

CENTER FOR YOUTH MINISTRY TRAINING

Training Youth Ministers • Equipping the Local Church • Bridging the Gap to Seminary • Impacting Future Generations for Christ

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2008



As the Center for Youth Ministry Training approaches the end of its second year, I am overwhelmed by my emotions. We are commissioning our inaugural group of students to be youth ministers in the body of Christ this August. We would like to invite all of you to that service on August 3, 2008. I feel a great sense of pride in how the CYMT has helped them develop their gifts for ministry. I also am overcome with gratitude for this class of students who came to the CYMT on faith. The role that they have played in teaching us as we have taught them will make a difference in all future students of the CYMT. We are proud to say that ministry with youth will be a part of all of their futures.

I continued to be humbled by how God has provided for our ministry needs. Our "Imagine the Future" event last May has provided a foundation for financial stability and growth. Your support has provided the funding we have needed to sustain our budget over the past year and for years to come. We are more than half way to raising our goal of \$1.5 million dollars that we need to sustain our current program into the future. Through God's providence, we have received a \$404,000 grant from the Lilly Foundation for the next two years with the potential for another \$450,000 for the two years after that to enhance and expand our program. This grant has provided us time and opportunity to do more than we would have ever imagined at this point in our development. The grant has given us three times as many staff hours to accomplish our vision as we had when we started our program. The CYMT has eight staff members now, all but one are part time, but we are excited about how these positions have expanded our capacity for ministry.

I am also excited about how God is continuing to use the Center for Youth Ministry Training to impact churches. From Loretto United Methodist Church that only had one youth coming to their church when CYMT began working with them, to Lebanon First United Methodist Church that has grown to more than 50 youth participating in their ministry in only 6 months, the CYMT is developing youth ministers and churches that are impacting the lives of youth.

I am thankful for the support of each of you individually, both in your prayers and gifts. I also want to thank Brentwood United Methodist Church and First Presbyterian Nashville for their continued support and encouragement. We hope that this newsletter gives you a taste of how God is at work in and through the CYMT. Please pray for our board, staff, students, and churches as we continue this important work.

Serving Christ,

Rev. Dietrich "Deech" Kirk,
Executive Director



An Interview with CYMT Student, Steph Dodge

Tell us about your experience with CYMT so far:

I joined the Center for Youth Ministry Training because I wanted to work in youth ministry, but had little experience actually running a youth program. I really enjoy the support of the other students in the program and the fellowship that happens when we have lunch between classes or stay up late studying for exams. The things I have learned ... have given me a strong foundation for teaching biblical lessons to my youth.

So what's happening at your church since you arrived?:

At Loretto United Methodist Church, I have been learning small town youth ministry from the ground up. When I came in August 2007, the church essentially had no youth program, and it has been a challenge to get the few parents and youth at the church to commit to the youth program. Despite low numbers, we have had a number of successful events. In January we converted one of the Sunday School classrooms into a youth room, complete with futons, coffee tables, and a Nintendo Wii. We did a lock-in at the church in January and had 8 youth from the community. We also had a video game night with 14 youth in attendance. In late March in conjunction with the local Fellowship of Christian Athletes we hosted a movie night at the church.

Tell us about something you're proud of at Loretto UMC:

In March I started a ministry at the high school called Breakfast Club. We meet every Tuesday morning before school for donuts and juice and have a short devotion.

We have consistently had an average of 7 youth, even after moving to a classroom because the administration said we could not give away donuts in the cafeteria. Breakfast Club has been a great way for me to get more involved in the lives of the softball girls that I coach at the local high school, and it has also been an opportunity for me to meet some of the youth at the high school who do not attend our church.

Any parting thoughts?:

Doing youth ministry in Loretto has been full of challenges, but it has also given me a lot of opportunities to learn and to grow. I may never have 100 youth, or 50, or even 20, but I am learning what it means to be present in the lives of youth and my youth are learning that Mountain Dew is "pop not Coke", and hopefully they are learning to become more like Christ too.



