

First Friday Events

On the first Friday night of every month from September through June the youth meet for fellowship. The Youth Ministry Team determines and coordinates the events based on the season and youth interest.

In the past, we have hosted the following events:

- Haunted Hayride
- Game Night
- Karaoke Night
- Lock-In/ Overnights
- Lenten Meditation
- And More!

Diocesan Events

St Gabriel's is involved with the Dioceses of Bethlehem's youth council. The council hosts a series of annual events including Bishop's Day with Youth in January, Christophany in the Spring, and Happening in the Autumn. For more information about Diocesan Events please visit the Diocesan Youth Website www.lifeistasty.org

Southeastern Berks Ministerium Events

St Gabriel's Episcopal Church is part of the Southeastern Berks Ministerium of Churches. As part of this collaborative effort we participate in and help organize youth events. Ministerium events include:

The 30 Hour Famine coordinated through World Vision in February each year where the youth learn about hunger and famine while abstaining from food and drink for 30 hours. In 2009 we raised over \$700.00 for 30 Hour Famine.

The Crop Walk, provides funds for food banks, as well as local and international relief efforts for hunger issues. We walk because they walk. For more information about Crop Walk see the Church World Service website www.churchworldservice.org. The Crop Walk takes place in October yearly at Daniel Boone Homestead.

Shack-a-thon /Fast for Poverty in November raises awareness and funds about hunger and homelessness in our own backyard. The youth spend the night in cardboard boxes and raise money for the local non-profit organization Hopewell Love In the Name of Christ (INC). For more information about this event, see Kim Rowles.

Kanuga

Once a year the youth coordinate a trip to Kanuga Episcopal Conference Center in Hendersonville, North Carolina. We participate in a weeklong retreat for youth entering grades 7 through 12. The experience is broken into three distinct groups JYP, junior young people; SYP, senior young people; and AWWY, adults who work with youth. At Kanuga, youth explore their Christianity through music, worship, and small group discussion as well as spending free time hiking, boating, and swimming in the lake for more information about Kanuga please visit www.kanuga.org This trip usually takes place in late June.



A Basic Guide To Youth Ministry At St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church

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The Goals of The Journey:

Rite 13:

In Rite 13 we celebrate manhood and womanhood as gifts from God. We teach principles of freedom, responsibility, and friendship and affirm the individual's ability to change the world.

Rite 13-ers are in grade 6 or 7 when they start the curriculum. During the Youth Sunday service closest to their 13th Birthday they are celebrated through a liturgy which recognizes the gift of their manhood or womanhood as a God-given gift. This is not a substitution for Confirmation, rather a chance for these young men and women to grow into their adulthood.

The Rite 13 curriculum is run on a two-year cycle, which begins on odd school years. The cycle begins in odd years: 2009, 2011, 2013 etc. If a youth is in 6th or 7th grade in these years he or she will begin Rite 13. The reason for this is that the curriculum is a two-year curriculum and to assure that the group will become a cohesive core group in order to develop a sense of community for the next stage in their journey.

J2A

In J2A, we celebrate the transition into adulthood and the responsibilities which come along with this transition. The curriculum in this leg of the journey falls into four main sections- society, spirituality, sexuality, and self. The core group from the Rite 13 class continues to

develop skills, which will help them in adulthood through exploration of faith and establishing themselves in community and liturgy.

J2A students are in grades 8-10 at the culmination of their 3-year curriculum they will have completed an Urban Adventure, Mission Trip, and Pilgrimage. The Urban Adventure is a weekend excursion where the youth travel to a city of their choosing, travel using public transit and participate in a mission project of their choice. The Mission project is effectively "doing the work of Jesus" that the group has been called to do this can be on the Diocesan or congregational level. The Pilgrimage happens every 3 years at the conclusion of the curriculum for J2A and is a spiritual journey, which culminates and explores the skills that the J2A-ers learned over the course of 3 years.

YAC:

Upon returning to the congregation, the J2A class is now accepted into the congregation as Young Adults in Church. Having been on pilgrimage and laid a strong foundation for their faith this group discerns and undertakes ministry within the congregation on an individual or group level. They will clarify some of what they believe and maintain a group life which will follow them into their next stage of development be it college, joining the military or workforce. It is the goal of the YAC class to exercise responsibility, partnership, and leadership within the congregation.

About Us:

St Gabriel's is a thriving Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Bethlehem! We highly value our youth and we minister with them as well as to them as they grow in their faith. We do this through the Journey to Adulthood Curriculum which teaches that Adulthood is not a God-given gift, but an earned responsibility and with adulthood comes the ability to make choices such as whether or not to be confirmed into the Church.

How is Youth Ministry Organized?

- * Weekly Sunday School classes for grades 6-12
 - Rite 13
 - J2A
 - YAC
- * Monthly First Friday Fellowship Events
- * Annual Diocesan Events
- * Annual Youth Events sponsored by the Churches in Southeastern Berks County

Newsletter:

We want to make sure you are informed of upcoming events, because this is not an exhaustive list of what we do at St Gabriel's. A newsletter will be published and emailed on a bi-weekly basis. It will contain schedules and information pertinent to the coming weeks and months. Please contact Kim Rowles to get your name added to the Youth Newsletter Mailing list