is done in advance; it just takes a little bit of work to do before we all get here," says Jasper. "It takes me nine months to prepare for SYC, and it's only one week. Could you imagine how long it would take if SYC was longer than a week?"

The only thing that Jasper has changed from previous years is the YSF Auction: now it's before the closing celebration, not after it. We asked Jasper: "Do you have goals for this SYC and next year's SYC?"

He responded with, "Just to make sure we have plenty of counselors."

We also asked him, "Do you regret anything about becoming a coordinator?"

Jasper replied, "No, I enjoy it; I enjoy being here for this week."

So, you can tell students aren't the only ones who have fun but deans and adults do as well. Everyone enjoys coming back here year after year.

## Harry Potter Crossfire: Which Side Are You On?

by: Mark Skaggs and Alyssa Ball

With the release of the fifth installment of the Harry Potter saga, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, many moral issues have once again risen. It was these two reporters mission to get to the bottom of this debate. We decided the best way to go about "solving the mystery" would be to ask people their opinion. We first asked Dani Brake her opinion. She told us, "I think that Harry Potter is such a good book because it's getting people to read."

Chris Tallman felt indifferent towards the series and said that, "Although I haven't given it a chance, I am annoyed by all of the hype."

When we asked Casey Patterson, he said, "I'm just not really into all that wizard stuff. It didn't really live up to my expectations."

Then we proposed the question to Rosie Morris whose answer contrasted with Casey's. Rosie replied, "It's simple reading. I can just read it in a night. It's predictable, and I like

that."

Lastly, when Catherine Miller was interrogated, we soon found out she was a Harry Potter convert. She said, "At first, I thought it was stupid. There was no reason to see a movie because everybody was making a huge deal out of it, but then I saw the movie. I really like it, and I can't wait for the next movie to come out!"

In conclusion, we found that opinions differed, but Harry Potter was a well known name around SYC.



## Faith Sharing 2

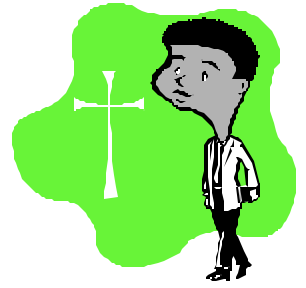
by: Mark Skaggs

Growing up in a minister's house is not the best way to go on a journey to find Christ. All of the time, someone was telling me that He was everywhere. This made me very fearful of what to do and say. My father, as a United Methodist minister, was always busy, so my mom tried her best to raise me. Since I don't have any brothers it was really hard for me to grow up with three sisters. For some reason, I always thought that my mom wanted me to be a girl. I became infuriated, because of this and the fact that my dad could have stopped this intense situation.

God kept my dad from me. Why would He do that? I hated him for it. One summer though, my youth group leaders, Tim and Tammy Haynie, asked if we wanted to go to SYC. I had been to one Fall Workshop before that, and the people didn't seem to be snake handlers. So, I decided to go. I came to SYC afraid that I would become the one thing I hated, a minister. One

thing that I didn't expect was covenant groups. One very special covenant group is probably the reason that I'm still alive. I had decided earlier that if things didn't get better, I would die, no matter which way. Well, things did get better as the week went

on. The troubles from home went away, leaving me to venture into uncharted territory for any Skaggs. I had something of my own, something good and something pure. The one question I had left was why had God taken away my father only to lead me down the same path? I was confused, but in a happy way. Everyone at SYC became my friend, and it became easier to talk to people. I finally have achieved something that everyone wants to achieve. I am comfortable being me. Only through God's grace was this able to happen. I have growing friendships with God and SYC, and I want everyone to know you're not alone with your problems. You can also call me anytime. Who knows? With these experiences, I might actually become a minister.



