

Catalyst Clippings



10- Matthew Dollenbacher

21- Elizabeth Moore

29- Joseph Stark

Another School Year Set To Begin

It very well could be that I am just getting old. However, it appears to me that the teens just got out of school for summer break, and are now already back in school. As we dive back in to another school year, I think it would be of benefit to give you a rundown of where Catalyst is heading this school year.

Our Sundays roll on like a well-oiled machine. Our 7-8th grades will be studying the Life and Teachings of Jesus with Mike Flaughter and George Kalemkarian, our 9-10th grades will be studying the second year of the Heidelberg Catechism with Jim Quandt, and our upperclassmen will be studying evangelism with Lisa Dellitt.

Wednesday nights at Catalyst this year will focus on relationship-building and giving the teens a “big picture” of the Bible (meaning, how the various parts fit in to the one, big story of the Bible).

Thursday night will be focusing on equipping the teens to do ministry the way Jesus did. We will be doing a harmony study of the Gospels, and seeing the intentionality of Jesus’ ministry, with the goal being that participating teens incorporate what they catch at The Following and put it to practice at Catalyst on Wednesdays.

I have named our weekend activities Saturday Night Live. These activities will fall under one of three categories: Cultivating, planting, or reaping. The goal of cultivating events is for our teens to have an opportunity to bring friends who do not yet know Jesus for a night of fun with believers. The goal of planting events is for our teens to bring their friends who have come to cultivating events to have the opportunity to engage in spiritual discussions, hear testimonies from other teens, and interact with Jesus’ “come and see”-type teachings. Our reaping events will be opportunities for our teens to bring their unsaved friends to hear and respond to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Believe it or not, there is a method to the madness. What may appear to be “just a group of teenagers getting together” and being led by a “crazy youth guy” is anything but. Our first desire is that each and every kid who comes to Catalyst gets to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ preached in a manner that is authentic and transformative. Our second desire is that every teen coming to Catalyst will be given the tools to live the life of authentic and transformative discipleship.

I have now been at First United Presbyterian Church for over ten years. I am just as excited and passionate as I was about youth ministry as I was on June 25, 2001! Christ is on the move, please pray for us!

“Catalyst Youth Ministries exists to train up youth to love, serve, and model Jesus Christ and to send them into the world as lifelong Christ-followers who have a passion to make more disciples of Jesus Christ”.

September's SNL: Nerf Wars

Last year's Nerf Wars participation was one of the most well-attended events in my memory. Many of our teens brought their friends to play various night games inside the church building (not the sanctuary) with their Nerf Guns. As part of that evening, one of the teens was given the opportunity to share how the Holy Spirit brought her to saving faith in Jesus Christ. Another of our teens shared the Gospel message and gave the opportunity for response.

So this year our first "cultivating event" is going to be Nerf Wars. On Saturday, September 3, from 7:00-10:00PM, we will give members of Catalyst the opportunity to bring the friends they've been praying for, pursuing in friendship, and persuading through discussion about Jesus to church for a night of free fun. During the three hours of Nerf War madness, we want our Catalyst members to welcome and embrace (figuratively) these visitors and we want our visitors to feel welcomed and loved by the entire group, not just the teen bringing them.

Please pray for the following: Catalyst teens bring multiple friends to this activity; that friends feel loved, accepted, and welcomed by the entire group; that opportunities for further Gospel-centered discussions present themselves with these teens; that our teens become passionate about seeing their lost friends come to Christ; and that Catalyst be a resource for evangelism and discipleship.

Catalyst's "Description of a Discipled Teen"

In a perfect world, I would have the opportunity to pastor a teen towards lifelong discipleship for 6 years. This is not a perfect world, however. A realistic goal is more like 4 years with most teens. This limited time means we have to be strategic. And since our church talks much of discipleship, it is imperative for me to know what type of disciple we are calling teens to be.

Some years ago I worked up a document that answers the question, "What character traits do we want Catalyst teens to be living out when they graduate from our ministry?" This document, called a "Description of a Discipled Teen", has ended up being a sort of checklist I have to insure everything we do in Catalyst aims at growing these traits in our kids. We have a lot of growth areas here as I too many teens graduate from Catalyst who are not embodying these traits. And so our ministry continues!

We desire that the teens have these characteristics:

- 1) *Owned Faith* — actively invests in and takes personal responsibility for their relationship with Christ.
- 2) *Lover of God's Word* — actively involved in spending time in God's word, allowing the Word to lead, guide, and direct daily living.
- 3) *Prayerful* — has consistent, authentic, intimate conversation with God about all aspects of life.
- 4) *Personal Purity/Integrity* — not willing to negotiate or sacrifice the eternal for the temporal but exemplifies the pure life of one changed by Christ.
- 5) *Others Focused* — intentionally seeks relationships with others in order to personify Christ to them.
- 6) *Communal* — exemplifies the priority of fellowship and togetherness of believers through personal investment in the life of the church.
- 7) *Good Stewardship* — passionate about using their God-given gifts and talents to praise God and build into the lives of others.

Please pray for the spiritual growth in our teens — not that they would have a head full of knowledge about Jesus, but a life emblazoned with the transforming work of the Holy Spirit!

September 2011

Catalyst Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Thursdays @ The T's (6-8PM)	2	3 SNL: Nerf Wars 7-10PM @ church
4 Worship & S.S. Fellow- ship	5	6 Youth Com- mittee @ 7PM	7 Catalyst Choir (6-6:30PM) & Catalyst (6:30-8 PM)	8 Thursdays @ The T's (6-8PM)	9	10
11 Worship & Fall Sunday School Begins @ 9:45AM	12	13 Catalyst Par- ents Meeting @ 7PM	14 Catalyst Choir (6-6:30PM) & Catalyst (6:30-8PM)	15 Thursdays @ The T's (6-8PM)	16	17
18 Worship & Sunday School @ 9:45AM	19	20	21 Catalyst (6:30-8 PM)	22 Thursdays @ The T's (6-8PM)	23	24
25	26	27	28 Catalyst (6:30-8PM)	29 Thursdays @ The T's (6-8PM)	30	