



CYMT students take a break from their winter retreat at Loveless Cafe

I continue to be amazed at God's work in and through the Center for Youth Ministry Training. We will welcome 15 new students this fall, our largest incoming class! We will be working with 23 students and churches this fall. Our new partnership with Memphis Theological Seminary continues to strengthen the academic credit of our program that has attracted this new class.

Again, our students are coming from all over the country and will be serving churches in the Middle and West Tennessee areas. I hope you will keep this newsletter and pray for them and their churches often.

CYMT has been awarded the second two years of our Lilly Grant, which will provide \$530,000 in funds to further develop our program and help us launch another campus in 2010. Our "Imagine...the Future" event in April raised almost \$80,000 in support for our annual and endowment funds. We continue to be blessed by those who give of their time and resources to make CYMT a reality.

This spring, we launched four websites that are committed to resourcing youth ministers (YMtoday.com, YMbookstore.com, YMclassifieds.com, and YMconnect.com). Will Penner, our resource director, and Julia Wilburn, our new web marketing director, are working to make resources readily available to youth ministers.

Our coaching staff continues to grow as we expand our reach into the West Tennessee and North Mississippi areas. We now have seven coaches working with Lesleigh Carmichael, our director of coaching, to empower our students and churches to reach youth with the good news of Jesus Christ.

On August 2, we will commission our second class of students for the work of youth ministry. We hope you will make plans to attend. We have much to be thankful for at the CYMT. Your prayers and gifts keep the mission of the CYMT alive. Brentwood United Methodist Church and First Presbyterian Church continue to strengthen and bless our ministry. Please pray for our board, staff, students, and churches as we continue this important ministry.

Serving Christ,

Rev. Dietrich "Deech" Kirk,
Executive Director



An Interview with CYMT Student Kate Adcock

1. Tell us about your experience with CYMT so far.

While I have felt called to youth ministry for a few years, I quickly realized that there were a lot of skills that I needed to learn before I would be effective in that position. CYMT has helped me develop many of these skills, as well as providing an invaluable community of peers who offer friendship, fellowship, and the knowledge that ministry is not something any of us does alone.

2. What's happening at your church since you arrived?

I was fortunate to begin at Connell Memorial UMC during an exciting time of new enthusiasm. When I arrived, there were many youth-aged people attending the church, but the number of those who were active in youth activities had dwindled to a very small amount. However, because of the support and dedication of a key group of leaders within the church, more and more youth are becoming active. We also have begun a building project to expand the youth facilities and will be starting a new junior high bible study within the month.

3. How do you think you have grown since you first came to CYMT and Connell Memorial United Methodist Church over a year ago?

I have grown a tremendous amount, both personally and professionally, since I first started at CYMT and Connell. I have learned more about my own gifts and am learning how to apply those to my ministry at Connell.

I am becoming more confident in my leadership skills and am learning how to better plan things well in advance.

4. As you look back on the first year with Connell Memorial UMC, what are the things that make your heart smile the most, and where have you seen God at work in the youth ministry at Connell Memorial UMC?

I have loved the opportunity to get to know so many of the youth in a variety of ways. Whether through worship and prayer, service to others, or play, I love watching bonds between the youth grow and the personal relationships with God deepen. We recently returned from our mission trip to the Cumberland Mountains, and the opportunity to hear several of the youth say that they experienced God in a new way that week was amazing. Knowing that I get to be even a very small part of the faith journeys that each of these youth are on is incredibly humbling and exciting at the same time.



CYMT student Kate Adcock and some of her youth on a mission trip to Mountain T.O.P. in Southeast Tennessee

A Community Celebration: Hope for Our World.



Ariel Givens is serving as a missionary with Youth In Mission in India from August 2008 through August 2009. Ariel was in the inaugural class of the Center for Youth Ministry Training serving at Second Presbyterian Church in Nashville. Below is an excerpt from her blog about her experience.

One thing I've learned in life is that time moves at a speed that has no regard for sentimentalities of the heart. No matter how meaningful an experience, no matter how much you want the tick-tock clock to slow down, time refuses to halt. The saddest part about this illusive time, which seems to slip away, is that, try as you might, you cannot turn back the hands of time, you will never get back the experiences that stay frozen only inside your mind. And so I find myself in a place where time is, as they say, running out.

