

Harmony Herald

serving the SYC community and beyond



West Virginia Wesleyan College

GOD'S LOVE: Unity Beyond the Community

June 22-26, 2009



Bishop Lyght and Bishop Fisher participate in worship on Wednesday evening at SYC.

"God's Love: Unity Beyond the Community" Rewind

by Elizabeth Cartwright, grade 12 and Samuel Casto, grade 11

Youth from around the conference poured onto the WVWC Campus Monday afternoon as SYC opened preparing for a week filled with great worship, new friends, workshops, lost sleep, and pizza.

SYC was kicked off for the week Monday evening with a sermon from Bishop Lyght on how youth could order their steps like Jesus did. This inspiring service was followed by a concert from the Africa University Choir who was touring our conference.

Tuesday morning came quickly and Ken Ramsey quickly connected with the youth by explaining that the bible was kind of like God's text message to his followers. The day was jam-packed with worship, talent show auditions, SYC Idol and the new movie night.

SYC Idol was a new version of our old talent show but everyone played along and really seemed to enjoy themselves.

Afterwards we bundled up in blankets to watch Bedtime Stories. Dorm meetings didn't last long Tuesday night as everyone was just praying for a rest from the adventurous day.

On Wednesday everyone (including counselors) were tired and lazy, just praying for a nap. We all managed to get our energy up and gather in the chapel to listen to another amazing sermon from Debra Dague on how to find unity between our biological as well as spiritual families.

Another great day followed where youth connected with other youth and voted for our new CCYM representatives.

After worship, when Bishop Fisher stepped up to the pulpit preaching on how we are a lost family member at first and we need to be baptized and saved to be born anew into God's family, we had some nachos and then a late covenant group before heading off to catch some

sleep before the next day.

Thursday was another beautiful exciting day enhanced all the more when Bishop Fisher returned again to encourage us to step out of our comfort zone and bring back lost family members.

It was also a sad day as we all cried together knowing that tomorrow we were going our separate ways with only neon green shirts, a few phone numbers, and memories. Connor Keneaton, Chairman of CCYM, added to this sadness as he gave a sermon about life through the Spirit in the communion service.

Friday morning we kicked everything off with a great auction raising money for YSF and Monty Brown wrapped things up with a message on where to cast your nets as fishers of men.

We then all joined together as one before leaving to spread God's love and peace beyond our SYC community.

Off to Work We Go

by Jess McDaniel, grade 7, Samuel Casto, grade 10, Jacob Hanlin, grade 8

The work teams workshop gave the youth at SYC an opportunity to use their talents to help people of the community with gardening, digging a sewer line and ripping up a tile floor.

Work Teams head off campus to help out in the community, consisting of 21 people led by Bob Cover and Tiger Means. The camper's goals were to assist the residents in the community that needed help. They gathered at 12:30 in the chapel oval to go on their mission.

The first day youth were split into two groups, one went to rip up old tile, and the other worked in a garden.

On the second day they worked on digging a ditch for a sewer line and continued work in the garden. When the third arrived they finished digging the four foot deep sewer ditch.

People want to work on the work teams for many reasons. Some of these consisting of maybe just wanting to help out people with needs, some may also want to grow spiritually. There is a value in learning to work hard but mostly, work teams are a simple way to help the community and the rest of God's family.



The Best and the Worst of SYC

by Jordan Manning, grade 10

Finding only 10 best and 10 worst aspects about SYC is very difficult. However, we took on that challenge. Here are your results!

BEST

1. Meeting New People
2. Africa University Choir
3. Free time
4. Movie Night
5. Worship
6. Roommates
7. Food
8. Workshops
9. Covenant Group
10. No Dance

WORST

1. Lack of Air Conditioning
2. No Dance
3. Early Mornings
4. Hot Weather
5. No Maps
6. Lots of Stairs
7. Late Nights
8. Cold Meeting Rooms
9. Food
- Last, but certainly not least...
10. Leaving SYC

Movie Madness

by Emily Cramer, grade 7 and R.C. Cole, grade 8

On Tuesday evening following SYC Idol, the chapel oval was transformed into a drive-in movie theater as youth gathered on the grass with blankets to watch "Bedtime Stories" and enjoyed snacks provided by West Virginia Wesleyan College President Pamela Balch.

