

August 11, 2008

Dear Sixth and Seventh Grade Youth and Parents:

For those of you who are returning and those of you who are new to our ministry, welcome to a new year of Fourth Church Youth! I hope you have had a relaxing and enjoyable summer. It's hard to believe that it's almost over and that school is just around the corner, but here it is!

As you prepare to go back to school, I hope you are also thinking about the return of our full schedule of youth ministry at Fourth Presbyterian Church. We have had an incredibly busy summer. Between WorkCamps and other events, we have been hard at work planning a new and exciting year for you at Fourth Church Youth.

Elevation is the youth group for sixth and seventh graders. The core of Elevation happens on Sunday mornings. As always, we encourage you to worship with your families at the 9:30 worship service. You could also consider participating in the Youth Choir during this time (for more information, please contact Beverly Escuder at 312.981.3595). After worship, we will **gather in the Manse Basement around 10:30 or so for fellowship** with bagels and juice. Our gathering will **officially begin at 11:00**, so if you can't be there right at 10:30, don't worry. Over the course of two years in Elevation, we cover the entire story of the Bible as a way to cap off your experience in Sunday School and prepare you for confirmation and beyond. This year we will be focusing on the New Testament. We will also discuss a variety of issues and topics that are especially geared for the experiences and challenges of sixth and seventh grade youth.

In addition to this core, there are several other ways to participate in Elevation. Once a month we will have a big fellowship or service opportunity on a Friday evening or during the day on Saturday. Our first such event is an **Elevation Lock-In on September 19**. Also, we will continue our monthly **Youth and Families Lunches** which are for youth of all ages and their families to gather together in the Dining Room to share a meal in community. Please see the calendar we've included for tentative dates for the entire year of Elevation.

To help us get ready for the year, please fill out and return to us the included **Elevation Youth Registration Form** and **Emergency Contact and Medical Information Form**. We need a new one of these each year to keep our records up to date. Please return these as soon as possible.

Also, please plan on attending the **Children and Youth Kick-Off on Sunday, September 7**. Youth should come to their **first Elevation gathering at 10:30 am in the Manse Basement**. After this, youth, parents, and families should come to an **informational and celebratory lunch in Anderson Hall** beginning at noon. **At least one parent** should attend this lunch with their child to receive important information about Elevation and Fourth Church Youth. In addition to lunch and brief presentations about our children and youth ministries, there will be music and entertainment for children of all ages. Come celebrate a new year of Fourth Church Youth and learn all about what we have to offer.

Finally, start of the year with our second annual **U2charist** from 7:00 to 8:30 pm on **Friday, September 5**. The U2charist is a communion worship service with live U2 music performed by the renowned U2 tribute band Elevation. You won't want to miss this unique worship experience...*all ages are welcome!!!*

If you have any questions before September, please don't hesitate to be in touch. See you soon!

John W. Vest
Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry



FOURTH CHURCH YOUTH
ELEVATION

(GRADES 6 AND 7)

2008-2009 TENTATIVE CALENDAR

*Worship at 9:30 in the Sanctuary
 Elevation Meets from 10:30 to Noon in the Manse Basement*

SEPTEMBER	5	U2charist	FEBRUARY	1	Souper Bowl of Caring Youth and Families Lunch
	7	Children and Youth Kick-Off		8	Regular Gathering
	14	Regular Gathering		14	Fellowship Activity
	19-20	Elevation Lock-In		15	Regular Gathering
	21	Regular Gathering		22	Regular Gathering
	28	Regular Gathering			
OCTOBER	5	Regular Gathering Youth and Families Lunch	MARCH	1	Regular Gathering Youth and Families Lunch
	12	Regular Gathering		8	Regular Gathering
	19	Regular Gathering		15	Regular Gathering
	25	Volunteer at Chicago Avenue Garden Kids Fall Festival		22	Regular Gathering
	26	Regular Gathering		29	Regular Gathering
				TDB	Fellowship Activity
NOVEMBER	2	Regular Gathering Youth and Families Lunch	April	5	Regular Gathering
	9	Regular Gathering		12	No Gathering
	16	Regular Gathering		19	Regular Gathering Youth and Families Lunch
	22	All Youth Service Project		26	Regular Gathering
	23	Regular Gathering			
	30	Regular Gathering			
DECEMBER	6	All Youth Bowling	MAY	3	Regular Gathering Pancake Breakfast
	7	Regular Gathering Youth and Families Lunch		8-9	AWOL
	14	Regular Gathering		10	Flower Sale
	21	Regular Gathering		17	Last Elevation Gathering
	28	No Gathering		29-31	Family Camp
JANUARY	4	No Gathering	JUNE	11-14	Elevation WorkCamp: Special Olympics
	11	Regular Gathering Youth and Families Lunch			
	18	Regular Gathering			
	23-25	Presbytery Retreat			
	25	Regular Gathering (for those not on retreat)			