# Youth Ministry

*Ignite your Faith, Ignite your Life*

## 2009-2010

## Youth Ministries @
## Glendale Presbyterian Church

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Parent & Volunteer Information Booklet
& Leadership Training Guide

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# What is our Mission?

Our Youth Ministry Exists to **REACH** non-believing students for Christ, to encourage believers to develop **RELATIONSHIPS** with other Christians that help them **GROW** in their faith. We also teach students to **HONOR** and serve God with their life so that they can be **EMPOWERED** to serve others for Christ to make a real difference in the world.

## The 5 purposes/goals for our Youth Ministry are:

1. Evangelism ( Reach)
2. Fellowship ( Relationships)
3. Discipleship ( Grow)
4. Worship ( Honor)
5. Ministry ( Empowered)

## 1st Timothy 4:12

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in love, in faith and in purity.

# GPC's Weekly Youth Ministries

**Sunday school:** (9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.) Sunday school is a time where our students can make new friends, be taught the Word of God and give them an opportunity to grow in their faith. These classes are taught by our adult volunteers and will be divided by Middle School & High School Groups.

**IGNITE Youth Fellowship:** (5 p.m. - 7 p.m.) this is a time for all students in grades 6 - 12 on Sundays to gather together for fun, fellowship and learning about how to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. We eat & hang out, play a game & then have a devotion. Our adult volunteers help out, and we all have a great time.

**Youth Bible Study** - coming soon!

# Youth Events & Retreats

**Trips to the Beach -** This is an opportunity for our students and leaders to hang out at the beach together. We will have lunch on the way down, time in the water, volleyball & then a devotion. Students are encouraged to invite their friends. Dates & Times to be announced.

**Winter Jam Concert -** This is a trip for all students in grades 6 - 12. We will probably go to a Christian concert in the area and then follow it with dinner.

**Graduate Recognition Service & Luncheon -** This is a Sunday usually in late May that we take time to honor our High School graduates at the service and have a luncheon following.

**Dodgeball Tournament -** We will schedule these periodically throughout the year when we can arrange the facilities either at the High School or the Boys & Girls Club.

**Student Life @ the beach** - This is a 5-day retreat usually held in June or July that involves all students in grades 6 - 12. It is put on by the Student Life Organization and is held at different beaches around the southeast every year. This is a great retreat that builds unity in our youth program among our students, gives them a chance to make new friends, and challenges them spiritually while having fun at the beach.

**Local Mission Trips -** These will be planned events throughout the summer. This is a great opportunity for our students to share their faith and make a difference in the community.

**Progressive Dinner -** A fun night where we go as a group to 3 different homes for an appetizer, a main course and dessert.

# For Students:

## "7 Checkpoints" Youth Bible Study & Youth Leadership

This is a Bible Study program that is designed to teach, enable and prepare our students for serving Christ in ministry. Some of our students are at different levels in their faith and spiritual maturity; this is our attempt to reach out to those students that want to go further in their walk with Christ. These students will exemplify Christ-like character and also "stand out" with their willingness to serve, and they will regularly attend the 7 Checkpoints Bible Study in order to participate on our youth council student team. Youth in all grades (6 - 12) are invited to attend & participate.

**Youth Council-** Students that regularly attend the 7 Checkpoints Bible Study and are willing to serve as leaders in our youth group will have an opportunity to be involved in our youth council meetings at the church.

1. Authentic Faith

2. Spiritual Disciplines

3. Moral Boundaries

4. Healthy Friendships

5. Wise choices

6. Ultimate Authority

7. Others First

# Ways that Students can serve in Leadership

- Help out Youth Pastor periodically after school on small projects
- Lead the 7 Checkpoints Bible Study for a night
- Call, write, email students that visit our youth program or church and welcome them
- Take prayer requests and lead prayer before IGNITE or Bible Study
- Participate in evangelism to reach " un-churched" students
- Lead a team in the youth ministry (i.e.: Drama team, prayer team, youth praise band, etc.)

# Students: Examine your level of Involvement

(Where are you?)

Listed below are the 5 different levels of involvement. Which one do you see yourself fitting into? How can you move to the next level?