While the youth were gathered in the oval, watching the movie wasn't the only thing they did. Tenth grader Morgan Montgomery said that, as well as watching the movie, she also "enjoyed talking and laughing with my friends." Other people either caught up on their sleep or stargazed. Towards the end

of the movie, some youth even said that they saw a shooting star.

Many of the youth said they would much rather have had the annual Wednesday-night dance. When asked about the change, Michael Waide, Dean of SYC, said that "because we had already added some new components into this year's SYC, we decided to try something new. The movie did **not** replace the dance; it was just something that we wanted to try."

Still most of the campers enjoyed the movie. "It was good, and I'd never seen it before. The best part was the music [before and after]," said seventh-grader Alan Wooten.



Youth enjoy movie on Tuesday evening with Wesley Chapel in the background.



SYC newspaper staff takes time for a photo on Wednesday.

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West Virginia United Methodist Church
Conference Council of Youth Ministries
<http://www.umyouthnwv.org>

Soummer Youth Celebration 2009
Buckhannon, WV
June 22-26, 2009

Staff:

Elizabeth Cartwright
Samuel Casto
Emily Cramer
R. C. Cole
Sara Forren
Jacob Hanlin
Jordan Manning
Jess McDaniel
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Faith Story of Zach Slone

by Jordan Manning, grade 10

FAITH STORY

Late last year Zach Slone began having spells where he would blackout constantly. His mom saw it happen once and decided to take him to the doctor. Of course, the doctor's news wasn't great. Zach's heart was enlarged causing less blood to travel throughout his body. The doctor gave him few options, one of them being surgery. Zach stated, "Surgery wasn't a great option for me. I didn't want the last thing I saw to be a hospital ceiling." He gathered with his family, church, youth group, and other members of his community to have prayer for him. A few weeks after many prayers were lifted up, Zach returned to the doctor for more tests. A miracle had occurred – his heart had decreased and blood was beginning to pump a little better. The doctor was amazed; however, Zach and his family knew exactly what had happened. Now Zach Slone is completely better, and living a normal life. This wonderful experience truly made his faith grow stronger and bigger. This is just one testament of our God's healing power.

Way to Worship

by Jess McDaniel, grade 7 and R. C. Cole, grade

The youth assembled at Wesley Chapel during SYC to celebrate God's love, kindness, and grace by singing, praying, reading scriptures, and listening to sermons.

The first worship on Monday evening included a sermon by Bishop Lyght. He emphasized that the youth should not dwell on the future, nor the past, but that they should be focused on the present. Bishop Lyght told the youth that they should always be prepared, as they never know what they will face in life.

In Tuesday morning's message youth learned how to get to the point by using text messages. Pastor Ken Ramsey urged youth to "get to the point of life" through fellowship with their Christian brothers and sisters. Rather than trying to find the answer themselves, youth were asked to listen more closely to God's written word as a guide. Texting was used to suggest the urgency of God's message to the youth, and he asked us if they would "press send" and answer God's call.

On Wednesday morning, guest speaker Debra Dague spoke about how the church must

stay unified. No matter the differences between people, all Christians must be united.

Later that evening, Bishop Violet Fisher preached to the youth about God's family. The enthusiastic Bishop spoke of adoption into God's family and challenged the youth to invite others into this family called the Body of Christ. She told the youth to say to the ones next to them, "I am a part of your family and there is nothing you can do about it." To end the service, everyone in the chapel joined hands as all were unified.

Thursday morning the youth reconvened in Wesley Chapel to hear another sermon by Bishop Fisher. The Bishop taught the youth that they are the world and that they should help each other. She also brought to attention that need to "step out of our comfort zone". She gave a remarkable example of her stepping out of her "comfort zone" when she went bungee jumping one hundred and forty-one feet in New Zealand at the age of sixty-eight! Yet her greatest message was that God is calling each and every one of us to be disciples, and that no one is

to be excluded. Like Pastor Ramsey's message, she reminded everyone: we only have to answer the call.

On the last night at SYC, Conor Kenaston rocked the pulpit with a great sermon leading up to the celebration of Eucharist. The service was filled with both joy and sadness as everyone realized that the week was nearly over, and for some, it would be their last as SYC campers. Truly the Spirit was present as SYC united to celebrate Communion together.

As everyone prepared to leave, Monty Brown preached at the final time of worship. He spoke of the return home and the youth's continued responsibilities to the Church and the world.

