

Youth Ministry 2006 -2007 Year-End Report

- * Our Youth Ministry has continued to grow so we now service 30-35 children each Sunday, from Nursery to Y.O.U.. We have a dedicated staff of teachers who donate their time to teach and nurture our youth.**
- * We started on the " Quest Curriculum " in September. We completed "In the Garden" for the summer, and " Celebrating My God -Self "last January through June.**
- * We initiated Team Teaching in each grade level this year. At this time we have three Teachers that effectively cover their grade level for the month. The curriculum is divided into weekly lessons for Sunday School so the Teachers are able to pick which week works with their schedule.**
- * Our Quest has taken us through the Jungle, the Forest, and now at the Beach, then into Space, followed by under the Ocean, as we journey to find God. We explore the five Basic Unity Principles in all of our lessons.**
- * Our Children performed songs and readings in a wonderful Christmas Program during our Annual Christmas Concert. Santa visited with the children during our party and passed out gifts to all the children.**
- * We hosted a Sub-regional Teacher Training " Bringing the Bible to Life " in November with our regional Children's consultant Diane Venzera. We had four churches represented and a total of 18 participants. We encourage all of our teachers, parents, grandparents to attend these workshops for ideas and information about children's behavior in and out of the and classroom.**
- * The schedule includes Teacher Trainings on March 18th and May 6th for our volunteers. Future plans which include Mother's Day, Father's Day and Easter Sunday , along with Heaven on Earth Day and what's happening in the summer, will be discussed at our next two meetings.**

- * We addressed topics such as Jim Fayes' "Love and Logic," sensory integration, craft ideas, teaching styles, and upcoming dates at our January 14th meeting.
- * Y.O.U. June Rally was held at Hope College in Holland and was attended by three of our students with their Sponsor Paula. They held a bake sale to raise money for themselves and the Uniteens.
- * Fall Retreat at Camp Duncan was a huge success titled " Super Heroes" and we managed to send 3-Adults and 5-Youth from our Y.O.U.class over Halloween weekend.
- * Spring Uniteen Retreat was titled "Peace Like a River" at the YMCA Storers Camp in Jackson Michigan in May and we sent 2-Uniteens with 2 Adults as Sponsors, along with the two Y.O.U. Spirit Group Leaders and their Sponsor.
- * Fall Uniteen Retreat was titled " Free to Be Me" was attended by 1-Y.O.U. sponsor and 2-youth from Y.O.U. as Spirit Group Leaders and 2- Uniteen Sponsors along with 6-Uniteens. Retreats engage the young and provide fun for all, these last two were held north of Chicago at Camp Duncan in November.
- * Easter was a quiet time at the church with the focus on Jesus rather than the Easter Bunny. We made nests with birds in them to represent new life.
- * Heaven on Earth Day created an atmosphere of fun with multi-generational involvement for Parents, Grandparents, friends, and all of the children, where they played many games and activities in the church parking lot.
- * Nursery Attendants were hired so we now have someone with the babies every week so parents can go to church.
- * 3-4-5yr olds managed to acquire a new felt board set for Bible Stories

and new curtains for their classroom and they had their walls painted. Their group is growing in numbers and seems to be all boys now as they explore "What a Wonderful World".

- * Mothers Day was celebrated with flowers for the Moms.**

- * Fathers Day brought love with hearts on a string for dad, signifying love from my heart to yours.**

- * New fund Raisers are being sought to raise money for the retreats that cost the participants \$95.00 each. Thank You for Your support.**

- * Love and Peace,
Youth Ministry Director
Karen M. Ryan**