

YOUTH LEADER SHEET

Summer 2005

High School Convo 2005 - "Learn the Story, Live the Faith"

This Convo will be held at the University of Calgary in Calgary, Canada, July 1-7, 2005. Over 50 people from 14 Moravian congregations are registered from the South, with close to 200 expected to attend from North America.

Regional Youth Council - 30 churches had representatives on RYC this year. We are currently in the process of setting up next year's council. Leaders, please choose your reps as soon as possible (and let me know!). If your church youth are not active in RYC, please consider having them join! RYC is a good way for youth and youth groups to remain connected. More information can be found on the BCE website- www.morvianboardofce.org.

Youth Leader Workshop - Saturday, September 17, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at New Philadelphia Moravian Church. Dr. Fred Edie, Assistant Professor of the Practice of Christian Education at Duke Divinity School and Director of the Duke Youth Academy for Christian Formation will be the workshop leader. His topic will be "Forming Christian Character." He will also touch on visioning and planning. Lunch will be provided. But you MUST register to attend so we know how many lunches to have!! Put it on your calendar. **Please RSVP by September 12.**

Other dates to keep in mind: The 2005 Fall Jr/Sr High Rally will be October 2 at Advent Moravian Church. Details will be available soon. Keep checking our web site - www.morvianboardofce.org!

Interesting Resources:

- *Making God Real for a New Generation: Ministry With Millennials Born From 1982 to 1999*; Criag Kennet Miller and Mary Jane Pierce Norton, Discipleship Resources, ©2003. This book offers a very interesting description of the aforementioned age group with possible models that might be more successful in "reaching" them. There are helpful suggestions for both adults/parents and churches. This is an outstanding resource - practical, useful and hopeful. * (see below)
- *Salt and Light: Youth Retreat Designs*, Presbyterian Youth Connection, ©2001. This is a book full of retreat suggestions that can be used, edited, built upon, etc. Helpful.
- *One-Day Retreats for Junior High Youth*, Geri Braden-Whartenby and Joan Finn Connelly. St. Mary's Press. © 1997. This resource has some great "one-day" possibilities. They easily adapt to other situations with a little creativity. There are some good icebreaker games, too.

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- *Talksheets On CD-ROM*, David Lynn, Rick Bundschuh and Tom Finley, Youth Specialties, © 2005. This resource in hard copy has been a staple for years with easy to use and adapt topical programs for youth groups. Now ALL the books are on one CD-ROM that allows you to just print out what you want to use (and you don't use it up!). We will have this available in the Resource Center for your use. So if you need program ideas on a topic, this will be a good place to begin.
- *Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Loves of American Teenagers*, Christian Smith with Melinda L. Denton. Oxford. © 2005. Outstanding! Absolutely packed with interesting information. This book comes from a national study of youth that came out of UNC-Chapel Hill. This could be the current definitive book on teens. It is informative as well as unsettling.

If you have any questions about the items in this letter, or anything else, let me know. I'm available for a program, leading tunes, consultation, coffee, etc. Just let me know.

Peace,

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***Critical Questions for Congregations** if they want to be in ministry with young people born between 1982 and 1999 (Millennials):

1. *Does worship tap into the artistic worldview of Millennials?* These young people respond to different forms of music, prayer, silence and the sacraments. They are also looking for an "experience of God." They are drawn to worship where they see themselves (and others their age) used in leadership such as scripture reading, music, ushers, etc.
2. *Is the preaching real?* Millennials want to hear personal experience in the preaching and how it relates to their lives. They want the Bible to help them deal with daily experiences. They want to see how the Christian life makes a difference in their relationships with families and friends.
3. *Does the congregation focus on discipleship?* Children and youth need to see their training in spiritual disciplines like prayer, devotions and acts of mercy taken seriously by the congregation. They desire and need spiritual tools to help them help themselves as well as help others.
4. *Does the congregation welcome children and youth?* If these children and youth do not feel welcome they will not come. Being welcome means having relationships that matter with adults, and being a part of the life of the church.

These questions taken from "Making God Real for a New Generation: Ministry With Millennials Born From 1982 to 1999," reviewed above.