Through worship this week, the youth learned several valuable lessons: to be prepared, to get to the point, to stay unified, to remember that all are family, and to leave our comfort zone. These were such important lessons that they simply cannot stay in the chapel; instead they will change the way many think and act as youth unified by God's purpose.



Youth Turned Staff: Their SYC Experiences

by Eliza Smith, grade 7

This year during SYC, youth-turned-staff were interviewed about past and present SYC experiences. Stephanie Stacy, Lauren Godwin, Darick Biondi, Stephanie Long, and Halley Smith, were all seven year campers and now on staff.

One fond memory of years past was free time. All five agreed that it was a time for relaxation. Lauren, Darick and Halley concurred that it was a great time for naps.

Stephanie Long and Stephanie Stacy said it was a fantastic time for sitting on the lawn, listening to music and hanging out with friends.

Darick's memories revolve around the communion service held on Thursdays, while Lauren's have to do with new and old friends and embracing God's call for her as a young person.

Halley remembers buying Eli Kinzer at the dance auction and seeing "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat."

Stephanie Long reported that her memories have to do with hanging out with her camp friends, being on the design team, and the "To Everything There is a Season" t-shirt week.

Like Darick, Stephanie Stacy likes to remember the Thursday communion service, but she also enjoys the talent show.

Stephanie Long wanted to be a counselor because she had been a counselor at Fall Workshop, so she wanted to try SYC.

Lauren said that it was her experiences as a youth that brought her back as a counselor.

Darick stated, "You can't keep me away from SYC for long!"

Stephanie Stacy's choice was made because of the Wesleyan atmosphere. Because of the friends she made at the conference held in Buckhannon, Halley decided to come back to SYC as a counselor. All five agreed that another reason was that SYC was so fun! Halley and Stephanie Long agreed that something that had stayed the same was the number of youth.

Lauren also agreed with the decrease in attendance. Darick reported that there was no Green Room when he was a camper. Stephanie Stacy told us that there are more workshops and activities than before. Stephanie Long and Halley coincided that they liked the different-colored

nametags.

Darick said, "As counselors, we have to act more mature (but just a little)."

Stephanie Stacy stated, "As a counselor, you get to share your experiences with your campers."

Lauren declared that you have more responsibility as a counselor.

When asked if they keep in touch with their SYC youth friends, all five but Lauren responded, "Yes."

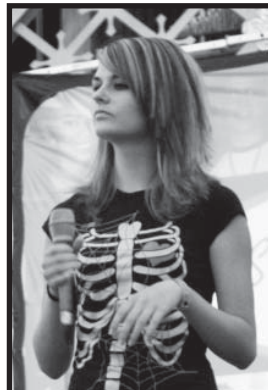
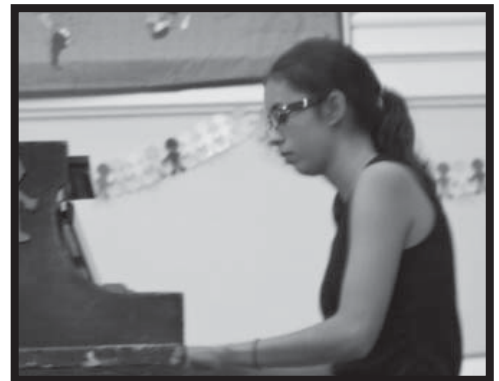
Darick said that he likes the selection of workshops, that they are even better.

Lauren, Halley, and Stephanie Long commented on the used-to-be tie-dye class, but Stephanie Stacy disagreed with all of them.

As a remark on the covenant groups, Halley, Lauren, and Stephanie Long told us the covenant groups had changed for the better.

Stephanie Stacy thought the groups had basically stayed the same, and since Darick is not a leader, he wasn't sure, but noted that he had heard good things about the covenant groups.

Overall, everyone agreed that they loved coming back to SYC as counselors.





The African University Chour ends their West Virginia tour with a performance at SYC.

SYC Idol

by Jacob Hanklin, Grade 8 and Emily Cramer, Grade 7

Tuesday evening, campers were entertained by musical stylings of many of their fellow campers in our first annual "SYC Idol." Guest judges Simon Cowell (played by counselor Halley Smith), Paula Abdul (Ellen Krimmel), and Randy Jackson (Michael Waide) and host Ryan Seacrest (Mike Quimby) flew in from California just to check out the talent of the WV Annual Conference's youth.