Lilly Foundation Grant Gives CYMT Room to Grow

The Center for Youth Ministry Training is excited to announce that they have been awarded a grant from the Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment in the amount of \$404,000. The grant will fund the first two years of a four year project entitled The Lilly Laboratory for Youth Ministry. The grant will also support the Center for Youth Ministry Training's continued work of developing youth ministers who are both theological practitioners and practical theologians.

Several of the components of the project include developing youth ministry training curriculum and coaching manuals for youth directors and churches; developing a national youth ministry think tank; developing a national youth ministry website and resources; and launching a second CYMT campus. Seminaries and Divinity

Schools will benefit from the grant research, which will provide insights into how to reach the broader youth ministry community and how to better train their students as practitioners. In addition, the professional youth workers, volunteers, and youth in 63 churches will immediately benefit from theologically grounded youth ministries.

Deech Kirk, Executive Director of the Center for Youth Ministry Training, says of receiving the grant, "We are grateful for Lilly Endowment's gift that provides time and opportunity to further our capacity to train and equip youth ministers."



CYMT Students

Class of 2008

Tess Frohock
*Preston Taylor Ministries/
St. Andrews Presbyterian, Nashville*

Kelly Gentry
*Asbland City UMC,
Asbland City*

Ariel Givens
*Second Presbyterian Church,
Nashville*

Kris Lott
Calvary UMC, Nashville

Harry Shaub
Advent Lutheran, Murfreesboro

Jill Sethness
*First Presbyterian Church,
Murfreesboro*

Josh Vegors
*Nolensville First UMC,
Nolensville*

Class of 2009

Joel Bruerd
Tullahoma UMC, Tullahoma

Stephanie Dodge
Loretto FUMC, Loretto

Daniel McGarry
*Good Shepherd UMC,
Hendersonville*

Jon Snape
Westland UMC, Lebanon

Casey Webber
Brentwood UMC, Brentwood

Joey Willis
FUMC Lebanon, Lebanon



Front Row (L-R): Josh Vegors, Ariel Givens, Steph Dodge, Jill Sethness, Jon Snape
Middle Row(L-R): Tess Frohock, Kelly Gentry, Harry Shaub
Back Row (L-R): Kris Lott, Casey Webber, Daniel McGarry, Joey Willis, Joel Bruerd



"Imagine the Future" Campaign Update

Endowment Goal of \$1,000,000

	BUMC	FPC
Pledged to Date	\$414,750	\$500,000
Received to Date	\$321,820	\$280,000

Annual Fund Goal of \$25,000

Pledged to Date '08	\$12,460
Received to Date '08	\$17,694

Please visit www.cymt.org for more information about the "Imagine ... the Future" campaign. Thank you for your support and investment in young people's future.

New Staff around the Office



If you have visited our office lately, you have noticed more people running around the building. Since CYMT's beginning, the staff has grown from two to eight people, allowing us to work with more churches and students and work more effectively for the CYMT. Dietrich Kirk, Executive Director, and Lesleigh Carmichael, Director of Coaching, have been here from the start.



Will Penner
Resource Director

Will is the Executive Editor of *The Journal of Student Ministries*, the premier publication for professionals in youth ministry. He and his wife are currently the volunteer youth pastors at Westview United Methodist Church in Fairview, TN, where they live with their four children (ages ranging from 16 to womb). As a part of the Lilly Grant, Will develops resources for the CYMT that will be distributed through our new website Youth Ministry Today, www.ymtoday.com.



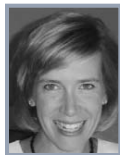
Jacob Fasig
Coach

Jacob is on staff as one of the youth ministers at First United Methodist Church in Franklin, TN. He is married to Allison and has two daughters, Zoe and Eve. Jacob coaches our students working with each church's youth ministry team to build a foundation for effective youth ministry.



