

# SANDHILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Dear Parents,

Our spring semester is already well underway, and so it is time for another update. Please take the time to read this entire letter carefully! We have many good things in store for this semester, so I'll get right to the point:

## **YOUTH GROUP**

By now you are probably aware that the addition of Sunday evening worship services to our church's weekly calendar means that Youth Group is moving to Wednesday nights. If not, be sure to mark it down on your calendars that, beginning February 3, Youth Group will move to Wednesdays from 7:00-8:30 pm. It has really been neat to watch our youth group solidify as a fellowshiping community over the last few years. Please help us sustain the momentum by making youth group a priority each week!

We have moved the time back to 7:00 to accommodate those who participate in after school sports and other extra-curricular activities. As we move forward, your feedback on the time is welcome! Please also be aware that we will no longer be serving dinner at youth group (although we will continue to provide dessert!), so be sure to have your youth eat before they come.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Our principle for the high school youth is that it is sometimes good for them to learn on their own and sometimes good for them to learn with the adults of our congregation. Over the last few months it has been good for them to participate in Pastor Skogen's Sunday School class, as well as the recent missions presentations, and now I am excited about starting up the HS Sunday School class again.

On February 14, the HS youth are going to begin a Sunday school series on evangelism, and it is very important to me that this be more than just a "class". My plan is that we will cover some basic biblical principles about the "what", "why", and "how" of sharing our faith with others, but I am also hoping that the teaching will transcend the classroom. So please be asking your youth about what they are learning and please be challenging them to put it into practice in their everyday lives. I will be posting the lessons on the church website to help you do that. I would also encourage you to consider reading Will Metzger's book *Tell the Truth* and discussing it with your children. My prayer is that this class will help convict us all to be "prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15).

In the meantime, the MS youth will continue to learn and apply the Bible by studying the Westminster Shorter Catechism. If you would like a copy of the WSC so that you can review the lessons with your youth, please let me know!

### **HIGH SCHOOL SPRING RETREAT**

This spring (April 16-18) we are planning to attend the MODGNIK (kingdom spelled backwards) retreat at Rockbridge Young Life Camp in Virginia. This is an annual retreat hosted by PCA churches, and, in addition to being a lot of fun, it should also be a challenging and encouraging time of teaching and fellowship.

The cost of the trip will be \$75, which includes transportation, meals, and all weekend activities. The sign-up deadline is March 17. I have priced the trip well below our actual cost in order to encourage EVERYONE to attend. The memories and relationships we build on these retreats are so important for everything else we do in our youth ministry. Please encourage your youth to attend, and if the price is an issue or you have any other concerns please let me know so that we can help!

To sign up for the trip, please turn in the following: 1) the name of the person signing up, 2) \$75, and 3) a notarized '09-'10 Medical Release Form, which you can download from the youth page of the church website (If you have previously submitted a MRF for the fall Beach Blast Retreat you do not need to submit a new one). You can have your youth bring these to Youth Group or just turn it in to the church office.

### **MY DOOR IS ALWAYS OPEN**

If your youth would ever like to meet with me or if you yourself would like to come in to talk, please let me know! As I adjust to the new schedule with Pastor Skogen here, I am finding that I have more time to do the informal "one-on-one" conversations that I enjoy so much.

Again, I am very excited about our ministry this spring! Hopefully this letter will be a good introduction to what we have in store, but please feel free to give me a call, (910) 692-5834 - Ext. 12, or an email (drewmartin@nc.rr.com) if you have any questions. I would love to hear from you!

Your servant in Christ,

*Drew Martin*