

News from Stillwater District Youth

Our monthly newsletter for pastors and adult workers with youth

MERRY CHRISTMAS



Dear Bert Potts,

I pray this message finds you already filled with expectation as we move into the season of Advent and prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ. December is a busy time, especially for youth, so we should be even more vigilant at providing great opportunities for spiritual growth and renewal during this time. The newsletter has some important information, especially as it relates to Mid Winter Retreat. The design team is working hard to provide a great event.

Mid Winter Retreat



It is already time to start thinking about "Mid-Winter Retreat." It is scheduled to begin at 9 p.m. on Friday, February 19th and end after worship on Sunday, February 21st. We have reserved beautiful Camp Egan for this fun-filled time. The cost has not been set, but will include two nights lodging, three meals on Saturday and one meal on Sunday. There will also be a separate amount if you want a t-shirt.

Our theme is "Transformed: Body, Mind, and Spirit." We have some great

Education Opportunities

As United Methodists, education is a very important part of who we are. Southwestern College in Winfield, KS is offering some great programs for youth ministry.

Their programs are accessible and applicable to the United Methodist ministry and can be completed online while working full-time or part-time.

Southwestern College Professional Studies offers its convenient six week courses in ministry for anytime, anywhere convenience. We also transfer in the maximum amount of college credit that has been completed from other schools so educational goals can be reached as quickly as possible.

Here is a list of our programs.

things planned.

Watch your mail for registration packets coming soon. If you would like some flyers to advertise, please contact Derrek Belase at derrekbelase@yahoo.com.

Let's have a great retreat!

- MASM - Master of Arts in Specialized Ministries
- Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Studies
- Bachelor of Arts in Youth Ministry
- Ministry Leadership Certificate
- Youth Ministry for the Lay Leader Certificate

If you are interested, contact Jamin Anderson, Admissions Counselor, Southwestern College Professional Studies, 2040 South Rock Road, Wichita, KS 67207. You can call him at 888-684-5335 x 131 or e-mail jamin.anderson@sckans.edu.



If I can help you or resource you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me. Have a blessed Advent and Christmas season.

Sincerely,

Derrek Belase
Stillwater District Youth Coordinator

The Final Word

Most teenagers listen to 20 or 30 hours of music each week, usually alone. Yet music can exert its greatest power when we listen, play or sing together. Whether we are in a car, on a bus, around a campfire, in the streets, in church or in a choir, band or orchestra, the union of our sounds enhances our appreciation of the sacredness in this practice and the sense of God's holy presence through it.

Music has ... power. If it's true that you "are what you eat," it's also true that you become what you hear and take to heart. Songs shape our souls. That's why it's important to ask whether some music and some words are good for us.

from Way to Live: Christian Practices for Teens, pp. 270-2.

Ideas to consider:

- *During this Advent season, you could spend some time in your youth groups singing some of the great Advent and Christmas songs and examining their message and history.*
- *Read Mary's song (Luke 1:46-55) and/or Zechariah's song (Luke 1:67-79) and discuss the implications of what they sang.*
- *Listen to "Handel's Messiah" or some other classical work just for the beauty of it. Most youth will be unfamiliar with this genre of music.*