We were blessed with soloists and ensembles, singers and instrumentalists, classical music to popular rock. Performers included:

- Eliza Smith sang "Stand In The Rain" by Superchick
- Carole Ann Bradley played a classical song on the piano
- Kari Amtiower and Travis Martin performed a saxophone duet, "Mercy, Mercy"
- Seventh Sermon performed a Switchfoot song called "Meant to Live"
- Cassie Rouse sang "Crazier" by Taylor Swift
- Ryan Calhoun played "Shout to the Lord" on the piano
- Justin Rhodes freestyle rapped to an energetic beat
- Ashley Dyer sang "The Stand" by Hillsong
- The Only Way played an original metal song "Divine Guidance"
- Kristin Rumble and Rebecca Small sang a cappella "What about Love"
- Emily Dick, a beginner violinist, performed
- Diablos with an unique performance by Zack Herberger

In response to the camper challenge to get up and perform, several counselors performed solos.

- Stephanie Stacy sang "I Told You So" by Carrie Underwood
- Leigh Ann Haines sang "My Only Hope" by Mandy Moore

For the grand finale, all the counselors sang a rousing rendition of "The 5 Constipated Men of the Bible."

Unity and Harmony

by Sara Forren, grade 8

The Africa University him and the choir. He also did touring choir entertained an amazing job directing the and blessed the youth of group.

One of the girls, Suzanna, really put herself into her solos. She sang beautifully and everyone who witnessed her singing loved it. But the singing wasn't the only thing that got the people out of their seats. Erick, 20, had the youth of SYC cheering with his awesome bongo and bass guitar playing. "He was very spontaneous, it was really cool," Shelby Boyd, 12, said about Erick's style of playing. Michel also kept the crowd in awe with his great piano playing.

The group of second and third year college students had everyone in the Wesley Chapel on their feet clapping, moving, and just getting into the traditional African music. "It was really awesome," Dustin Copeland, 15, says.

Christian, the choir leader, is from the Democratic Republic of Congo. He was always studying and working hard. Christian would say God has truly blessed him because he was here in the states and doing what he loves. He was constantly praying and talking about how much God blessed

"They were awesome," Dustin Copeland, 15, says about the African performance. The choir is definitely gifted musically as well as spiritually.

Helper, Resource, Planner, Youth Voice – CCYM

by Connor Kenaston, CCYM Chair

The Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM) is the official youth organization of the United Methodist Church. It is the mission of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries to: 1) Call youth into a relationship with God through the United Methodist Church 2) Strengthen the faith of youth 3) Provide fellowship, support, and opportunities for youth to serve and lead 4) Strengthen youth ministry in the local churches and districts.

The CCYM is composed of thirty youth and several youth leaders. You can become a CCYM member either by being a District Representative or elected at large during SYC. The CCYM also selects two balancing members.

CCYM sponsors Fall Workshop in November and Summer Youth Celebration in June. The past three years the CCYM has also led the "Adult Youth Workers" workshop. CCYM meets four or five times a year to discuss topics relating to youth ministries in the Conference.

I would like to extend my personal appreciation to this year's officers: Elizabeth Cartwright (Vice-Chair), Emma Moore (Secretary), Laura File (YSF coordinator), and Ryan Calhoun (Communications Director). This has been a strong year for CCYM and we are looking forward into the future. If you are interested in joining CCYM next year, I strongly encourage you prayerfully consider talking to your District Superintendent about becoming a district representative or running as an at large member next SYC.

Helping Hands

by Laura File, grade 12



YSF, is it just another United Methodist acronym or something real to take notice of?

If you choose the second option (which I'm guessing you did since you're still reading this), here's what you need to know: YSF stand for Youth Service Fund. It is the mission of the youth in the United Methodist Church. It is a way to support young people's ministries in our conference and throughout the world. Money is raised by youth (that's us!) and given to youth (also us) to assist with mission trips, support local service projects and help church youth groups.

The West Virginia Annual Conference awarded 10 grants this year! Four youth from our conference each received \$250 for their Mission of Peace trip to India in December (Michael Ludle, Krista Campione, Betsy Carroll and Megan Pulliam). We also gave \$250 to Josh Doty and Emma Moore for their upcoming trips to Guatemala and Haiti. A \$1,000 grant was given to the African University Choir to help with an endowment scholarship and building staff housing. Two thousand dollars was given to

Volunteers in Mission for the summer youth trip to New Orleans to offset the total cost of each participant. The Greenbrier District youth received \$700 for their fall kick-off event. The CCYM also received a \$3,000 grant this year to help revitalize Summer Youth Celebration and Fall Workshop. The money was used to bring in Fall Workshop's musician, Bill Ward, and Bishop Violet Fisher, the guest speaker for SYC.