## Covenant Groups Wild or Too Long?

by: Hillary Kernen

This year's Covenant Groups were based around listening to God. The groups studied scripture, discussed, and played games to help improve their personal faith. But were the Covenant Groups as successful as planned? Here's what the campers had to say:

"Our covenant group has been really fun and different. But, it's too long, way too long!" -Danielle, 14

"Our covenant group was wild, we needed more to do. We think the sessions should have been shorter." -Courtney, 13

"We think that we could have had more people in our covenant groups, also shorter time periods. We also think that we should have had more time to talk to God." -Abby, 12

"Our covenant group was hilarious. It was a lot of fun." -Lucy, 15

"Our covenant group was interesting, and had fun activities." -Brian, 16

"Our covenant group kicks butt." -Halley Brooke, 16

"Our covenant group was wild, but it makes us laugh every time." -Chelsey, 13

It seems that the sessions went quite well, but the additional time was not put to good use. Maybe next year there should be shorter but more numerous sessions.





## Upcoming Events

by: **Leslianne Rex**

Welcome to another edition of the upcoming events. As you know, Summer Youth Celebration has come to an end again, and the buildup for Fall Workshop has begun.

Fall Workshop is a mini weekend of SYC, held November at Cedar Lakes. This mini weekend is fun-filled with worship services, activities (like the coffeehouse, the dance, movies, games, also putt putt golf and much much more.). After all these enjoyable activities, we have a service on Sunday with communion, which is very uplifting and powerful.

Awakening is a gathering in Fairmont, WV that will be held in the spring of 2004. This event begins at Valley World of Fun. There are many fun things you can do, such as putt putt, a climbing wall, a maze, go carts, laser tag, bowling, and many more games to play. After a couple hours there everyone jumps into their cars and rides over to the Fairmont Armory to eat pizza, visit with friends, enjoy a concert, and worship the Lord.

Looking ahead to next summer, Annual Conference is in full swing in June 2004. If you would like to be apart of this event, contact your District Superintendent. One of the jobs that youth can do is being a page that runs errands, helps with registration, and sits in on sessions. A youth delegate sits in sessions but must be at every session. They vote on issues, talk to a lot of people, watch many fantastic worship services, and just enjoy being there.

Summer Youth Celebration is the biggest event coming up in 2004 because everyone comes back every year to enjoy themselves. The part we all hate is when all the seniors graduate and leave us. A week at SYC is what everyone looks forward to all year long so that they can come and see their friends again.

# All about CCYM

by: **Leslie Rene` Sears**

The Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM) is made up of thirty youth and approximately 11 adults.

Election to CCYM can happen one of three ways, the first being elected or appointed as a district representative. Their duty is to attend the CCYM meetings throughout the year and represent their districts at conference youth events. Also, district representatives keep CCYM informed as to what is going on in their district.

The second way of election to CCYM is as a member at large; these are elections which take place at SYC each year. The process is simple; when a youth decides to run for member at large, they fill out a brief questionnaire which helps better explain their personality and also their personal relationship with God. The youth are then split up into their age groups and the campers at SYC then for who they think the best candidate for CCYM really is. The votes are tallied and the new CCYM meets that very Friday night where they elect the CCYM executive board.

When Chairperson Diane Kenaston was asked what she likes most about CCYM, she quickly and enthusiastically answered, "CCYM becomes a great big family, because we are here for the same purpose, to do God's work in this conference. It is an awesome responsibility and I am continually humbled by the spirituality of the youth in West Virginia."

I also spoke with fellow graduating member Jessica Auxier and asked her how she felt leaving CCYM. Auxier says, "I'm sad to be leaving because of all of the friendships I have made, but I know the future of CCYM is in good hands with its new members".

While CCYM is a lot of fun and games, it does have a purpose.

CCYM is made to provide fellowship, support, and opportunities for youth to serve and lead, also to strengthen youth ministries in the local churches and district of the Annual Conference. According to the CCYM Constitution, "The CCYM works to provide guidance and support for its task forces, known as design teams, in their planning of conference events, in addition to striving to fulfill its mission of calling youth into a relationship with God through Christ; strengthen their faith; providing fellowship, support, and opportunities for youth to serve and lead; and strengthen youth ministry in the local church churches and districts of annual conference." Each member works with everyone else in CCYM to form a group of brothers and sisters in Christ and provide guidance for all conference events, such as Fall Workshop, Summer Youth Celebration, and Winter Awakening.