1. **Community Students**
   - Occasionally attends IGNITE, a youth program or retreat
2. **Crowd Students**
   - Regularly attends IGNITE & attends some retreats
   - Occasionally attends Bible study
3. **Congregation students**
   - Regularly attends IGNITE and attends retreats
   - Participates regularly
4. **Committed Students**
   - Committed to attending & contributing to IGNITE and other youth programs on a regular basis
   - Shows signs of developing spiritual habits
   - Seeks opportunities to serve
5. **Core Students**
   - Committed, contributing & spiritually disciplined
   - Serves in leadership roles
   - Seeks accountability from the Youth Pastor
   - Leads by example in attitude, speech & action (1 Timothy 4:12)

# For Adult Volunteers & Parents:

How can you help out in our youth ministry?
If you have a heart for teenagers & love God, you can be a part of the leadership team by committing to at least one of the following leadership roles and passing a simple background screen.

- Sunday School Teacher
- Sunday Night Volunteer / Counselor
- Mentor
- Small Group Leader

Please email or call Youth Pastor to set up a time to meet about taking on a leadership role.

**Here are some other areas that you might be interested in serving:**

*If you like to cook* - Sunday night dinner, special cook-outs
*If you like to play sports* - Sunday night games, basketball, organize games
*If your gift is hospitality* - Have a youth pool party
*If you are a teacher* - Sunday School Teacher, small group leader
*If you like writing* - Write postcards to visitors, etc.
*If you like driving* - Drive for one of our retreats/events

## Commonly asked questions

**What are the Youth Pastor's office hours?**

Well, since there isn't a designated office space for me, I will be working from home a lot. However, I am available to meet with parents/students at the church by appointment.

**Where does IGNITE meet at?**

We will meet at different homes, maybe a park, and at the church periodically until we get our own youth room in the new church. Each week I will email our parents and students to let them know where the next meeting will be.

**So how do we communicate to our youth and parents?**

We realize that communication is a key factor to keeping our students & parents up-to-date with all of our current events. Listed here are the current avenues that we use to stay in touch with everyone: Church website, GoodNews Weekly email, weekly church bulletin, and emails from Youth Pastor.

**What's the need for "small groups"? Aren't we a small group already?**

As the group grows we will want to provide opportunities for our students to break off into Middle School & High School groups. Sometimes we will break into Boys and Girls separate groups. This way, our youth can discuss things with kids on their specific age level and discuss even gender-related issues. We will need dedicated Christian men and women to help in leadership for these groups.

**Youth Leadership:**
Youth Pastor
Adult volunteers

# Helping Youth Leaders to help students identify their level of involvement & Commitment

A Purpose Driven Ministry Approach

When we understand the levels that our students are on and who we are trying to reach, we can design our youth program to focus on a target audience to reach specific goals. This in return helps us to minister to students at all levels.

1. **Community:** Students who may occasionally attend our youth program. Specifically, these are youth @ schools within a 10-15 mile radius of our church.

2. **Crowd:** Students who come to IGNITE (Sunday night youth program) on a regular basis; some are Christians and some are not. The commitment that they all share is that they attend our church regularly and call it their "home" church.

3. **Congregation:** Students who move beyond the crowd level and commit to attending regularly and participating.

4. **Committed:** Students who are committed to attending, participating and contributing to IGNITE. These students are beginning to develop spiritual habits such as: personal Bible Study, prayer and accountability from another Christian.

5. **Core Students:** Students who are committed to regularly participating and contributing to our youth program. They show signs of spiritual disciplines. These students are discovering their God-given gifts and want to express them through ministering to others. Core students look for opportunities to become student leaders and serve as an example to other students. (1 Timothy 4:12)

# The stages of Youth Ministry Involvement for Adult Volunteers & the training steps to proceeding to the next level of commitment

*For Parent Volunteers, College-age leaders & Interns

**Stage One - (Observer) Training-**

Go to a Youth Ministry Training night
Attend IGNITE (Youth Worship Service on Sunday nights), sit in on a class
Read and become familiar with this Leadership Ministry Booklet
Introduce yourself to other leaders
Help prepare and serve dinner with another parent or volunteer