The Youth Service Fund has been sponsoring a competition between the nine districts the past two years to see who's "hard at work for YSF." This year we awarded the coveted silver hard hat to the Northern District for the second time. They have been working diligently to raise funds and keep the title. I challenge you to give them some competition this coming year. Let's see how much money we can raise for this great cause!

Want the know more? Check out www.umyouthwv.org to apply for a grant, pick up some great fundraising ideas and get in touch with new Youth Service Fund Coordinator.

A Time for God and Fun

by Sara Forren, grade 8

The SYC youth enjoyed the comfort during the seven covenant group sessions all around campus.

The goal of the covenant groups was to make meeting new people easier because they're small groups. Each group had leaders. These adults had activities or discussions that made learning about God more fun. The activities we did went along with our theme of "Unity Beyond the Community." For example, some groups joined together to become an amoeba. One person would climb in this gigantic rubber band. Then everyone else squeezed in, one by one until there were about forty people inside the blob. Next the amoeba had to giggle around the Chapel area. This activity fit in with our SYC theme because we all had to work together to get to where we needed to go.

Scriptures were also read during covenant group sessions. Afterwards, campers and counselors talked about what it meant to them personally and what they could do when they got home. Some campers said they wanted to keep in touch with God more.

"My group talked about spiritual gifts and how we could use our talents to help others back home," said Emily Okes.

The youth enjoyed the covenant groups because they were a lot of fun. They also learned about the Scriptures and met some new people.

CCYM 2009-2010 Membership

District members

- GR – Connor Kenasten and Katelyn Wook
- LK – Ryan Calhoun and Emily Cramer
- MS – Maggie Blackwook and Morgan Peaytt
- MV – Daniel Cremeans and Emma Moore
- N – A. J. Blehschmidt, Tiffany Hamilton and Aaron Mull
- PH – Chistina Cortez and Mike Ludle
- S – Sarah Hall and Emily Sundstrom
- WL – Kathryn Higginbotham and Zach Higginbotham
- WT – Austin Davis and Grant Matthews

At large members

- 7-8 Claire Blackwood, Josh DeHaven and Erin Sears
- 9-10 Rachael Allen, Lee Chirpas and Lydia Krimmel
- 11-12 Darrrien Duckworth, Chris Griswald, Morgan Perdue and Loran Stewart



FAITHBOOK

STATUS: John Wesley is still making everyone think.



Basic Information

Networks: Methodist Movement

Sex: Male

Birthday: June 28, 1703 (That's this SUNDAY!!!!)

Political Views: King is Country

Religion: Anglican (Methodist)

Personal Information

Activities: Preaching about grace, teaching, worshipping, preaching about grace, performing and receiving sacraments, preaching about grace, writing, praying, saving, preaching about grace

Interests: The Colonies, Prison

Favorite Music: "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" (pg. 57), "Christ Who's Glory Fills the Skies" (173), "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (240), "Praise the Lord Who is Risen Today" (302), All hymns but especially the ones written by my brother and me

Favorite Books: the Bible, *The Book of Common Prayer*, *Hymns on the Lord's Supper*

Favorite Quotes: "If it isn't practical, it isn't needed."

"Don't leave your faith in the building." - Me

"Share your faith on the way to work." - Me

"Best of all, God is with us." - Me

About Me:

I was born in Epworth, England.

My favorite color is red. God saved me from a fire when I was little, so I have always seen the color of flames as the Holy Spirit at work in my life.

In my 30s, I felt my heart "strangely warmed." God's grace is dope!

The ladies LOVE ME, but it never works out. :o)

Education and Work

High School: Charterhouse School, London

Employer: The Lord, Our God

Position: Minister, Theologian

Time Period: 1735-1791

Location: Everywhere!

Groups

Summer Youth Celebration, Circuit-Riders Unite!, United Methodist Church, Charterhouse School Alumni, Ye Olde Plain Methodist Church, the Methodist Movement, Society for Doing No Harm, "Methodists" Bible, Covenant, Service Group