Good luck and congratulations to the 2003-2004 CCYM!

### Members at Large

#### 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade

Jesse Bradley, Gina Brenneman, and Logan Smith

#### 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade

Chris Burdick, Josh Hurley, and Rachel Kenaston

#### 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade

Bill Harriston, Mary Hatfield, Andrew Mauck, and Anna Reed

### District Representatives

Greenbrier: John Thompson, Rachel Wentz

Little Kanawah: Alyssa Ball, Diane Kenaston

Midland South: Catherine Miller, Jimmy Smith

Mon Valley: Valarie Jasper, Katie Ramsey

Northern: Jarrod Elliott, Britney Hervey

Potomac Highlands: Mark Nicholson, Josh Taylor

Southern: Ben Love, Mark Skaggs

Wesleyan: Deanna Ashcraft, Rebecca Flynn

Western: Jerod Bradley, Megan Williams

UMYO Rep.: John Jasper

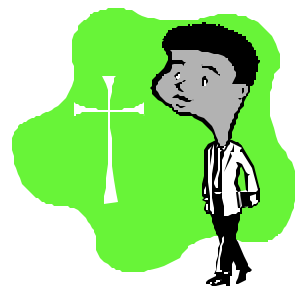
## Faith Sharing 3

by: *Kaitly Marler*

I can honestly say that in the past 15 and a half years I've never been comfortable being me; I've never been able to actually see what kind of person I am. It's really hard not to be jealous of girls that are prettier than I am and girls that always have a smile on their faces. I guess I'm just one of those people who see all the flaws and don't see the good qualities that are possessed. I'm not really sure what it's going to take for me to actually see myself in a positive manner, but I really need God's help; as well as the help of my friends. They may be able to show me what it is that I'm missing to be happy. I'm just so sick of not feeling like a worthwhile person and it just makes me want to be able to look in a mirror and actually think I look as

beautiful as I've been told I am.

I've barely had the strength to carry on these past few days, but my roommate Katie is my inspiration and has helped give me a reason to want to go on that's why I love her so much and she means more than she'll ever know to me. She is so beautiful and just has this amazing presence about her, and she just continues to tell me how beautiful I am and how much she loves me. She is one of my few saving graces and has kept me as sane as I can be for the past week. I pray everyday that I'll be able to be happy with myself, and I pray that no one else doubts themselves. I know how tough it is to actually be you, and continue to pray for me and others like me. Maybe one day we'll see ourselves for what we really are.



## Boy's Dance Preparations

by: *Mark Skaggs*

- 5:55: wash hair
- 5:57: brush teeth
- 6:01: wash face
- 6:05: changed
- 6:06: deodorized
- 6:07: gelled hair



## Boy's Dance Preparations

by: *Rachel Rowell  
and Kaity Marler*

- 5:00: Finished dinner and headed to the dorms
- 5:15: Kaity washes her hair in the sink and Rachel shaves her legs.
- 5:25: Kaity dries her hair and puts on red temporary hair dye.
- 5:30: Kaity puts Rachel's hair in rollers.
- 5:40: Turn on the music to get pumped up for the dance!! Some girls from the hall come to get help with outfits and make-up for the dance.
- 5:55: Start putting on make-up! Lots and lots of make-up! Kaity then starts curling her hair.
- 6:10: Kaity finishes her hair and takes rollers out of Rachel's hair.
- 6:25: Looked for accessories to match our outfits and then go glitter crazy!!
- 6:35: Pick out HOT shoes to wear!
- 6:40: Head to the bathroom to brush our teeth where all the girls are primping and getting ready for the big night ahead
- 6:50: Last minute primping (perfume, hairspray ...etc.) Last minute touch ups!
- 6:55 Grab glow sticks and leave dorm looking good and ready to go have fun with all our friends old and new from SYC!!



