

## **Jr. High Team Minutes September 12, 2011**

**Present:** Arleta deDianous, Norma Fagerland, Rob Gieraltowski, Lori Laughlin, Jamie Peters, Amy Ponce, Karin Watts

### **Review of Summer 2011**

**Cave Camp:** With caves closed throughout the East and Midwest, the camp was cancelled for this summer. Instead, a day-trip was taken in June with 8 youth and 3 adults attending. The group had a good time in Hannibal (Missouri) touring Cameron Cave and sharing prayer and scripture on Lover's Leap (nearby park). It was a nice trip to "buy time" for a possible 2012 trip. As of today however, there are no expectations that the caves will be open and available for summer 2012 unfortunately.

### **Faith Works:**

*Good:* Good service work and activities, the groups loved playing Gaga Ball, great weather, great group overall, wonderful Faith Shares given by almost everyone, Emily Vallender (-now- senior in high school) was a great addition, great St. John's adults (of course)

*Not as Good:* Cookout did not go as planned, counselors were not as energetic, couple of campers really didn't want to be there, campfires and morning devotions weren't very Jr. High oriented

Overall: a great week and we've heard from a few who are ready to return

**2012 Planning:** A great discussion on whether to replace Cave Camp, just have one camp (Faith Works), and if we replace it... replace it with what?

**Option 1:** Just have Faith Works

**Option 2:** Add another option that would be similar to Sr. High Workcamp (with organizations like Youth Works or Group Workcamp). Lot of issues with this option.

**Option 3:** Replace Cave Camp with another adventure camping experience. Suggestion was to work with LOMC and have them lead their rock climbing camp for us.

**Decision:** We'll pursue the LOMC option for rock climbing for those kids not interested in Faith Works. There will not be a lot of work needed on our side so it is a manageable option and we'll expect around the same numbers as Cave Camp (about 6 youth).

### **Fall Updates:**

**Thrive:** Thrive had eight brand-new students enroll right before the start of Thrive. Many of these were families new to St. John's or friends of members. Some concern and care needed especially for our 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls' groups as the

number of girls in each of the two groups is at the maximum. We discussed splitting groups, the #'s needed in a group to make it successful and the need to possibly do more recruitment of parents to be Guides. Despite the projector failing on the very first Learning Event, things are overall going very well.

**iWORD:** Rally Day was September 11 and the group on the first day had 8 youth and 2 adults (Rob and Bridget Koester). The group is studying the book of Ezekiel for the year. All but Parkside was represented as far as in-town/Tri-Valley Jr. Highs are considered (yes, even Metcalf and the new "Evans").

**Genesis:** Started on September 11 as well, and the group had 20 youth and 2 adults (Rob and Denise Garee). The group was very heavy with boys with only 5 girls present. Rally Day over the past 2-3 years has not always been a good indicator showing the final makeup of the group. Genesis and iWORD will both be raising money for the Ecuador School Fund with a goal of \$400.

*Numbers for iWORD and Genesis are comparable/almost identical to last year.*

**Money Matters:** Rob will contact Thrivent to see if we can schedule another event for October or November. There is no cost for us and Thrivent provides great free resources for parents and kids. We prefer an early Sunday afternoon start time. Last year's event had about 5 families attending.

**Family Ministry Update:** Rob reported that the staff (Cheryl Park, Pr. Dave, Julie Holliday, Steve Terry and Rob) had been discussing and forming this ministry for over 2 years and the group is reassessing the future because of a perceived lack of resources to get it going in it's "dream" structure. Continued discussions will determine how to proceed. Additional member involvement was discussed as a way to bring more resources and further the ministry.

**Thrive Challenge:** We did not spend much time discussing this, however this will be the first year Thrive Groups will have the whole year to be encouraged to meet outside of Thrive for additional service and/or fellowship. Ideas discussed included highlighting social get-togethers (for games, crafts, etc.), encouraging attendance at local Christian concerts and taking part in service projects already at St. John's (Noah's Ark breakfast and Lutheran World Relief). An earlier discussion in the meeting (during our talk on summer 2012 options) included ideas on getting groups together for service in the summer. Additional work would be needed to plan and implement a summer service day (or other type event).

**Next Meeting:** Monday, November 14