

2013 YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT

Junior Youth Fellowship (“JYF”): 6th through 8th grade

JYF Leaders: Addria Dash, Eric Ruoff

Young Disciples (“YD”): 9th through 12th grade

YD Leaders: Judy Hopkins, Karen Griffith

Christ United Methodist Church offers a youth ministry that strives to encourage each and every young person to grow personally and spiritually. Our purpose is to prepare students from 6th to 12th grade, with the love of God, to become effective Christian leaders through service and fellowship.

We continued to focus on mission projects during the 2012-2013 year. Our ministry took place in a variety of ways and settings. We collected food at the Acme Supermarket for FISH; participated in the annual CROP Walk; prepared and served meals at the Epiphany Food Ministry in Orange, New Jersey, collected shoes for Soles4Souls at a church fellowship dinner and fasted during WorldVision’s 30 Hour Famine. We have been told that the youth make a big difference in getting others to help donate to these great causes. For example, the FISH Organization has stated that they collect a lot more food and money on the days when the youth are there to help. This past June we \$332 and 65 bags of food.

Along with fundraising for several missions, we also fundraised to support the church’s Taizé Pilgrimage fund. Proceeds from the Shrove Tuesday dinner, St. Patrick’s Day bake sale and Mother’s plant sale this year were given to the fund and will help support a church youth member on their pilgrimage to Taizé, France.

This year our youth group’s participated in WorldVision’s 30 Hour Famine as we had previously done in past years. We spent the 30 hours together in fellowship and participating in service projects. We played laser tag, watched the movie *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, participated in many devotionals and games pertaining to the Fast, had a scavenger hunt during our food drive and assembled “cleaning buckets” for the United Methodist Women. Thanks to the determination of our youth (and youth leaders) and the generosity of our supporters, we raised \$5,185. We were very humbled to be able to feed 14 children for 12 months.

This year’s “Soles4Souls” Dinner collected 217 shoes which were donated to the organization Soles4Souls.

As youth leaders, we encourage our youth to engage in activities and fellowship with other youth. Since 2006, we have attended the youth weekend retreat *MidWinter Advance* in Whiting, New Jersey. Worship and group meetings are lead by a team of students from several Christian colleges. The youth also

participate in a variety of seminars, sports and a talent show called “The Happening,” where youth perform various skits (serious, funny, etc.) or use their talent (music, drama, etc.) Our youth performed a skit called “What This Church Needs” which they also shared with our congregation during Pastor Tabler’s last worship service.

Our youth groups were able to attend the monthly Sunday Night Live (“SNL”) ecumenical youth program sponsored by the Bridgewater UMC once this year. The program not only helps to bring youth from different churches together but also encourages them to participate in youth-led devotions and musical performances.

The youth leaders’ continued mission is to work toward building an effective purpose driven youth ministry and to equip our youth to have a strong relationship with God through Jesus Christ. In this way we enable today’s youth to be tomorrow’s Christian leaders.

*Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers-not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. **1 Peter 5:2-4***

In His Amazing Love,

Christ UMC’s Youth Leadership Team
Judy Hopkins, Karen Griffith, Addria Dash, Eric Ruoff