**Stage Two - (Trainee Helper) Training**

Meet & greet students, help take attendance
Plan and prepare a snack for Sunday night youth with the guidance of coordinator
Meet with another active volunteer leader & introduce yourself to students
Practice your testimony on a friend
Plan a game and run it in conjunction with another leader
Become familiar with safe sanctuaries policies
Help with disciplining the kids
Help lead a Small Group discussion accompanied by another leader
Help supervise on a retreat
Meet with the Youth Pastor about getting a simple background check

**Stage Three - Helper Training**

Give your testimony on a Sunday night
Pray for our youth ministry
Help another teacher lead a Sunday School class
Memorize the Mission Statement
Commit to attending IGNITE at least 2x a month
Have an active role in a retreat (teach, discipline)

**Stage 4 - Assistant Leader Training**

Lead a Discussion/Lesson on Sunday night
Teach a Sunday School class
Lead a Small Group
Spend time with the Youth Pastor going through youth ministry philosophy
Commit to attending IGNITE 2-3 times a month
Help train other potential leaders
Read "The Purpose Driven Youth Ministry" book
Serve on youth council team

**Stage 5- Leader Training**

Be able to organize and carry out the youth program for a night
Study "The Purpose Driven Youth Ministry" and how it can be implemented
Take other leaders through stage developments, serve as a resource
Plan, start & lead a ministry team (drama team, prayer team, etc.)
Fulfill some of stage 4 requirements and actively participate

**Questions & Refection:**

1. Where are you (what level or stage) in the youth ministry?

2. What are some ways that you can act towards moving to the next stage of leadership?

3. Are you at a level/stage that you feel comfortable at, but want to be better at what you're doing? What are some way that you can put more effort into your area of influence and ministry?

**Summary:**

As a youth ministry grows in numbers and ministry needs, the number of dedicated leaders does as well. The fact is you don't have to have a Seminary degree to make a BIG impact in student's lives. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and with the help of the Youth Pastor, you can make a real difference in the lives of the youth at our church. Our youth need Christian, caring, dedicated adults (of all ages) to share the gospel with them -- with their own personal testimony being a motivating factor. In order for our ministry to grow and provide more opportunities for our kids, we will need more than just Stage 1 Observers to make it happen. We need a large group of adults willing to go to stages 4 & 5 to provide real, sustaining growth in our program. A Youth Pastor can't do it all by himself. Please pray & consider how you can help out, you will be blessed by these kids and glad that you became a part of our youth program

# Safe Sanctuaries

## Purpose:

Our purpose for establishing this abuse prevention policy and accompanying procedures is to demonstrate our absolute and unwavering commitment to the physical safety and spiritual growth of our youth.

## Summary:

1. Never put yourself alone with a student on campus or off.
2. Make sure you are accompanied by another adult at least 21 years old when in a classroom or situation with a student.
3. Always have another adult accompany you when riding in a vehicle with a student, and don't let youth drive other youth.
4. Do not post any pictures of youth on your face book or website without their parents consent.
5. Do not use "sexual innuendo" around our youth or touch any student in an inappropriate manner.
6. Do not watch or promote videos or music with sexual situations in them around our youth.
7. In sleeping arrangements for retreats or overnight events, children will not sleep in the same room with only one adult. There must be two present and not married.
8. Wash your hands before giving any child food or treatment.
9. Before giving any medicine or treatment to any student, notify the Director of Youth Ministry and/or the student's parents first.
10. Report any signs of abuse or mistreatment of any student to the Youth Pastor and/or Pastor immediately.

For more detailed information on our safe sanctuary policies,
please see the Youth Pastor.

# Vision Statement for GPC Youth Ministry

The goal of IGNITE is to help youth grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. We have a passion for seeing students connect with God and helping students understand how to live their lives for Him. By implementing the "5 Purposes" in our mission statement and programs, we can grow a healthy and balanced youth ministry.

The gift that God has given me is teaching and making the Bible relative to teenagers. However, there are so many other ideas that volunteers and parents have for our ministry that would be a real effective asset. It is my goal to use my strengths to help kids come to know Christ, and to help leaders realize their potential for making a positive impact in our students' lives. I want to lead leaders and help our volunteers invest in the lives of our youth. By doing this, we will have a bigger impact, be able to do more things, and enable people to use their gifts in our youth ministry.