So as you can see preparing for the big night was completely different for guys than it was for girls. Though it took the girls longer the hard work paid off!

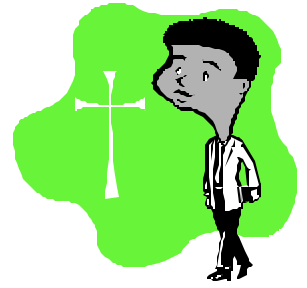
## Faith Sharing 4

by: Rachel Rowell

When I walked onto the campus of West Virginia Wesley for the first time, I look around and see the faces of so many people I've never seen before in my life. Some people are standing in line waiting to register, and many are hugging, laughing, and talking to all their friends they've met in past years at SYC. Thank goodness for people like Laura Suppa, Katie Marler, Katie Ramsey, and many others. I felt so out of place when I arrived, and thought I might be called an "outsider". However, these girls came to my rescue and made me feel like I've known them for years. So many people have reached out and made an honest effort to get to

know me. It's a great feeling you get inside when people are as sincere as the people I've met here have been to me.

I've felt so at ease this past week. All my at home problems have seemed to disappear and God's amazing presence has been everywhere I've gone this week. I can see him in the eyes or people I've met, and in the lyrics of the songs we sing. This week God has been so good to me, so when I leave here this week, my goal is to be good to Him in return. I'm not going home to runaway from the problems I came here with, I'm going home to face them... with God by my side.



## Gourmet or Gross?

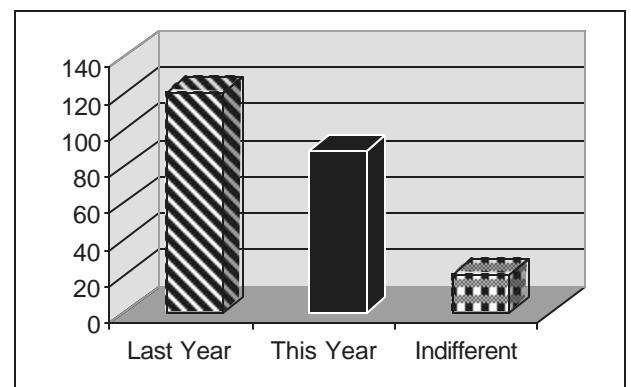
### Would You Eat It?

by: Laura Suppa and Nicole Biondi

After hearing many complaints about the food this year, the newspaper staff decided to take a poll to see how many people preferred this year's food to last year's food. We were surprised to find that the outcome of the poll was actually much closer than any of us thought it would be.

"The quality of the food is just the same, however, the fact that the buffet bar is placed in the center of the room and obscures the flow of traffic still baffles me," says Mark Skaggs.

"The rice crispy treats are definitely the *best* part of SYC, you have to have two at every meal," says Mary Hatfield.



# The Men Behind the Music

by: Chris Tallman  
and Stephanie Stacy

*Kadasha*, a term that is an Americanized word of a Hebrew word meaning, “new creation,” led music for worship services this year at Summer Youth Celebration. All members agree that the food here is good. The current state of the band, Nuno, Josh, Phillip, Drew, and Chris (sound man), has only been together for two weeks, and started practice on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Kadasha plans to record a new album soon, and it should be released next spring sometime. Phillip and Nuno like to “quarrel” about music, and Nuno almost always wins. And all of them pick on each other when there is nothing else to do.

Jezimer (Nuno) Norberato, the bassist, is originally from Fortaleza, Brazil and can speak three languages fluently: Portuguese, Spanish, English, and is going to learn German and Italian. His last birthday cake had 23 candles on it and he has been a member of Kadasha for two years. Last year, he went with the band to South Africa. His biggest musical influence is a Brazilian jazz player named Tom Jobim. Nuno started singing at a very young age. In addition to the bass, he also plays the guitar, piano, flute, and saxophone. While in high school, he played the saxophone. Nuno currently attends Campbellsville University in Campbellsville, Kentucky, where he plays soccer, which is his favorite sport and was once on a semi-professional team. He is currently majoring in Classical Guitar and Church Music.

