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Youth Supports

A resource to encourage and empower youth
leaders for the expansion of the Lord's kingdom.

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One Thing to Share!

Greetings in Christ to fellow youth workers and any others reading these words! My name is Nathan Schmidt and I am the new DCE at Christ the Vine in Clackamas, Oregon on the road to Damascus. I could never spell "Damascus" right until working out here.

I always enjoy reading these monthly newsletters and hearing what exciting things the Lord is doing in other places. I hope I can enrich your ministry with my thoughts and philosophy on youth ministry. I know we're only supposed to share one main thought but I have several that I have found most helpful. So here it goes:

1. Always ask the pastor about every decision small or huge, like when can I go to the bathroom or is next Tuesday better?
2. You don't need to return phone messages. If it's important enough they will ask you in person on Sundays when loads of others are needing your time.
3. With cell phones, I find it helpful to answer text messages during staff meetings. If you have wireless internet, IM youth during board meetings, it makes it look like you are working on something important. Just make sure to look up after someone finishes a sentence and nod your head in agreement.
4. When setting agendas always put the important item last to discuss, right before prayer.
5. When discussing budgets, I always ask why there is a "-" symbol in front of the youth budget and what does the () mean? And don't give out the budget numbers before the meeting. I find it constructive to pass out the budget as you are talk about it so you can spend unlimited amount of time discussing it, right before that important item near the prayer.
6. Never read e-mail personally sent to you, just read all the forwards and then forward those to everyone else to enjoy.
7. Take more naps at work. I have a "Bible reading chair" in my office for that reason. Just keep the door shut so no one sees you "reading your Bible." When someone wakes you up just explain you were in deep meditation.
8. When the pastor asks you to "take the lead on that," agree whole heartedly and pray. Then when you somehow run out of time, explain that your computer wasn't working right or things at home are crazy right now but you'll "get to it next time."
9. Don't actually try that hard to recruit volunteers. People should have that desire to want to volunteer. Besides it's easier to do things yourself than trying to show someone. And when no one seems to volunteer, complain at all your board meetings. That way people will hear about the need to volunteer.
10. Never create a vision for your ministry, because that might create a change, sorry I used the "c" word. Some things are better left the way that they are...aka "my way".

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In all seriousness these aren't the greatest lessons I learned in all my ministry training, attending YS conventions, continuing ed time and on the job training. The greatest lesson I learned for ministry came from a great woman of faith, a prayer warrior, someone so deep in knowledge of the scripture she could make a grown minister cry. This person was my son's preschool Sunday school teacher Mirth Hunter. Mirth could recite several scriptures for any given topic before I could locate the topic in my concordance. I would never dare to try and compare my understanding of God's grace with Mirth's understanding. And when it came to praying, that's where Mirth's faith would move mountains. There was no fancy program or flashy curriculum that Mirth used, no great training or theological journey that she participated in. She just knew her Savior, prayed continually and read her King James Bible. Like a regular routine of a diet and exercise program, when these things are in place for my life, God will do great things in me and through me to the kids. As much as I write these words, this is a model that I'm striving towards and at times dragging myself to have. It's not always easy finding time for prayer and reading, outside of lesson prep, but this is a strong desire of mine and I feel it's important for successful longer term ministry.

Watch next time for: *Ten and probably a whole lot more, Things One Can Do for Entertainment during a Long Sermon.*

— Nathan Schmidt, Director of Christian Education at Christ the Vine Lutheran Church in Clackamas, Oregon <pottedplantproduction@yahoo.com>.

Find past issues of Youth Supports at:

http://www.nowlcms.org/educational_services/NetworkingMinistries/YouthSupports.aspx

K-Scope!

Kaleidoscope - "It's Where You Belong!" July 11 - 16

This creative adventure in living the Christian community (Romans 12) is a six-day experience in spiritual growth for high school youth of the Northwest District. For over 30 years this program has challenged young people to grow in their understanding of the "body of Christ" and to experienced the "communion of saints" that is called the "church." K-Scope participants share their faith, create and celebrate new relationships, grow in their understanding of God's love for them in Christ, and experience change — in how they view god, in how they view others, and in how they view themselves.

Kaleidoscope begins at 2 p.m. on Sunday and continues to 2 p.m. on Friday. The \$140 fee covers all expenses for the week — including meals, housing, and program materials. K-Scope is designed for confirmed high school age youth who have completed the ninth grade through those seniors just graduating. Registration materials will be sent to all district congregations this spring.

Contact Chris Miller at the district office at (888-693-5267) or e-mail her at <ChrisM@nowlcms.org> for brochures or more information.

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