All throughout this booklet are tools, ideas, steps and challenges for you to be directly involved in the program. As a youth ministry grows, so does the number of dedicated volunteer leaders. No matter what age you are, you can make a real difference in the lives of our students.

Once our group grows, we will develop a youth council team. This will be comprised of adult volunteers that are consistent in attendance on Sunday nights and have a regular presence with our youth. Once every quarter we have our Youth Ministry Training Night which teaches and enables our volunteer leaders to be more effective in our youth ministry.

My philosophy is simple: A Christ-centered youth program that is balanced and growing. I believe in a "less is more" philosophy. I would rather do a few things very well, as opposed to a lot of things halfway just to "keep us busy". All of our programs, curriculums, and retreats are centered on the "5 Purposes" for a healthy, balanced and effective youth ministry for all students in Grades 6 - 12.

*Youth Pastor*

# Effective Strategies For:

Small Group Leaders, Sunday Night Counselors
& Sunday School Teachers

**Small Group Leaders & Sunday School Teachers**

Take these ideas and incorporate them into your small group or Sunday School class for more effective teaching and relationship building with our students

1. Do an "icebreaker" before your lesson each week to get the kids to open up and fell comfortable with each other and you.
2. Start the lesson off with asking for prayer requests and ask a student in your group to open with prayer.
3. Involve the students with the lesson (scripture reading, feedback). This keeps them interested and keeps their attention a little longer
4. Have motivational rewards for "getting through" the lesson on a tough week.
5. Make it fun!

# Helpful Links for Ministry ideas

Understanding youth culture from a Christian perspective-
www.pluggedinonline.com

Great source for Christian videos-
www.godtube.com

# Helpful Books to Read on Youth Ministry

The Purpose Driven Youth Ministry

The 7 Checkpoints

# Glendale Presbyterian Church

**PERMISSION FORM FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT**
**& WAIVER FORM**
*Will be used for the 2009-2010 School Year*
**Please print neatly.**

Child's Full Legal Name:
_____

Birth date:_____

Address:_____

Home Phone Number:_____

Name of Parents or Legal
Guardians:_____

Address (if different than child):
_____

Cell phone #: _____Work Phone #: _____
Email address:_____.

**Emergency contact information**

Please give the names of 2 people **other than yourself** who may be contacted in the event of an emergency.

Name:_____

Phone Number: _____Relationship to child:_____

Name:
_____

Phone Number: _____Relationship to child: _____

**Medical/ Allergy Information**

Allergies:
_____

Any medication being taken:
_____

Does an adult have to monitor the medication: _____ yes _____ no___.
(If yes, attach a dosing schedule & instructions)

I give my consent for the youth group counselors and/or qualified medical personnel to act on my behalf in securing and administering necessary medical care and treatment for my child. I also do not hold Glendale Presbyterian church or its staff personally responsible for any injuries while at church, on a retreat or camp.

Parent/ Guardian Signature:
_____ Date: _____

# GPC Youth Volunteer Leader Commitment

Thank You for your interest and willingness to serve in our youth ministry. We really care about our students and want to provide them with a fun, safe and Christ-centered environment as well as surround them with volunteer leaders that have a heart for Christ and teenagers. You can make a real difference in the lives of our students.

The following is a commitment form with some of the attributes & qualities we want our volunteers and leaders to have. If you can agree with these and you are excited about this opportunity, then you are ready to go! Please keep in mind that this is a commitment form and you will be asked to fulfill your service for 1 complete year. We need dedicated volunteer leaders with a commitment to make things happen. You can make a difference. Please read the following and make sure that you agree with these principles. Provide the area of ministry that you are interested in & sign and date at the bottom.

- I am a Christian.
- I will pray for our youth ministry.
- I will not use profanity, tobacco, or alcohol in the presence of our students at any time.
- I understand the safe sanctuary policies and will abide by them.
- I am willing to pass a simple background check.
- I will actively be involved in the area that I commit to.
- I will support the Youth Pastor and youth ministry goals with prayer, a good attitude and my commitment.

Area(s) that I am **interested** in serving in are:

Area(s) that I am willing to **commit** my time to serving in are:

Name:
Telephone:
Email:
Today's Date: