

In Our Church Family...

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

The MUMC Senior High Youth Group is back in full swing each Wednesday night from 6:30 – 8:00 pm throughout the school year. All 9th through 12th graders and their friends are



welcome. Nancy Wagner and Larry Lipke are the adult leaders for the year. Broadly speaking, our objective is to explore and practice our faith in a friendly and supportive environment, and to enjoy each other's company at the weekly meetings and other special events. Any of you who cannot attend full time are very welcome to join us whenever you can.

We have established a web site for the group featuring a shared calendar and automatic announcements of upcoming meetings and events by email and short text message. The site also lets us share files and photos. If we have a valid email address for you, you should already be receiving announcements even if you have not attended a meeting. If you would like to login to the site to view the calendar or other shared content and do not know how, or if you are not receiving announcements but would like to, contact Larry or Nancy for instructions.

The group has already scheduled two "fun" events. The first is a one day ski trip to Camelback Ski Resort in the Poconos on Saturday, Feb. 13th. The second is a trip to the Prudential Center on Saturday, Feb. 20th to see the Casting Crowns concert. If you would like to participate in either trip, see Larry or Nancy for more detailed information and to obtain the necessary forms. We have only a few tickets left for the concert, so if you wish to attend, please act quickly.

Every second Wednesday of each month is movie night from 6:30 – 9:30 pm. We watch and discuss a movie from a list that the group established at our first two planning meetings in December. At our first movie night on January 13th we watched August Rush, a moving story about an orphan boy who reunites with his parents through their shared gift of music. Join us at our next movie night on Feb. 10th for another great movie, popcorn and drinks.

A standard feature of our weekly meetings is to discuss one question in depth and to seek God's answer to the question through exploration of Scripture. One week we focus on a contemporary question and the next week we focus on a faith-based question.

(Continued in next column→)

The contemporary questions tend to be controversial and difficult, while the faith-based questions tend to be the types of questions that we all struggle with at some point in our lives as Christians. The first contemporary question was, "Is it okay to end, or help end, someone's life if he or she is terminally ill?" The first faith-based question was, "How can you know what God thinks?" The discussions to date have been lively and insightful, and are expanding our understanding of our shared faith.

The youth group is also planning outreach activities that we are calling "Building Bridges". The idea is to establish relationships with and improve our understanding of people or groups with whom we have little or no interaction. We want to get out of our comfort zones and see what we can achieve by reaching out to our neighbors with love as God commands. So far we are still in the idea phase. Initial ideas include being pen pals with people in the military, working with the elderly, and having a joint meeting or activity with people of the Muslim faith to promote peace and understanding.

In summary, the senior high youth group has resumed. Come join us for fun activities, insightful discussions, powerful movies and interesting outreach activities. We look forward to seeing you in the near future!

HOGAR INFANTIL - February 3-6, 2010

Praise God – we have reached our goal of 80 pairs of shoes



and socks for the children at Hogar Infantil. This year, in addition, we are also providing several bags full of yarn for the girls at Hogar who are learning to knit and enjoy doing so, 3 chess sets with instructions in Spanish, and, of course, Spanish New Testaments. Many, many thanks to everyone in our congregation who so generously donated shoes, yarn, chess sets, or cash, and to the MUMC Women's Fellowship for their generous support of our travel there. Betsy Peyton and Gary Kochman will be delivering these supplies to Hogar on February 3-6. We ask for your continued prayers for traveling mercies, and for all the children and staff at Hogar.