May, although at times appeared to be moving slowly, was gone before I knew it. While working with the children in the Lower Primary School this past year, I realized that art is not a part of their weekly curriculum. And so, after speaking to the church pastor and my site supervisor, I decided to create a one-week camp devoted to making arts and crafts, with some fun games and songs thrown in as well. From what I understand, children in Kerala, India, are not encouraged to explore extracurricular activities, like arts, sports or music; and even if they wanted to, they often times do not have the materials needed or opportunities necessary to follow those interests through. At the camp we provided materials for each day and helped the children to make different kinds of crafts; and we also sang songs, read stories and played games like capture the flag and water balloons, which they loved. There were over 40 students from the school and church in Kallumala that came to the camp each day. At the end of the week, the kids were requesting for another camp next year.

New Faces Join CYMT Staff

CYMT continues to grow and be blessed. We have a new staff person in the office, as well as new coaches to assist us with our new class of students. Get to know them below or online at www.cymt.org.

Julia Canada Wilburn, Marketing and Operations Manager - Julia directs the marketing efforts for the www.ymtoday.com family of websites and manages operations and events for CYMT. She has an extensive background in marketing for both the for-profit and non-profit sectors. Prior to joining CYMT, she was a freelance marketing consultant. A native Tennessean, Julia and her husband Jonathan live in Nashville with their dog, Elwood, and they enjoy traveling, cooking, biking, and going to music events.

Chad Kingsbury, Coach - Chad is one of five pastors at First United Methodist Church in Columbus, Mississippi, and serves as the Pastor of Student Ministries. He focuses on junior high, high school, and college students and their families. Chad is married to Katey and has two kids, Maggie and Max, and a Chocolate lab named Bullet.

The children from the Lower Primary School have been the heart of my experience here. Every morning as I walk into the gates of the school I am greeted with so many happy children running up to hug me or shake my hand and shout, "How are you?" in which they immediately answer for themselves, "I am fine." As I walk to and from the college and the school or go on house visits, I see so many familiar smiling faces and raised hands as the children call out in their high pitched voices, "Miss, Miss," that it is impossible to walk without smiling from ear to ear.

With June came exciting changes. This past Saturday was the 150th Jubilee of the Lower Primary School and Inauguration of the new school building. The old school building, which was not in good condition after 148 years of use, was torn down after its ceiling caved in two years ago. Since then, the children have been meeting in three storage rooms underneath the college auditorium. The classrooms are dusty and dirty; there is not sufficient lighting or ventilation, and the chalkboards are basically unreadable. This past year there were only three teachers for four grades, and it was clear that both the teachers and students were losing the motivation to teach and to learn. On June 6th, the community celebrated together as their hope became reality. The excitement was palpable: in the workers, in the parents, in the college students, especially in the teachers and students.

It is truly amazing to see such a big change happen in this community. I am so happy to see that these children, whom I love and who have been such a meaningful part of my experience here, now have the opportunity to learn in a good school with good desks, chalkboards, and books. On the one hand, knowing that their situation here has improved fills me with a great hope for our world. On the other hand, I can't help but think about the many children who continue to learn in poor conditions, and I am reminded of all the work we have left to do. But as history has taught us, change happens in small steps. I have felt so blessed to be a part of this celebration with a community I have grown to love as a family and that with a sad heart I will be leaving soon. Nevertheless, I am ready to go back: to face the new challenges ahead of me and to discover the ways in which I've changed. I am excited to get started with my life and to be a part of the change happening in America. I am ready to put Gandhi's words into action, "Be the change you want to see in the world."

Kris Konsowitz, Coach - Kris is the Director of Youth Ministries and Young Adults at Collierville United Methodist Church in Collierville, Tennessee. She is married to Bob and has three children, Melissa, Chris, and Laura.

Jason Sansbury, Coach - Jason serves as the Director of Youth Ministries at Bethlehem United Methodist Church in Franklin, Tennessee. Jason is a founding partner of Crossed-Up Ministries.

Susan Groce, Coach - After 10 years working with the youth at her home church, Susan accepted a call to serve the Cumberland Presbyterian Denomination as the Coordinator of Ministries with Youth and Young Adults. She enjoys spending time with her husband of eleven years, Jaime, and their two sons, Braxton and Thatcher. Susan and her family live in Collierville, Tennessee.

Tony Akers, Coach - Tony grew up a "Hoosier" (someone from Indiana) and has been involved in youth ministry since 1989. He is a frequent contributor to *Group* magazine, a leading youth ministry resource. He recently began his 7th year of serving at the Minister to Youth and their Families at Trinity United Methodist Church in Huntsville, Alabama. Tony is married to Debbi and is dad to Madison, Samuel, and Hannah Grace.

CYMT Welcomes its Class of 2011

The CYMT is excited to introduce to you our class of 2011. They will be serving 8 churches total with many at the same church, a first for us! In addition to these students we have two more joining this group, Emma Loane and Steph Dodge, both of whom have been in the program this past year and are continuing on to finish their degree.



