

Our Annual Parent Meeting
(in an E-mail)

Welcome & Thank You!

Welcome to FPC Youth Ministry and thank you for partnering with me in teaching the faith to your child. I feel extremely grateful to be on this journey with you! In this E-mail you will find everything we would normally go over in a Parent's Meeting. My hope is to save you from one more meeting that could be done in an E-mail. So here it is! With that said, it's important that you read through this information. Please know that my door is always open to you and feel free to contact me anytime about questions, comments, concerns, and/or suggestions.

Why Participate?

Do you want your child to have a more joy-filled and meaningful life? Do you want your child to have a close group of friends? Do you want your child to know the stories of our faith? Do you want your child to be able to cope better during challenging situations? Do you want your child to know about God, but also recognize God's presence in their every day life? Do you want your child to be a follower of Jesus Christ? Do you hope they will have Christ like qualities; humility, kindness, and serving those in need? Join us!

How do I register?

Go to: <http://firstpresvb.org/ministries/youth-ministry/> click "Register Here." This link will bring you to the [Active Network](#). Please register your child in the "[FPCVB Youth Ministry Membership](#)." Active Network is our online database including medical and permission forms, covenants, rules, and much more! **If your child has registered in the past with Active Network, please update with any new information.**

Leadership Team:

I couldn't do, all the great things we do with our youth, if it wasn't for these dynamic people! To see pictures and learn more about each person, check out our website: <https://firstpresvb.org/youth-ministry-leadership/>. Our Youth Advisors are committed to our youth program and regularly participate in youth activities. All Youth Advisors are trained and are background checked.

**We need more help! If you're interested in helping more with our youth, please contact me today. We would love to have you as part of our team. Everyone plays an important role in this group. Your willingness to be present is more than half the ministry of a Youth Advisor. Still not sure? Talk to any of our Youth Advisors and they will tell you how working with the youth has made a tremendous impact on their own faith journey. I look forward to hearing from you.

Middle School Youth Advisors:

Amber Keever
Kevin Gardiner
Stuart Nesbit
Jennifer & Jeff Nelson

High School Youth Advisors

Kristen & Matt Whalen

Sign-Up Genius:

We always leave "room for one more," however it's very important that you, and/or your child, use the online forum called Signupgenius.com. On Sign-Up Genius, our youth programs will be listed for you to sign-up if you plan to attend (or not attend) an event. It is most helpful if you can let our leadership know, either way, before the registration deadline or the Thursday before a Sunday event.

Participation:

Youth participate when their friends participate. Parents, I will need your continued support to encourage your young people to participate in our program. We must remind ourselves that our child's participation is important for their own spiritual growth but, your child's participation goes even deeper than that. When your child participates it has an effect on the other youth and the youth program as a whole. It's likely that if our youth hasn't participated in sometime, they may feel disconnected. But it's not too late! You may have to give them a good push to get them there but I promise we'll take care of them when they show up!

This year, I'm trying even harder to listen to the interest of our youth on what they would like out of our youth program. When they come up with the ideas they have buy-in and this draws others to the program. Both our kick-off's for this year were suggested ideas from youth and/or parents. Overall, I try to make our youth program educational, meaningful, fun, and attractive for the youth. As many of you already know, I believe we can always make "room for one more." I encourage both parents and youth to consider reaching out to your neighbors, friends,

family members, or others to invite them to participate. Inviting a friend doesn't just benefit your own child, it's the great commission that Jesus gave to us. So may we continue to participate & invite people into the Kingdom of God!

What time are youth meetings?

Middle School Youth meet at the 303 Youth Center on Sundays from 5:00-6:30pm

High School Youth meet at the 303 Youth Center on Sundays from 6:30-8:00pm

Note, many events will not happen during this time. Please make sure to regularly check publicized information for when and where events will occur.

Where can I receive the latest information?

- Website: firstpresvb.org/ministries/youth-ministry
- FYI Youth Newsletter
- [FPCVB YOUTH!](#) Facebook Group & [fpcvbyouth](#) Instagram
- Church Bulletins, Newsletters and slides during worship

Website

We've got a new website! We're recently updated our new website to be more user-friendly. This year, I will be regularly updating our website with information concerning upcoming activities. While I will continue my FYI Youth Newsletter, I will be condensing the information and providing more links for further information. Note, we are currently working on updating the youth pages. Please give a few more weeks for these to be completely ready for your use!

Parent Resources

When you're on the website check out our new "Parent Resource Page" just for you! This page will be a place where I will post helpful information for parents, grandparents, and other guardians.

Worship Leadership

Our youth are important worship leaders! Middle schoolers help by serving as an acolyte while high schoolers lead the Call to Worship. I hope that you're seeing this as a valuable part of our ministry with the youth and an important part of worship. We can't expect our youth to be faith leaders if they never get a chance to practice that leadership. I hope you will help encourage your child to serve in this way.

Games, Events, and Performances

I want to support you and your child at their next event. Some of the best ministry has been sitting in the stands with parents cheering on their children. I'm happy to meet you where you are. Please contact me with your schedule so that I can attend those important events. I can't do it all but I'll do as much as I'm able because it's important.

Sunday School

Class starts at 9:45am in the 303 Youth Center. This year our theme is "The Story." The good news is that we're doing an church-wide curriculum so that your child will be learning the same lesson that their hearing preached in worship. Additionally, it will also be taught in the Adult Sunday School classes so that you can talk with your child at home about the same lesson!