Joshua Wortham, the keyboardist, is originally from Brandenburg, Kentucky. He is 20 years of age and he has been a member of Kadasha for two years. He started playing at the age of six, and his first performance was in his sophomore year of high school. Besides playing the keyboard, he plays the tambourine as well as other percussion instruments. Josh first felt his calling in high school while playing music in the church, where he was also in the choir. He currently also attends

Campbellsville University in Campbellsville, Kentucky, and he has two classes with fellow band-mate Nuno. Blue is his favorite color.

Phillip Hogg, the drummer is originally from Morehead, Kentucky. He is 20 years old and has been a member of Kadasha for only about a month. In addition to playing the drums, Phillip also plays the guitar, bass, mandolin, and in his senior year of high school, the clarinet. During high school, Phillip led worship at his church for a good while...but, for two years he had a dry spell where he sat around and did nothing. However, while he was sitting in a class at school, it hit him that he really missed leading worship and decided that was what he wanted to do with his life. His first show was while he was in a high school band: “Just Add Water.” He will be attending Morehead State University in Morehead, Kentucky. Phillip’s favorite scripture is Psalms 1:39. According to Stephy Stacy, he is an excellent dancer as well.

Drew Hellams, the guitarist and lead vocalist, is originally from Columbia, South Carolina. His last birthday cake contained 18 candles and also has been a member of Kadasha for only about a month. In addition to playing the guitar, Drew also plays the cello, which he started playing in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. His greatest musical influence is Chris Hughes. As a process all throughout high school, decided that he wanted to

lead worship music as his profession. While playing mostly in church, his first show outside of church was in the 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grade. He is going to attend the University of South Carolina in the fall and is going to major in Music Education. Drew’s favorite movie is “Joshua” and he has the laugh of a little girl.

Chris Hembree, the sound technician, is originally from Spartansburg, South Carolina. He is 20 years of age, and has been in Kadasha for several years now. He first became the sound tech., by receiving a call from a friend of his family to ask him to be the “sound guy.” In addition to being an *excellent* sound technician, Chris also plays the keyboard. He is attending college and is majoring in New Media. Chris’s favorite food is: the infamous bean burrito.

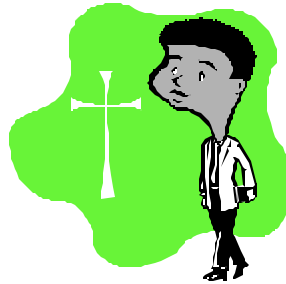
“Kadasha really makes worship rocking,” says Halley Smith. There is also a general consensus among the campers that agree, despite Kadasha’s young age. Even with brand-new members and great diversity, Kadasha **still** knows how to rock the stage in worship!



# Dear Lord

by: Darick Biondi  
and Mark Skaggs

Dear Abby has become today's best known advice columnist, but what ever happened to turning to God for guidance? Thankfully a few campers were willing to share their problems with the Lord, and with the newspaper. In response we have recommended certain scriptures to help them through their difficult times. **Also, we ask the campers to keep the letter writers in their prayers.**



Dear Lord,

There are so many questions and issues running through my head that I don't even know where to begin. Tuesday was seven months since the day Dad died. Whenever I find a moment when I am not busy, my mind wanders back to that Sunday morning when I came home and found him. Could I have done anything to change the outcome? My dad was my best and closest friend, so now where do I turn? I feel so alone. I often wonder why it had to be him instead of my. At times I feel that I would give anything to trade places with someone and get a break from this upside-down life. I have found so much comfort and so many answers in you Lord, but there is just something missing. When he died I was in a serious/long-term relationship, but he [my boyfriend] couldn't cope with me coping with everything that had happened, so it soon ended. So here I am; two major losses in a very short time and a hole in my heart that desperately needs filled.

Emily Myers

**Dear Emily,**

**The book of Job will definitely offer you the guidance you need. Readers, please keep Emily in your hearts, minds and prayers so that she may find the answers she is looking for.**

Dear Lord,

All my friends are fighting right now and I'm stuck in the middle. I don't want to choose a side, but I just want everything resolved. It is the last summer we have together and I don't want it to end this way before college. Please tell me what to do.

Y.M.I.C.

**Dear Y.M.I.C.,**

**Matthew 18:15-17 will offer much advice for your little predicament. Jesus also said, "love your neighbor as yourself." Don't be afraid to talk to your friends about it. Just choose your words wisely, and don't put anyone on the spot.**

Dear Lord,

Six months ago, one of my very close cousins committed suicide. Ever since then, I've had doubts in my faith. I came to SYC to find peace for what has happened.

Sarah Davis

**Dear Sarah,**

**You will find that Jude 1:21 and 1 John 5:11-14 will help you in you quest for peace. Remember that, although your situation is rare, you're not alone.**



## Opening Night 2003

by: Jessica Auxier

The opening activities on Monday night started off yet another great Summer Youth Celebration.

Kadasha opened in song, igniting a spark with many of the females in the crowd. Dean Jeremiah Jasper gave a short welcome. He encouraged campers to strive to make one another feel welcome, the same way his family was made feel welcome their first year.

West Virginia Wesleyan President William Haden spoke to campers shortly. He encouraged them to consider West Virginia Wesleyan as they pondered their future. He elaborated on Wesleyan's rich Methodist heritage and how many current pastors and cabinet members of the West Virginia Conference are Wesleyan graduates.

West Virginia Bishop Ives spoke to the campers about listening and hearing God. He talked about his former track career at the University of Maine and how God spoke to him there and during other parts of his life "in a still small voice."

Following the bishop's speech, his cabinet was introduced. CCYM members escorted their respective cabinet members and district superintendents to the chapel oval. This provided the campers an opportunity to meet their district superintendents while enjoying an ice cream social hosted by President and Mrs. Haden.

## It Started With Hello...

by: **Leslie Rene` Sears**

Worship is amazing, the fun is immeasurable, and the friendships are everlasting here in the hot sun of SYC 2003. But, exactly how do first time campers feel about their 'first time' here at SYC? Most are having fun, with seldom a complaint other than the food.

I asked first time and already graduated camper Cilla Stark how she liked SYC and she said "It's pretty cool!"

Also when Stark was asked if the more experienced campers were helpful she replied, "Yes, they're very informative and sincere. It's like a great big family."

First-time camper Hannah Ormsbees' favorite part of the week was the worship, music, and covenant groups.

Another first-time camper, Stephanie Arrington, says she wouldn't have been able to get around without the older campers.

Everyone says they'll come back next year, and we all hope to see their smiling faces again at SYC 2004!



## It Ended with Goodbye...

By **John Dunn**

Seeing all the first-year campers reminded me of what it used to be like for me. I didn't know where anything was. Some people look down on the younger campers, but when I see them, I see myself seven years ago.

My first year was 1997. The theme was "to everything there is a season." I'll never forget it. I was standing in line with my good buddies Matt and Ian when all of the sudden a total stranger turns around and says, "Oh, this is your guys' first year; don't worry, I'll help you out." That guy was Michael Ratliff. He has become a very good friend over the years.

Some things that never change at SYC are the women. They get more and more beautiful over the years. I've seen some of the most attractive women ever, and it was here in 1998 that I first kissed a girl or two.

SYC has always had a special place in my heart and it always will, because it is the place where I found God. I did not really know him before I came here, but when I did it was like I had a new friend that was always there and ready to listen to whatever I had to say.

## Improv at the Altar

by **Darick Biondi**

Improv, a term often associated with comedy or speech, was the style of choice for worship this year. Normally improv is on the spur of the moment, but "even though it's improv it takes a lot of work and prayer to put the service together" according to Diane Kenaston, the CCYM Chair.

