

January 2009 CEFC Churchwide Newsletter

Student Ministries

I pray that you had an incredible Christmas. Our Jr High, Sr High and College Christmas Parties were very well attended. You can view some of the pictures on the CEFCYouth.com website. In preparing for the new year, I've taken a look on this past year and have taken some time to do some personal evaluation. Being reminded multiple times about that shortness of life (The most recent was on my trip to Eagle Lake Community Church), I want to push a little harder in what we do with Students here at Community Church. I receive countless phone calls, Text messages and people stopping in to share and discuss anything from relationship problems, family concerns, School issues, hurts, fear, self loathing, anxiety, anger and numerous other thoughts and feelings. What is obvious to me is that there is a limit to what I can do. I don't know many people who like admitting that. Following up with the multitudes of decisions that Students are making has become tougher and tougher. On one hand, that is very good because we see that God is working in the lives of our students. On the other hand, it is tough to acknowledge that students do fall in the cracks. In the middle of last month, there were over 25 decisions made. A good number of students were talked with, but not everyone. We have students that need rides to church. Many students just want adults who are willing to listen and simply care.

Would you please pray with me about what God may be calling us as a church to do? As the New Year begins, take some time and pray about what God may be leading you to do this year. Every ministry in the church has needs. If we all took three, two or even simply ONE ministry and poured time and energy into it, I believe that God would really bless that. Jesus told his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." Luke 10:2 I would encourage you to take some time to pray, alone and even with your family, about the possibilities God may want for you to invest your time. It may be that God is simply calling you to Pray for student ministries and the leaders. God may call you to connect with students on Special trips. God may call you to donate a resource or your time. God may be calling you to commit to meeting with a fellowship group to love on and listen to students.

Our College Young Adult Ministry will be holding our annual winter retreat January 8-10.

This year we will be taking some time to DEEPEN our ROOTS. We will be leaning a little heavier on Scripture. In order to do that though, we will be taking some time to evaluate and discuss some of the needs concerns and resources. In the Middle of this month I'll be meeting with student and adult leaders to look into these thoughts and concerns. Tuesday, Jan 26th, and Wed Jan 27th during youth group, there will be two parent meetings to present options and specifics on this year. I would encourage you to participate if you are able to.

Sunday, January 31st, we will be holding a Luncheon and Student Auction at 1 pm in the Youth Room. If you have some jobs that you need or want done, or that you would like to simply have a lunch where you don't have to prepare anything, we would love for you to join us. All proceeds will go to assist students in attending retreats.

As we begin this New Year, please keep us in prayer. Thanks to you all again for your support and encouragement.

Excited to see what God will do this New Year,

Jackson

Student Ministries Pastor