Youth Ministry Annual Report
1/29/2012

Statement of Purpose and Design

St. Gregory's Youth Ministry is designed for the Middle and High School students to develop faith based relationships through discipleship, discussion, worship, prayer, and fellowship.

In order to achieve and realize this aim we engage in service projects, small group discussions, fellowship building activities, and forms of prayer and worship. We accomplish this throughout the year in special events and in our weekly Sunday night meetings.

Youth Commission and Volunteers

The Youth Commission is our adult leadership team for the Youth Ministry. We manage a budget, discuss aims and goals, and plan for future activities all with the aim of nurturing and fostering the relationships and faith of the St. Gregory's Youth. We continue to meet once a month on the third Sunday of the month.

The Youth Commission is currently composed of nine individuals: Tracy Webster-Babcock, Lauren Hill (Treasurer), Bill Foltz, Judy McCann, Annette Baez, Cherie Thompson, Gail Bozzano, Gretchen Bayer (Christian Education Coordinator), and Bret Chandler (Chair/Youth Minister).

In addition to the Youth Commission we have a host of volunteers that support our regular meetings, retreats, mission trips, lock ins, and other special events. For youth group, Barb Schaper, Catherine Martin, Bill Foltz, Judy McCann, Sarah Snyder, and Teresa Benish have served as our regular volunteers. In the Fall of 2011 and going into 2012, we have had and will have other volunteer participation from Cherie Thompson, Cyndi Millspaugh, and Meredith Chandler.

Budget and Fundraisers

The Youth Ministry Budget remains strong and well managed. Lauren Hill serves as our Treasurer. We have money reserved in CDs and in our banking account to be used for youth group and special events and projects.

The primary source of income for our budget comes from our two successful fundraisers: the Pumpkin Patch in the Fall and the Pancake Brunch in the Winter/Spring. Last year our fundraisers had a combined net income of $11,011. This success has allowed us to subsidize our mission trip by 50%, to pay the full cost of our 2012 annual retreat, and to fund most of our youth activities and all our supplies. Essentially, the success of these

fundraisers continues to allow the St. Gregory's Youth Program to be self-sufficient. We are currently preparing for the 2012 Pancake Brunch on Feb. 19.

Concerning any other details of the Youth Ministry Budget please refer to the financial document submitted by Lauren Hill for the Youth Ministry.

Review and Beyond

Last year was a year of transition for the Youth Ministry; however it has remained strong and is moving forward in a positive direction. We had a successful summer mission trip to Mon Valley, PA and maintained our weekly youth meetings throughout the year, except for the summer.

I joined the Youth Ministry team and St. Gregory's staff as Youth Minister on July 25 of 2011. Since that time I have strived to become familiar with the church and the youth program, build relationships with the youth and church members, and plan for the year. We have had an exceptionally strong leadership group that has assisted in this transition, and so far the experience has been quite positive both with the youth and the volunteers.

As we begin 2012, we are looking forward to our annual youth retreat in March and have planned our annual High School mission trip to St. Louis during the summer, for which we have 12 youth signed up. We continue to have weekly meetings with joint youth group on the first Sunday of the month, and separate meetings for the Middle and High School during the other four Sundays. This is also complemented by one-on-one meetings with students. Our aim is to maintain the stability of our weekly meetings and gear them towards positive small group discussion and fellowship building activities that instigate growth in faith and community. In addition to the Winter/Spring youth program, we will plan to resume regular outings for the summer of 2012, before the regular youth program resumes again in the Fall of 2012.

Sincerely,

Bret Chandler
Youth Minister