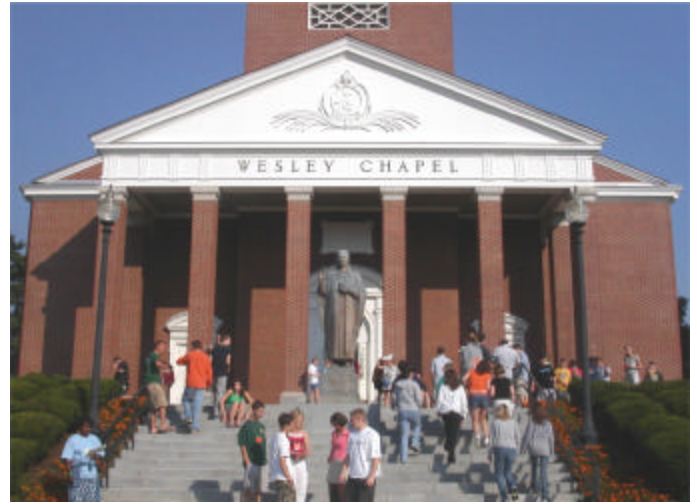
Throughout the many services, campers experienced the music of Kadasha; the improv testimonies of Jonathan White and Andrew Stephenson; and the sermons of Jeremiah Jasper, Eleanor Miller, and Bishop Ives. The morning worships began with Kadasha, followed by a few rounds of *Do You Know Him?* led by Eleanor Miller, and finally the morning message. *The topics for the sermons* were quite various, ranging from the Bishop's call to ministry to the acceptance of boogers and the smell of urine.

But was this style a success, did

the campers enjoy the last minute ministries, or was it too disorganized for their liking? "I liked last year's [services] more because they had different speakers," said Andy Tschop. Many campers agreed, but there was no doubt that improv made the testimonies even better. This year's improv services were just not up to par of last year's variety.

Though improv has both its ups and downs, one thing is for sure; there were quite a few Zz's caught during most of the services. Improv was a good idea, but the sleepers speak for themselves. Better luck next year.





## Workshops Working Out

by Michael Minnich and John Dunn

A major part of the Summer Youth Celebration experience is attending workshops. Campers chose three workshops, one for each full day of SYC, ranging from soccer to tie-dye to Biblical discussions. These workshops were an hour-and-a-half in length, and were enjoyed by all the youth in attendance.

One of the most popular workshops is banners. In this workshop, campers make personal banners with their names on them and work on a big banner to be auctioned off Friday afternoon. Olivia Morris took a break from painting a cardinal on the banner to comment that “the class is very fun and hands-on. It’s really great seeing all these people at work.”

Katie Cundiff agreed that making banners is very enjoyable. “It’s great we put so much time and effort into something so beautiful.”

Another popular choice among the artistically gifted was the tie-dye class. Valerie Hart was happy with the results of her work. “My shirt was a reddish yellowish orange sort of color,” she said.

One of the other popular workshops was ‘Fun in the Sun’, which emphasized the humorous side of religion. Clips from the movie “Forrest Gump” were one of the features of this class. First-time SYC’er Kerry Simmons called it “a lot of fun.”

The Labyrinth workshop provided a relaxing option for

SYC attendees. “We sat and meditated. It was awesome, possum,” commented Michael Storage. People in this workshop also navigated a one-directional maze.

Some other workshops gave the youth in attendance the opportunity to play sports. Adam Anderson, who attended the soccer workshop, called it “cool.”

Chris Burdock chose to attend a workshop that discussed terrorism, and found it very interesting. “It made me open my eyes to terrorism and what it is,” he said.

Campers take workshops for many different reasons. “I like the ropes course. It feels good to meet new people and work together as a team at the same time,” commented Lacey Hall.

“I like to take videos and tour the campus at the same time” said Anne Reed, who took the video workshop.

“I didn’t know much about the Methodist religion. This workshop gave me the opportunity to find out what it is and how it was formed,” said Megan Hurley.

Workshops gave the hundreds of campers at SYC new insights, funny moments, and allowed them to display their abilities, showing just why the experience is one of the high points of Summer Youth Celebration. All in all, every camper has a good time no matter what the workshop is.