Chris Andrews
Operations Manager

Chris Andrews joined the CYMT staff in May as our Operations Manager. She brings a lot of experience to our team and is very outgoing. In addition to being the Operations Manager, she will oversee special projects as assigned.



Lesleigh transitioned to her new role this Spring from the many jobs she had before at CYMT and directs the coaching process for the CYMT students. When she is not working at the CYMT, attending and planning statewide youth events for her denomination, or working with YMA, Lesleigh enjoys spending time with her husband, Jamey, and their two little girls, Anna Lauryn and Karaley.

Please come by to visit anytime and meet the rest of the staff.



Jack Radcliffe
Coach

Jack serves as an Interim Associate Pastor with responsibilities for youth ministry at Bellevue Presbyterian Church. He lives in Spring Hill, TN with his wife Patti, sons Joshua, Tyler, Brandon and daughter Danae. Jack also coaches our students working with each church's youth ministry team to build a foundation for effective youth ministry.



Keeley Kirk
PR and Admissions Coordinator

Keeley specializes in public relations, marketing, graphic arts, and business organization. Keeley lives in Brentwood, TN with her husband, Dietrich, and their daughter Carlisle. Keeley manages all public relations activities, as well as, coordinates the admissions process for the CYMT.



Jim Edwards
Director of Finance

Jim Edwards also joined our staff in April as our Director of Finance. Jim is volunteering his time to assist us with our needs. We are excited about what Jim will bring to our team and the load that he will take off our current staff.

Reflections from a Graduate of CYMT

There are several words that come to mind when I think of my first few years of youth ministry (pre-CYMT). Good words like **POWERFUL**, **EXCITING**, and **INSPIRING**. There, however, were also words like **FRUSTRATING**, **EXHAUSTING**, and **BURNED OUT**. I loved what I was doing, but the *way* I was doing it was wearing me down. I often felt alone and that I was spinning my wheels - that my ministry had no traction or direction.

Two years later as I am finishing the Center for Youth Ministry Training a lot has changed. I still have days that are frustrating. I still feel exhausted at times, but these feeling are no longer overwhelming. CYMT has given me the skills and strengths needed to survive in the world of youth ministry. Through their help, my ministry at Calvary UMC has now developed a vision and is implementing and working on our goals to accomplish that vision. We now have a direction. When I do struggle, CYMT has also given me a peer group to lean on when I need support. These relationships will continue to grow even after our classes together have ended.

I look forward to seeing my ministry continue to improve and get stronger. The Center for Youth Ministry Training has developed in me more **CONFIDENCE** and taught me to **TRUST** that all things are possible through the **LORD**.

*-Kris Lott
CYMT Class of 2008*



Board Members

Mark DeVries, First Presbyterian Church

Robb Harvey, First Presbyterian Church

Dominic Nigrelli, Martin Methodist College

Jim Perkins, Brentwood United Methodist Church

Emily Eberle, First Presbyterian Church

Steve Bartlett, First Presbyterian Church

Dan Elkins, Brentwood United Methodist Church

Jason Fisher, Brentwood United Methodist Church

Crea Sielbeck, First Presbyterian Church

Maral Missirian-Dill, Brentwood United Methodist Church

Kris Lott, CYMT Alumnus

Hank Hillard, At-Large Member

Amy Vaughn, Princeton Theological Seminary Representative

Fred Edie, Duke Divinity School Representative

The staff at CYMT wants to express their appreciation to John Rivas, Patti Bryant, Tom Cummings, and Cathryn Rolfe who have given of themselves to launch the CYMT and completed their terms on the CYMT board of Directors this year.

Please Join Us

for

A Commissioning Service

for the Inaugural Class of the
Center for Youth Ministry Training

August 3, 2008

3:00 pm

Brentwood United Methodist Church
Brentwood, Tennessee

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

Proverbs 16:3

The Center for Youth Ministry Training is a partnership of Brentwood UMC and First Presbyterian Church of Nashville and works in collaboration with Princeton Theological Seminary, Duke Divinity School, and Martin Methodist College.

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