Lis Beal

Germantown UMC, Germantown, TN

Bio: Grand Rapids, Michigan

Calvin College - *Psychology with Minor in Youth Ministry* - 2008

National Scores for Calvin College's Diving Team



Lindsay Brooks

Brentwood UMC, Brentwood, TN

Bio: Brentwood, Tennessee

Clemson University - *Secondary Education* - 2005

Currently the Director of Sr. High Ministry at BUMC



Alison Bocking

Germantown UMC, Germantown, TN

Bio: Huntsville, Alabama

University of North Alabama - *Sociology* - 1998

Currently on Staff in Student Ministries at GUMC
8-Year Veteran Youth Minister



Chris Cummings

Forest Hills UMC, Brentwood, TN

Bio: Brentwood, Tennessee

Tennessee Tech University - *Marketing* - 2005

Grew up at Brentwood UMC

Kicker for football team TN Tech University



Joanna Cummings

Forest Hills UMC, Brentwood, TN

Bio: Cookeville, Tennessee

Tennessee Tech University - *Professional/English Communications* - 2007

Ran track at TN Tech University

Enthusiastic Writer



Curt Gardiner

The Episcopal Church of the Nativity, Greenwood, MS

Bio: Greensboro, North Carolina

Professional Acura Technician

Volunteer who got "hooked" on Youth Ministry



Adam Jones

Hilldale UMC, Clarksville, TN

Bio: Brentwood, Tennessee

Lambuth University - *Religion* - 2009

Grew up at Brentwood UMC

Bishop's Scholar at Lambuth University



Sean Murphy

Colonial Park UMC, Memphis, TN

Bio: Columbus, Mississippi

Crichton College - *Biblical Studies* - 2008

Got Married June 27, 2009 to wife Allison

Nickname is "Smurf"



Regina Rigney

Brentwood UMC, Brentwood, TN

Bio: New Orleans, Louisiana

Belmont University - *Musical Theatre* - 2009

Loves musical theatre and dance

Interned at BUMC for 2 years



Jason Smith

Covington, UMC, Covington, TN

Bio: Springville, Alabama

University of Alabama at Birmingham - *Communication Management* - 2009

Interned at Clearbranch UMC in Springville, AL



Eric Stehouwer

Germantown UMC, Germantown, TN

Bio: Kalamazoo, Michigan

Calvin College - *Interdisciplinary with Minor in Youth Ministry* - 2009

Biked across the country to raise money for missions



Courtney Thompson

First Presbyterian Church, Nashville, TN

Bio: Sapulpa, Oklahoma

Oklahoma City University - *Religion/Youth Ministry* - 2008

Went on mission trip to Uruguay this summer



Trey Wince

First Presbyterian Church, Nashville, TN

Bio: Edmond, Oklahoma

Baylor University - *English* - 2002

Director of College Ministries & 10:24 Small Groups at First Presbyterian Church

Class of 2009

Joel Bruerd • *Tullahoma United Methodist Church*
Stephanie Dodge • *Loretto United Methodist Church*
Daniel McGarry • *Good Shepherd United Methodist Church*
Jon Snape • *Westland United Methodist Church*
Joey Willis • *Lebanon First United Methodist Church*

“Imagine...the Future” Campaign Update

On Thursday April 16, we held an *Imagine...the Future* event at First Presbyterian Church. We were honored with over 200 people in attendance. Youth from Brentwood UMC and First Presbyterian Church blessed us with their musical talents. We produced a wonderful video that shows the impact the CYMT is having on the lives of its students and churches. I would encourage you to watch the video at www.cymt.org/donate.php. We received almost \$80,000 in new pledges to our annual and

endowment fund, pushing us closer to our goals for 2011. Thank you for your continued generous support of the CYMT program.

“Imagine...the Future” Campaign Update	
Endowment Goal of \$1,000,000	
Pledged to Date	\$750,000
Received to Date	\$704,000
Annual Fund Goal of \$25,000	
Pledged to date '08 - '09	\$22,000
Received to date '08 - '09	\$38,900

The Center for Youth Ministry Training works in collaboration with Memphis Theological Seminary, Princeton Theological Seminary, and Duke Divinity School.

Please Join Us

for

A Commissioning Service

for the 2009 Class of the
Center for Youth Ministry Training

August 2, 2009

2:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church, Sanctuary
4815 Franklin Road
Nashville, Tennessee

Reception immediately following in Courtenay Hall

*Commit your work to the Lord
and your plans will be established.*

Proverbs 16:3