Randy DuVall & Stuart Nesbit will teach middle school and Kristen & Matt Whalen will teach high school along with Rev. Lyndsey McCall as I rotate in both classes. We've got a dynamic team! I can't encourage you enough to send your child to SS so they may learn the stories of the faith and how those stories connect with their own stories.

Also, I want to encourage all youth to bring their BIBLES to Sunday School! "But don't you have Bibles in the Sunday School class, Lyndsey?" Of course we do! But, I want our young people to be able to navigate their Bible and feel comfortable using it at home. If you need a Bible, please let me know.

Scholarships

Our prices for events are set at cost but we scholarship heavily. Not once have I had to deny a youth participation due to cost. The church is extremely supportive with their budget for the youth, we regularly receive personal donations, our youth fundraise heavily, and often parents pay at cost making it possible to have scholarship for those in need.

Fundraising

While the church has been generous it's important that we are good stewards of our resources. If you benefit from scholarships I particularly encourage you and your child, to help participate in our fundraising efforts. Even if you pay at cost it's important that you and your child help with the overall fundraising effort. Fundraising is an important way for young people to understand the value of a dollar. Our young people are often doing simple tasks and reap major rewards. We're not "earning money" as much as we are receiving generous gifts. So it's important for the youth to show their appreciation for the gifts that are being given. Our first fundraiser will be on September 23rd.

Personal Fundraising

This year, one of our youth raised \$550 to go to the Montreat Youth Conference all on her own. She already committed to one trip over the summer but wanted to attend another. So she raised the funds herself. I encourage you to consider how your child might find a way to raise funds for something that they are particularly interested in attending. This could be a great life lesson!

PW Scholarship

New this year, the Presbyterian Women will be offering a scholarship to a graduating senior to go towards their educational expenses. Look out for more information coming soon!

Community Service Hours

Most of your children need community service hours for school and we can help! Many of our mission experiences (local or away) will help with multiple hours of service. Parents I ask that you help me, to help your child, by keeping track of what activities they participate in. It's most helpful if your child can write down their hours of service when they do the work verses at the end of the year. Sometimes youth will end up in different groups during a service weekend and so it's difficult to remember every child's specific hours. Also I want to suggest that you encourage your child to attend mission and service activities beyond what is required. As Christians, we are called to serve. It's great that the schools require service but we must keep reminding our children that it's important for them to help others without receiving a benefit.

Save the Dates:

September 23rd- PW Dinner & Auction

October 12-14th- Baltimore Mission Weekend (Middle & High School)

November 2-4th- PEVA Great Wolf Lodge Retreat (Middle & High School)

November 9-11th -SALT (Serving and Learning Together) Conference at Massanetta (High School & College)

January 18-20th- Richmond VA (Middle School Mission Trip)

February 8-10th- Confirmation Retreat at Camp Hanover

March 9-10- High School Retreat at Camp Hanover

May 4-5th- Middle School Retreat at Camp Hanover

May 19th- Youth/ Graduation Sunday

Scotland & England Trip (High School):

Our trip is a GO! I'm working with World Wide Pilgrimage to finalize our schedule, cost, and dates. Tentatively, we're looking at August 3-12, 2019 at the cost of approximately \$3,000 per person. I'm very excited to be able to offer this trip. You will be hearing more soon! Stay tuned.

Summer 2019:

I'm passing this information waaaaay in advance in hopes that you might plan so that your child can attend these fantastic opportunities!

Middle School Massanetta- July 11-14th

High School Triennium -July 14-20th

The Presbytery of Eastern Virginia will be taking a charter bus of 50 youth to attend the national Presbyterian Youth Triennium at Purdue University in Purdue, Indian. This event draws a large crowd over 5,000 Presbyterian youth from all over the country (and internationally) for worship, small groups session and recreation.

I do not expect that every high school youth will be able to attend the Scotland & England trip. Triennium will be the next best thing! I hope we will have a great group from FPC to travel with PEVA to this event that only happens every 3 years.

High School Montreat (tentative) - July 21-27th

I did not plan to do this trip again next year but I've been begged! Our High School Youth seem to really enjoy the Montreat Youth Conference. Thanks be to God! I know that I have fully supportive adults willing to attend next year (Whalen's), if we decide to go. However, I want to make sure that there's enough interest before we book.

When I first arrived at FPC, that summer, we had to cancel our high school summer trip because we did not have any sign-ups. I'm grateful that we have a group of high schoolers that are very interested in making these youth events a priority. Each child and each family's interest will be different in what they choose to participate in or not participate in. As the Youth Director, I will do my best to help your child attend any event that they wish to attend.

Kick-Off Events

High School OBX Beach Retreat

On September 8-9th the High School Youth are encouraged to sign-up for the "Beach Retreat" at the Anderson Home (Whalen's grandparents) in Duck, NC. We will leave FPC on Friday at 5:00pm and return on Saturday evening! Cost is \$20.00 For more information, contact Rev. Lyndsey McCall and/ or sign-up through [Sign-Up Genius](#).

Middle School Youth River Trip

On Sunday, September 9th, Middle School youth are encouraged to sign-up for for an easy rafting trip down the James River in Richmond VA. Cost is \$40 per person. We will leave at 12:00pm from FPC and return around 8:00pm. Do your homework in advance so you can enjoy your time floating down the river. For more information, Contact Rev. Lyndsey McCall and/or sign-up through [Sign-Up Genius](#).

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